

COM's Jonathan Klarfeld Remembered as Tough but Kind

Journalist taught decades of undergrad and grad students | BY AMY LASKOWSKI

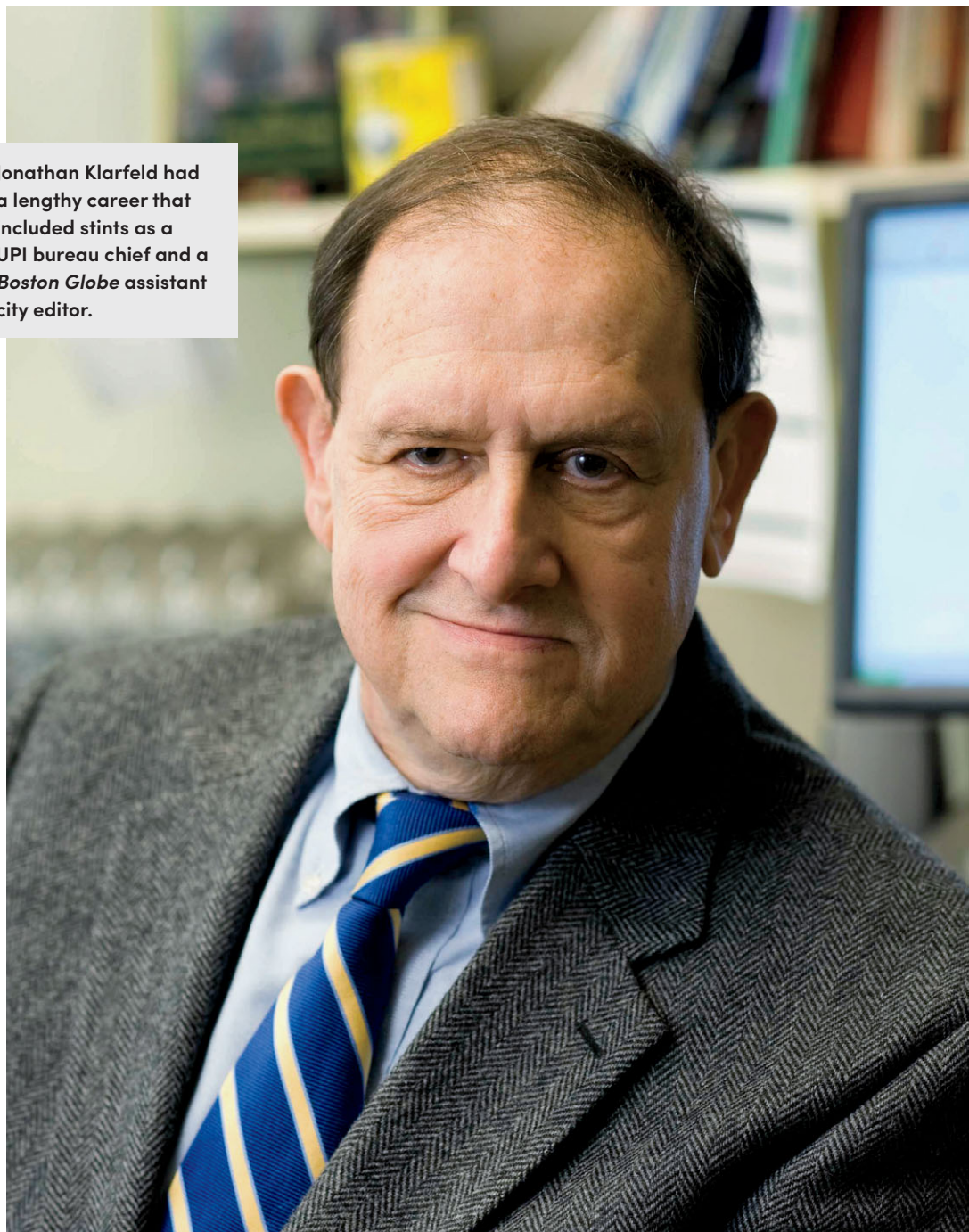
Jonathan Klarfeld considered his classroom his students' first newsroom and himself their first city editor, and he played the city editor well. But behind his seemingly gruff demeanor, the longtime College of Communication associate professor of journalism cared deeply about his students. Klarfeld, 80, died January 8, 2018, after a monthlong hospitalization.

"I read that he was old-school," says former student Raphaëlle Steg (COM'15), who works at the French sports website *BeSport*. "I don't agree with that. He would teach us the old-school basis of journalism, but he was really open-minded about what we could do and all the differences we would bring to the table."

Klarfeld taught reporting and writing courses and culinary journalism for more than 40 years. He was at one point chair of journalism and oversaw undergraduate- and graduate-level professional internships for the department.

"Part of my job is observing faculty while they teach, and I remember telling him that his curmudgeon act really worked," says William McKeen, a COM professor and chair of journalism and associate dean. "He amped it up in the classroom, but that's the teacher that young

Jonathan Klarfeld had a lengthy career that included stints as a UPI bureau chief and a *Boston Globe* assistant city editor.



journalists respond to.” McKeen says that when he started at BU in 2010, he and Klarfeld settled into a routine. Klarfeld would stop by McKeen’s office every day, sit on the couch, and discuss the morning’s news. “He would ask me if I saw this item on page B12 in which they commit a heinous crime against language,” McKeen remembers. “He was a great colleague.”

Before coming to BU, Klarfeld was a bureau chief at UPI and an assistant city editor at the *Boston Globe*. He also worked in various positions at the *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram*, the *Boston Record-American*, the *Boston Herald*, and the *Boston Phoenix*. His freelance work appeared in the *Sunday Times of London*, *Saveur* magazine, *Boston* magazine, *Oceans* magazine, and the *Boston Review of the Arts*, among others. He was for a brief time a political press secretary, he testified as an expert witness in court cases concerning First Amendment rights and journalistic standards, and he was an editorial consultant and writing coach.

When news of his death was announced on the journalism department’s Facebook page, more than two dozen former students and colleagues left comments. In an obituary in the *Boston Globe*, he was remembered fondly by several of his students, who now work at respected news agencies and publications, such as the Associated Press and *National Geographic*.

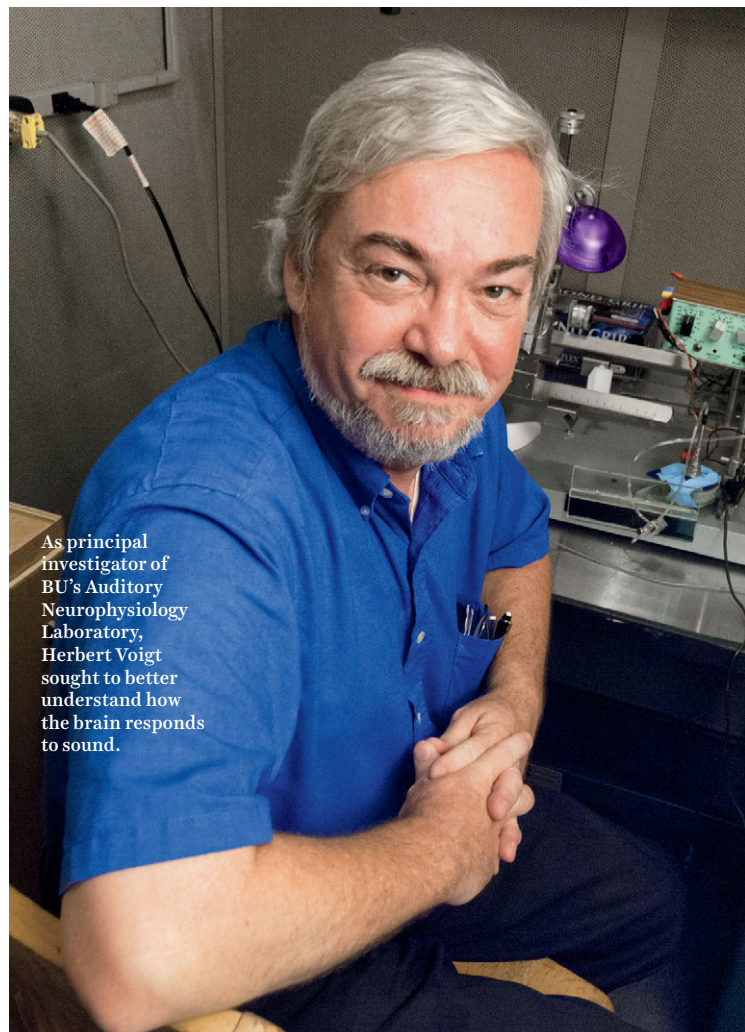
WBUR’s *Morning Edition* newswriter Ally Jarmanning

(COM’08) was a student in Klarfeld’s fundamentals of journalism class. Now a COM adjunct professor, she uses a class exercise she learned from Klarfeld: “I’ll pretend to be the police chief and tell the students there’s been a murder,” she says. “They have to ask me questions and write their own breaking news story in 20 or 30 minutes. At first they think they can’t do it in that short a time, but that’s how you learn to be a reporter and work on deadline.”

Jarmanning stayed in touch with Klarfeld after graduation and the two would go out for sushi lunches. After looking back at old emails and reminiscing, she says, “I saw how much I relied on him as a friend and for career advice.”

Journalist Delia Cabe (CAS’82, COM’92), who teaches at Emerson College, says Klarfeld taught her how to write quickly and how to think on her feet. “He had a lot of energy and passion,” she says. “He ran a tight ship, and he always reminded us that we were writing about people’s lives.”

Zach Halperin (COM’16) remembers feeling intimidated because he was the only undergraduate in Klarfeld’s columns and editorials class. “We had to write a 700-word column every week and read it in front of the class,” Halperin says. “He just encouraged me to be myself and find my writer’s voice.... We always talked after the class, emailed back and forth, talked about what I wanted to do going forward. He was a great professor, and he made me a better writer.”



As principal investigator of BU’s Auditory Neurophysiology Laboratory, Herbert Voigt sought to better understand how the brain responds to sound.

ENG’s Herbert Voigt Was a Dedicated Researcher, Mentor

Helped transform biomedical engineering from an undergraduate-only department into a nationally ranked program | BY JOEL BROWN

Herbert Voigt helped build the College of Engineering’s biomedical engineering department into one of the largest and highest-ranked programs of its kind in the nation.

Voigt, an ENG professor of biomedical engineering, died unexpectedly on January 25, 2018. He was 65.

“Herb Voigt had an enormous, positive impact on the BME department, especially in its earliest days,” → 79