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CONTRIBUTORS

MARTHA RIAL—[“Eye of the Storm”] Here’s one way to get your bachelor’s degree:
First, win a Pulitzer. It worked for Martha Rial. A day after garnering the 1998 Pulitzer in spot
news photography for documenting the conflict in Africa’s Great Lakes region, she got a call
from her “almost” alma mater. (Rial had left school when just two classes shy of receiving her
diploma.) She instantly became a member of Ohio University’s School of Visual Communications
Class of ’98 and is the school’s first female graduate to have won the notable prize.
MARGARET C. MCDONALD—[“Eye of the Storm”] Her cell phone didn’t reach Pittsburgh
from Budapest, Prague, Dublin, Ankara, or Beirut—still she delivered her story to us in time for
this issue. Margaret McDonald, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, health
sciences, is often somewhere else yet still manages to be an invaluable behind-the-scenes
champion for this magazine. We’re happy to present her debut Pitt Med byline.

COVER
Charleen Chu is determined to pinpoint the molecular villain that holds a half million
Americans captive in their own bodies. (Photo of the late Claude Scott—a father, teacher, and
Parkinson’s patient—by Marc Esser. Reprinted with permission from the Parkinson’s Alliance.)