Journalists Debate How to Improve Freelancers' Safety

EVENT RECAP

By Patricia Kranz and Millicent Teasdale

The OPC traveled to London to participate in Part II of our series, cosponsored with the Frontline Club, on how to freelance safely. On Tuesday, Nov. 18, OPC President Marcus Mabry joined panelists in a follow-up of a discussion that kicked off in New York at the end of October. The panel addressed standards of pay, training requirements, and how to clarify the responsibilities of freelancers and their clients.

As many major news organization close foreign bureaus, freelancers are called on more and more to cover global conflicts. They face risks often without the structure, training and resources that come with having a large media outlet behind you.

"There has been a lag by news organizations in protecting people in danger zones," Mabry said. "We are working with organizations to create standards."

Other panelists were Vaughan

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Smith, founder of The Frontline Club; Ben de Pear, editor of Channel 4 News (UK); Emma Beals, an independent multimedia journalist covering Syria and Iraq; and David Williams, deputy global news editor at Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Beals and freelance journalists in the audience complained about

low pay rates and lengthy delays in getting paychecks. "You have to pay them more than \$300 for 1,000 words from Syria," said Beals. "It's a professional work force with unprofessional wages. Low wages compromise safety." For a recent story, she said she had to cover her expenses, which were twice the rate she was getting paid, with a promise of reimbursement months later.



Left to right: Vaughan Smith, Ben de Pear, Marcus Mabry, Emma Beals and David Williams during a panel in London on Nov. 18.

The Syrian conflict spurred AFP to develop a new approach to working with freelancers. "We were somewhat taken aback by the risks people were willing to take," said Williams. Now AFP treats freelancers like a member of the AFP team, with more financial backup and safety training. "We will not accept production from freelancers where we don't dare to venture ourselves," he said. "We

(Continued on Page 5)

Expert Panel to Read 2015 Tea Leaves

EVENT PREVIEW: Dec. 17

What big international news stories might be in store for 2015? The OPC and global risk consultancy Control Risks are co-hosting a breakfast panel at 7:45 a.m. at Club Quarters on Wednesday, Dec. 17 to discuss views on geopolitical challenges and business developments that may emerge next year.

Speakers include Michael Levi, director of the Center for Geoeconomics at the Council on Foreign Relations; and Jonathan Wood, head of the global issues desk for Control Risks.

Levi has covered a range of topics during the course of his work, from energy policy and climate change to national security. Wood has a broad background that includes energy security, food security, development banking, anti-corruption and defense.

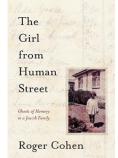
Michael Moran, the Control Risks' chief macro risk analyst, will present the firm's RiskMap, its annual survey of business risk in the coming year.

Peter S. Goodman, OPC board member and editor-in-chief of the *International Business Times*, will moderate the discussion.

Book Night: Roger Cohen

EVENT PREVIEW: JAN. 14

Join us at Club Quarters on Wednesday, Jan. 14 for a book night with *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen on his upcoming memoir, *The Girl From Human Street.* The book follows his family's upheaval from Lithuania to South Africa, England, the United States and Israel as they face degrees of anti-Semitism and grapple with otherness.



The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

OPC MIXERS AT THE HALF KING

With two sucessful mixers under our belts, The Half King Bar and Restaurant in Chelsea has rapidly become the place to be for members and guests on OPC nights.

Come and meet old and new members over cheap eats and beverages -- and bring your foreign newsie friends along as well.

Our next two events are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15 and Thursday, Feb. 19. Both will get underway in the back room of the bar from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., when OPC members and guests will get a 20 percent discount on food and drink.

Thanks to OPC board member Liam Stack for planning this fun event series.

OPC to Screen 'Rise of ISIS'

EVENT PREVIEW: JAN. 22

The OPC will hold a special screening of "The Rise of ISIS," a documentary written and produced by Martin Smith, a member of the OPC's board of governors. A Q&A with Martin will follow the hour-long screening.

The program, which aired on PBS's Frontline in October, investigates factors that fed the brutal regime's rise, including the political chaos that ensued after U.S. forces pulled out of the country, and policy and intelligence missteps that paved the way for ISIS to gain a stronghold in Syria and Iraq.

The screening gets underway at Club Quarters at 6:30 p.m. A discussion with Smith will follow at 7:30 p.m. A word of warning: This film contains graphic imagery of war and extreme violence.



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Schiffrin Digs Up Pivotal Stories in 'Global Muckraking'

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

In *Global Muckraking*, Anya Schiffrin gathered investigative journalism from far-flung corners into an anthology that spans more than a century of vital reporting.

Schiffrin, the director of the media and communications specialization at Columbia University's School of International Affairs, searched dusty archives and moldering newsprint to collect 47 pieces dating as far back as the 1880s. She then invited 40 journalists, experts, activists and academics to introduce the stories and place them in context.

She discussed the project with OPC guests during a book night in the dining room of Club Quarters on Dec. 1

The anthology covers a vast array of muckraking topics, including death squads, trafficking, police brutality, abuse of women, anti-colonial movements, corruption and famine.

Many of the introductory essays in *Global Muckraking* explore how much impact individual stories or campaigns have after publication. She said some sparked critical change and reform, while others never seem to gain ground.

"Clearly there has to be a lot of journalism on one

subject. One story doesn't make a difference. There have to be other groups of society that really want to change something," she said.

Photos of starving children in Bengal that were published in 1943, for example, caused public outcry and pressured Western nations to deliver food aid. On the other hand, Gareth Jones's reporting on famine in Russia in the early 1930s didn't cause much reaction abroad, likely due to geopolitical barriers.

"Information alone is not enough. If there are huge economic and political forces stopping change, information doesn't necessarily do much."

She said beginning with the earliest investigative reports, she found a strong relationship between activists and journalists, and the boundary between them was often fuzzy.

In 1904, E.D. Morel published a seminal book detailing brutality in the Belgian Congo called *King Leopold's Ghost*, which set in motion what Schiffrin called the "first modern human rights campaign." Morel launched a newspaper and exposed conditions that sparked shareholder outrage and lawsuits.

Robert Friedman of Bloomberg News moderated the discussion. He contributed an introduction in the book to a piece he edited for *Fortune* magazine, "Chocolate's

(Continued on Page 5)

Murder of Luke Somers Brings Risks Into Focus Again

By Susan Kille

"There is a new war on journalists," says Alberto Ibargüen, president of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. He is correct.

"Today's terrorists will kill a journalist not to stop a story, but to create one," Ibargüen told journalists gathered in New York 10 days before kidnappers in

Yemen murdered American photojournalist Luke Somers during a failed Dec. 6 rescue attempt by U.S. commandos.

Speaking at the annual International Press Freedom Awards dinner of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Ibargüen said terrorists killing journalists while making use of social media are the most visible part of a new war on journalists but they

are not the only concern.

"A new boldness courses through closed governments, up and down the military chain of command," he said, "and in the minds of criminals and autocrats

everywhere."

U.S. officials said Somers and a second hostage, South African teacher Pierre Korkie, were killed by their captors, militants from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), who realized a rescue effort was underway. It was the second attempt by the U.S. to rescue Somers in less than two weeks. On a video released Dec. 3 showing Somers, an AQAP leader threatened to execute Somers within three days if demands known by the U.S. government were not met.

The execution threat by AQAP followed the murder of five Western hostages since August by the Islamic State, which controls parts of Syria and Iraq. Two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American aid worker Peter Kassig and British aid workers Alan Henning and David Haines were all beheaded.

Somers was kidnapped in September 2013 while walking on a street in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, but the media did not report his abduction or captivity because his family thought publicity would put him in greater danger.

The OPC's Board of Governors issued a statement

Dec. 6 condemning Somers' murder and extending condolences to his family.

"We pledge to work tirelessly to support and to help equip and protect our members and our colleagues in these times when belligerents are targeting journalists because they are journalists," the OPC statement said. "In an increasingly connected world,

American photojournalist Luke Somers was shot and killed along with South African teacher Pierre Korkie during a failed U.S. raid on a terrorist compound on Dec. 6.

few duties are as crucial as shining light into dark places and bringing that information to a global community. We will do all we can to help those dedicated to doing so and to strengthen them in pursuit of this mission."

Somers went to Yemen to teach English and became a freelance journalist who

covered Yemen's 2011 uprising and aftermath. He had covered events for Al Jazeera, the BBC and *The New York Times*, but was remembered by friends for his work trying to capture the everyday concerns of regular people.

A chilling piece by Gregory Johnsen, 2006 winner of the OPC Foundation's David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship, about his near abduction and harrowing escape in Sanaa was published in November by BuzzFeed, where Johnsen is the first Michael Hastings Fellow. "In our world, evil typically wears a mask." Johnsen wrote. "It stalks about in disguise, peeking out through the cracks in our humanity. We rarely see it or recognize it when we do, but on that morning in Sanaa it was unmistakable."

The Nov. 26 dinner where Ibargüen spoke about a new war on journalists raised more than \$2.7 million for CPJ's worldwide press freedom advocacy. The dinner itself brought in a record \$1.9 million and Ibargüen, dinner chairman, announced a commitment of \$858,000 from the New Initiatives Fund, a new network of funders including the Knight Foundation. A special appeal during the evening raised \$235,635.

At the dinner, Diane Foley, the mother of James Foley, said: "Jim's life challenges us to continue his passions for freedom of the press and commitment to those in poverty or ravaged by war."

(Continued From Page 1)

don't want to encourage freelancers to take risks that our own journalists won't take."

Britain's Channel 4 requires freelancers to take a hostile environment awareness course. "It is absolutely a tragedy that we have got to the stage where freelancers get their heads cut off," de Pear said. "In Bosnia, journalists became targets. Now they are prizes. It's a different world."

Smith said he is astounded by the number of freelancers he meets who have not been on a hostile environment training course. The Frontline Club did a survey of freelancers who are members of its Frontline Freelance Registry. "A third said they thought that the editors they dealt with didn't give a fig about their safety," he said.

(Continued From Page 3)

Bittersweet Economy," about child labor and other human rights violations on plantations in West Africa. The piece was a follow up to reporting six years earlier that had exposed terrible working conditions. But when Friedman sent Christian Parenti to the Ivory Coast to check on progress, he found that not much had changed.

"The advocacy programs that had been set up monitor labor conditions never really got traction," he said. "There were 8-year old kids who were spending their days picking and cracking open cocoa beans. It was pretty depressing."

Schiffrin said cross-border collaborations between foreign and local reporters often help to amplify stories with better shock value abroad.

"Often it's the outsider who doesn't have the prob-

lems of access journalism, isn't beholden to the sources, who can take the story and keep hammering on and on."

Schifrin said many publications small with investigative desks are currently popping up around world, the funded not by advertising or subscriptions, but by wealthy individuals who believe in good journalism.



Anya Schiffrin presenting a slide about an 1886 story from India in *Global Muckraking* titled "Slavery in the British Dominion."

"History has taught us that these outlets may not last, but right now there's lot of journalism that's being un-

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Max Becherer Photojournalist Polaris Images Active Overseas

Carmen Cuesta Roca Journalism Graduate Program NYU Student

Michael Moran
Foreign Affairs Columnist
Global Post
Active Resident
(Reinstatement)

Alberto Riva World News Editor International Business Times

Active Resident

Austin Schiano Center for Global Affairs NYU Student

Max Seddon Foreign Correspondent BuzzFeed News Active Resident (Young) Jamie L. Tarabay Senior Staff Writer Al Jazeera America Active Resident

Vaughn Wallace
Deputy Photo Editor
Al Jazeera America
Active Resident (Young)

Bryan Walsh Foreign Editor *Time* Magazine Active Resident

Jonathan Woods Senior Editor Time

Active Resident (Young)

Pierce Wright
Managing Editor
Getty Images
Active Resident

derwritten by philanthropists," she said.

Minky Worden, the director of global initiatives for Human Rights Watch, said for advocates and human

rights campaigners, the timing of reports and investigations is critical.

"You use all the tools that you have at the time you have them," she said. "In a way the professions have merged and now campaigners must think like editors."

Worden asked Schiffrin if ginformation overload made it harder for people to spend their attention "bandwidth" on long-form investigative journalism.

"We have to believe that changing the conversation

can lead to changes," Schiffrin said. "And what journalists can do is change the conversation."

PEOPLE... By Susan Kille susan@opcofamerica.org

OPC SCHOLARS

Jonathan Jones, who won the 2009 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, teamed up with T. Christian Miller and Marcela Gaviria to produce a multiplatform investigation called "Firestone and the Warlord" about the secret relationship between the American tire company Firestone and the infamous Liberian warlord Charles Taylor. A 90-minute documentary aired on Frontline and a 20,000-word multimedia report published on ProPublica will become an e-book and a series of original digital shorts.

Jacob Kushner, winner of the 2013 Nathan S. Bienstock award, and his writing partner Tom Murphy, spent a year digging into the failures of a \$1.42 billion project that was supposed to end the water crisis in Tanzania. Working with The GroundTruth Project and GlobalPost and funded by the Galloway Family Foundation, they produced a four-part series published on GlobalPost in November that examines what went wrong and what those affected are doing to survive.

Rawya Rageh, who won the 2006 Dan Eldon Scholarship, has received a Dart Center 2014 Ochberg Fellowship. Thirteen senior and mid-career journalists who have specialized in covering violence, conflict and tragedy were awarded



Rawya Rageh speaking to Egyptian Major General Etman during a conference in 2011.

the weeklong fellowships designed to deepen understanding and reporting of traumatic events through seminars and discussions at Columbia University with colleagues and experts in trauma science and journalism practice. Rageh, a roving correspondent for Al Jazeera English, has been covering Nigeria and Kenya for the past year, including the aftermath of brutal attacks by the armed groups Boko Haram and Al Shabab, and their impact on people's lives.

WINNERS

William Daniels, a French photographer who works for the London agency Panos Pictures, was awarded the fourth annual Tim Hetherington Grant. Jobard's winning project, "Roots of Africa's Unholy War," was shot in the Central African Republic. The grant of 20,000 euros, or about \$25,000, was established by Human Rights Watch and World Press Photo to celebrate the life of Tim Hetherington, a photojournalist and filmmaker who bled to death in Libya in 2011 after being hit by a piece of shrapnel. After hearing fast action would have kept Hetherington alive until he reached a doctor, Sebastian Junger honored his friend and colleague by establishing Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues to train journalists in life-saving techniques. Junger and Hetherington shared in the 2007 OPC David Kaplan Award for an ABC News-Nightline report from the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan. Hetherington died eight days before he was to serve as co-presenter at OPC's 2011 Awards ceremony and receive a citation for his own photography under fire in Afghanistan.

Jorge Ramos, co-anchor of the evening newscast "Noticiero Univision" on Univision, was presented



Jorge Ramos speaking at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.
The Committe to Protect Journalists granted the Univision anchor a lifetime achievement award in November.

Nov. 26 with the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for his lifetime commitment to press freedom during the annual International Press Freedom Awards dinner of the Committee to Protect Journalists. He was presented the award by OPC member Christiane Amanpour, dinner host and international correspondent for CNN. For work described in the October Bulletin, four journalists received International Press Freedom Awards: Aung Zaw of Burma, Siamak Ghaderi of Iran. Ferial Haffajee of South Africa and Mikhail Zygar of Russia. Nguyen Van Hai, a Vietnamese blogger who was released in October after two years in prison, received his 2013 press freedom award in person and called for the release of journalists worldwide.

The Rory Peck Awards, which honor freelance news camera operators, were presented in November in London. Pacôme Pabandji from the Central African Republic won the news award for "CAR: Descent Into Chaos." The features award went to a group of six anonymous cameramen from North Korea, who were trained during trips to China by the Japanese journalist Jiro Ishimaru and produced a film, North Korea: Life Inside the Secret State, that offered a rare look into a secretive na-

tion. British freelancer Ben Steele received the Sony Impact Award for Hunted, which explores the world of Russian vigilante gangs who, encouraged by anti-homosexual legislation, catch, humiliate and abuse gay victims. The Martin Adler Prize, which recognizes the dedication and talent of freelancers who work under challenging circumstances in their own country, was awarded to Palestinian freelance journalist, fixer and translator Khaled Abu Gha**li.** who has covered intense periods of conflict in Gaza, most notably in 2006, 2009, 2012, and last summer. The Rory Peck Awards, sponsored by Sony, were established in 1995 and named after freelance camera operator Rory Peck, who was killed in Moscow in 1993.

Evan Osnos, a two-time OPC award winner who spoke in September at the China Hands Reunion

co-hosted by the OPC, received the non-fiction prize at the 65th National Book Awards for Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China. Os-



Osnos

nos reworked reporting he had done for *The New Yorker's* "Letters From China" feature and added to it to trace China's journey from poverty to a world power.

Gary J. Bass won the Arthur Ross Book Award and its \$15,000 prize from the Council on Foreign Relations for the best book published in 2013 about international affairs for *The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger, and a Forgotten Genocide*. In the book, Bass, a professor at Princeton University, presents the first full account of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger's secret support in 1971 for Pakistan as it committed atrocities in Bangladesh that led to a war between India and Pakistan with major strategic consequences for

today. **Calvin Sims**, first vice president of the OPC and president and CEO of International House, was a judge for the award.

UPDATES

KABUL, Afghanistan: Rod Nordland, a longtime-OPC member who is bureau chief here for *The New York Times*, has landed what people in publishing call a "major deal." He has signed with Harper-



Rod Nordland receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award at Penn State.

Collins imprint Ecco to write a book tentatively titled The Lovers, to be published next fall about an Afghan couple that married for love despite death threats from her family and criminal charges from authorities. It is a Romeo and Juliet story. She is Tajik and Sunni Muslim; he is a Hazara and a Shiite. Nordland won a Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for his work in Cambodia, Vietnam and East Timor for The Philadelphia Inquirer. He won the OPC's Ed Cunningham Award in 1999 for best magazine writing from abroad while working for Newsweek, where he was chief foreign correspondent. He joined the Times in 2009 was named Kabul bureau chief in 2013.

WASHINGTON: Andrew L.

Lluberes, a member of the OPC since 1974, is setting sail following 30 years of service to the country and 50 years in the workplace. After 12



Lluberes

years with UPI and Reuters, in Pittsburgh and then New York, Lluberes joined the former U.S. Information Agency in 1984 as the Latin American and Caribbean news editor and spent the next 11 years covering stories throughout the hemisphere. He also served as the spokesman for the United States at the Expo '92 world's fair in Seville; national spokesman in Spanish for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service; public affairs field director for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; public affairs chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and, since 2007, as director of communications for intelligence and analysis and a senior adviser at the Department of Homeland Security. He will spend the winter in Cabo San Lucas, sailing and visiting friends throughout the Caribbean, and then relocate to Barcelona in the spring to research and write a book on his family's history.

ATLANTA: Ronda Robinson has joined the Ebola communications response team at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta as a writer and editor. She is the author of *Beyond Politics: Inspirational People of Israel*, which was published in 2011.

NEW YORK: Matthew Winkler is being replaced as editor in chief of Bloomberg News at the beginning of 2015 by John Micklethwait, who has been editor in chief of The Economist since 2006. A Dec. 9 announcement from Bloomberg said Winkler will assume the new title of editor in chief emeritus and work on strategic initiatives with Michael R. Bloomberg, who will return to the helm of his eponymous company in 2015 after serving 12 years as mayor of New York. Winkler left The Wall Street Journal in 1990 to become founding editor of Bloomberg News, where he built a global news

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organization with 2,400 reporters and editors in more than 150 bureaus. Micklethwait will oversee editorial content across all Bloomberg platforms, from the news posted on its terminals to its newsletters and the articles in Bloomberg

Addario, Jonathan Randal and **Charles Sennott.**

Jim Gaines, a member of the OPC Foundation board, is leaving Reuters where last December he was named global editor at large. Gaines, a former top executive and editor at Time Inc. who was managing editor of Time, Life and People



Anthony Shadid's helmet-turned-collage on display at an exhibit in the Flatiron building.

Businessweek. He has been with The Economist since 1987 and had previously served as business editor and United States editor.

An art exhibit about war reporting that includes press credentials, reporting notes, business cards and other mementos contributed by OPC members and other warzone journalists is on display in a street-level gallery at the prow of the Flatiron building on 23rd St. in New York. Artist Cindy Kane collected mementos from 50 journalists and collaged the material to Vietnam-era steel helmets. The show is dedicated to the memory of OPC member Anthony Shadid, who sent Kane a Saddam Hussein medallion, old currency and press badges before he died in 2012 while on assignment in Syria for The New York Times. Also contributing from the OPC were Lynsey

magazines, joined Reuters in April 2011 as editor, ethics, standards and innovation based in New York. After five months he became editor, Americas, followed by three years as editor in charge, global photography. In a note to colleagues he said: "I will be leaving Reuters at the end of the year. I have a book to finish, there are interesting jobs in the offing, and, though I take no great pleasure in leaving, the time is right."

Jeff Fager in November said he would step down as chairman of CBS News to return as full-time executive producer of "60 Minutes." **David** Rhodes, the president of CBS News under Fager, will assume leadership of the division but his title will not change. Fager and Rhodes were appointed in February 2011 after Sean McManus stepped down as chairman of CBS News to focus on his role as chairman of CBS Sports. Fager's appointment as chairman was in part seen to provide experienced leadership and to mentor Rhodes, who joined CBS from Bloomberg News. Fager's full-time return to "60 Minutes," where he has had a long association, was not considered a surprise.

Rita Cosby, an OPC member and an Emmy-winning TV and radio host, celebrated her 50th birthday as the guest of honor at the Wounded Warrior Gala Nov. 17 at The Hotel Edison in New



Cosby

York. Geraldo Rivera of Fox News was master of ceremonies at the starstudded party benefiting support services and programs for injured veterans. Cosby, a special correspondent for CBS's Inside Edition, wrote movingly about the life of her veteran father in Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's *Past*, a bestseller published in 2010.

A group of journalists who created the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project is again trying to convince Pulitzer Prize administrators to posthumously bestow the prestigious award to Ed Kennedy, a former Associated Press reporter who reported the unconditional surrender of Germany a day ahead of his competition. Kennedy defied the military's instructions to withhold the story until a public announcement was made. He was vilified by his peers and fired by AP. The campaign began after the 2012 publication of Kennedy's book, Ed Kennedy's War, and an apology by Tom Curley, an OPC member who was then CEO of AP, who said AP was wrong to fire Kennedy. Curley wrote the book's introduction with John Maxwell Hamilton, an OPC member and the founding dean of the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University. The group's nomination of Kennedy for a Pulitzer in 2013 failed but it is asking award administrators to reconsider its decision this year.

IRIN, an United Nations news agency, was about to become a victim of the humanitarian crises it writes about when it was rescued by the Jynwel Foundation, a charitable foundation backed by the family of Hong Kong billionaire Jho Low. A tight budget from increasing aid needs caused the U.N. to cut funding to IRIN as of Dec. 31. In November, the Jynwel foundation said it would put up \$25 million over 15 years to save the agency, originally known as Integrated Regional Information Networks. With an audience of aid workers, academics, government staff and members of the media, IRIN serves as sort of a trade publication for the \$22 billion humanitarian industry. It also has syndication deals with the Guardian and Al Jazeera

Jon Stewart is not a journalist but as host of the popular "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central, Stewart ranks as a key news source for many young Americans. With the release in November of Rosewater, Stewart's first movie as a director. he is drawing his wide audience to a story about the dangers journalists face working in repressive regimes. Rosewater was adapted from a memoir by Maziar Bahari, a London-based journalist, about his incarceration in Iran. Bahari won OPC's 2009 Joe and Laurie Dine award for best international reporting dealing with human rights.

A new fellowship at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University will allow international journalists to pursue a master's degree in one of 10 reporting concentrations over a 16-month period. The deadline to apply is Jan. 4.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Michel du Cille, a 58-year-old Washington Post photojournalist, winner of the OPC's John Faber award in 2000 and a three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, died

Dec. 11 while on assignment in Liberia. Marty Baron, executive editor of *The Post*, said du Cille suffered a heart attack and collapsed during a hike from a village where



Michel du Cille speaking to students at Ohio University during a symposium on photojournalism and new media.

he had been covering the Ebola crisis. Du Cille, who won two Pulitzer Prizes for photography with the Miami Herald in the 1980s, joined The Post in 1988 and shared his third Pulitzer in 2008, with Post reporters **Dana Priest** and **Anne** Hull, for a series on the treatment of veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center He served as The Post's director of photography and as an assistant managing editor before returning to be a full-time photographer, the job where he said he was most comfortable. His work covering Ebola put him in the news in October when Syracuse University withdrew an invitation for him and his wife Nikki Kahn, also an award-winning photojournalist at The Post, to review portfolios at a journalism conference. Although du Cille was symptom free after a 21-day monitoring period following a return from Liberia, university officials told him not to come because of fears about Ebola. "I am disappointed in the level of journalism at Syracuse, and I am angry that they missed a great teaching opportunity," du Cille said at the time. "Instead they have decided to jump in with the mass hysteria." Baron said du Cille had returned to Liberia two days before his death.

Lester Bernstein. who died Nov. 27 at his home in Lido Beach, N.Y., was a former top editor of Newsweek who also wrote for The New York Times, served as a foreign correspondent for Time magazine and while working at NBC, helped organize the first televised debate between presidential candidates. He was 94. His wife, Mimi, whom he had been married to for 65 years. died eight days earlier. Bernstein was Newsweek's chief editor from 1979 to 1982 and also was a theater columnist for The Times: a Rome and London correspondent for *Time*; and a senior Newsweek editor in the 1960s and '70s. As vice president of NBC in 1960, he worked with members of CBS, ABC and the staffs of then-Vice President Richard M. Nixon and then-Sen. John F. Kennedy to arrange the historic 1960 television debates. His three surviving children are journalists: Nina **Bernstein**, a reporter of *The Times*; Lynn Brenner, a personal finance journalist; and Paul Bernstein, a former Washington Post editor.

Richard Eder, who died at age 82 on Nov. 21 in Boston, joined The New York Times in 1954 as a copy boy, reached his goal of becoming a former foreign correspondent and then made a shift to arts critic. He won a 1987 Pulitzer Prize for his book reviews in The Los Angeles Times. His first foreign assignment for The Times was as Latin America correspondent and he interviewed Fidel Castro in Havana in 1964. During various postings in Europe, he wrote about a Greek military coup, unrest behind the Iron Curtain, strife in Northern Island and a rebellion that deposed the fascist government of Portugal. He was bureau chief in Paris from 1980 to 1982. He was a theater and film critic for The Times in the late 1970s before moving to The Los Angeles Times as book critic. In 1987 he won both the Pulitzer and the National Book Critics Circle's citation for excellence in reviewing.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE... By Susan Kille

Free press advocates are increasingly outraged over the continued detention in Iran of **Jason Rezaian**, an Iranian American who is bureau chief in Tehran for The Washington Post.

More than four months after being detained on July 22, Rezaian was brought before a judge Dec. 6 in Tehran to hear charges against him. A request for bail was denied. The court appearance came two days after word arrived in the West that a continuing investigation would extend Rezaian's detention until mid-January.

Rezaian was not allowed to speak to a lawyer hired by his family. His family, lawyer and employer said after the hearing they did know the charges lodged.

As of Dec. 8, Rezaian had been imprisoned for 137 days, the longest time Iranian authorities have held any Western correspondent. OPC member **Roxana Saberi**, an American-Iranian journalist who works for Al Jazeera America, was held for 100 days in Iran in 2009 on charges of espionage. She says she believes international pressure helped lead to her release.



Jason Rezaian

Rezaian's mother said she received a surprise telephone call from her son on Thanksgiving and that he told her he had been instructed to say he had been treated well.

After Rezaian's court appearance, Secretary of State John Kerry called for the journalist's immediate release in a statement that said he was "deeply disappointed and con-

cerned" that charges were brought and that not allowing Rezaian to speak to a lawyer was a "clear violation of Iran's own laws and international norms."

Rezaian and his wife, also a journalist, were arrested along with an-



other couple, a photographer and her husband. The three others were released.

In the U.S., the House of Representatives adjourned without voting on what would have been the first major reform of the Freedom of Information Act since 2007. The Senate on Dec. 8 unanimously approved the FOIA Improvement Act of 2014 and sent the bill to the House, which passed a similar bill without dissent earlier in the year.

Among other provisions, the Senate's FOIA Improvement Act of 2014 would have codified President Barack Obama's requirement for federal agencies to act with a "presumption of openness," make it easier to access federal information electronically and limit the ability of agencies to withhold documents after 25 years.

When the bill came back to the House, however, members were caught up in a \$1.1 trillion spending bill and did not take action on the FOIA bill. A hold placed on the bill by Jay Rockefeller, the retiring West Virginia Democrat, kept the Senate from voting until Dec. 8. The House adjourned Dec. 11.

The murders of American freelancers James Foley, Luke Somers and Steven Sotloff in the Mideast have drawn international attention to violence against journalists and its impact on press freedom. The vast majority of journalists killed, however, have deaths that go largely unmarked. They local journalists reporting on issues of importance to their society, including corruption, crime and human rights. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that in 90 percent of cases since 2004, there is "total impunity – no arrests, no prosecutions, no convictions."

These deaths were reported since the last OPC Bulletin:

- Fernando Raymondi, a journalist working at Peru's leading newsmagazine who was investigating contract killings, was at his father's grocery in a town south of the capital city of Lima, on Nov. 9 when two gunmen burst in. The father told reporters that although the gunmen were told where the money was kept, one gunman shot Raymondi twice in the chest and then the pair fled on a motorcycle without taking anything. Raymondi died on the way to the hospital.
- Shortly after telling a friend he feared his life was in danger, **Abdirisak Ali Abdi**, a freelance journalist in Somalia, died Nov. 18 after being shot in an attack by two unidentified individuals at a restaurant in the Puntland town of Galkacyo. Abdi covered local politics for Puntlandbased Radio Daljir and HornCable TV in Somaliland.
- MNV Shankar, a senior reporter for the Telugu language daily newspaper Andhra Prabha in India, died early on Nov. 26, from head injuries incurred when unknown assailants attacked him with iron rods as he returned from work late at night to his home in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Indian Journalists Union and local journalists said they suspect Shankar's coverage of a black market in rationed kerosene oil was the motive for the killing.

Meet the OPC Members: a Q&A With Chriss Swaney

By Susan Kille

Chriss Swaney has more than 20 years of experience as a reporter and editor for national and international publications, including Reuters, UPI, *The New York Times* and Gannett. She spent 13 years as at Carnegie Mellon University as its media relations and public relations director for the College of Engineering.

Current Job: Managing editor for Dick Jones Communications, a boutique public relations agency in the Pittsburgh region that works to tell great stories through ideas. The firm primarily focuses on areas that intersect with higher education.

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Education: Duquesne University, BA Degree in Journalism and Master's in Marketing Communications.

Languages: French and German.

First Job in Journalism: Worked as a general assignment reporter for the *Greensburg Tribune-Review* Newspaper in Greensburg, Pa. My first assignment was a chewing tobacco contest at the county fair where I promptly won the contest but was sick for a week from swallowing tobacco juice.

Countries I've reported from: Northern Ireland, Great Britain, South Africa, Germany and Japan.

When I joined the OPC: I joined the OPC about 20 years ago because the organization offers a great oasis for reporting and taking stock of one's assignments from a wonderful cache of partner clubs in just about every exotic foreign location one could imagine.

Best advice about journalism received: I had the great fortune to meet *The Wall Street Journal's* William E. Blundell when I was a business reporter in Alaska. Bill thanked me for being a "great Alaskan guide" and also admonished me to remember the common demand of readers everywhere: "For Pete's sake, make it interesting. Tell me a story."

Worst experience as a journalist: When former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited Anchorage, I got too close to her motorcade and was detained by British security agents. They took my camera, but I eventually got to interview Thatcher for 15 minutes when she heard about my reporting tenacity. I also gave her a brief history lesson about Cook Inlet.

Hardest story to write: One of the most difficult stories was about baboon liver transplants. I was a Reuters stringer in Pittsburgh and to reach the primary story contacts I had to wade through throngs of protestors dressed like monkeys. It was a bit unnerving.

Most demanding story: Probably, the story I did for *Dynamic Business* magazine about a freelance trek to



Chriss Swaney interviews Dan Rooney, chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers and former U.S. ambassador to Ireland, about his book *My 75 Years with the Pittsburgh* Steelers and the NFL.

Northern Ireland where I was stopped by British troops near a former IRA bomb site. I was asked what my religion was and I responded: "I'm an agnostic." The British commander called me a "smart ass" took my camera, destroyed all my film and then released me.

My journalism heroes: Ernie Pyle who had a wonderful ear for the laconic remark, and who covered the "Greatest Generation," which included my late father who served as a Marine Corps aviator in the Pacific theater of World War II. And journalists Danny Pearl, James Foley and Steven Sotloff who paid the ultimate price for trying to bring some journalistic civility to a lawless, brutal region of the world.

Advice to journalists who want to work overseas: Establish a safe house, know your contacts, learn the language, get reliable drivers and translators, and get in and out quickly.

How has a background in journalism helped in other work: There is no formula for how to write or convey stories. But my journalism background and inquisitive nature gives me the tools to take the first glimmer of an idea to final editing. Over the years, I've learned that all writing and reporting is about solving a problem. It may be a problem of where to find the facts or what angle to take.

My pet peeve about editors: They need to listen more. Sometimes their preconceived notion about a topic or story can taint a writer's style.

The country I'd return to: South Africa. I was there during Apartheid and it was like a pre-Civil War USA. I would like to return and see the massive change. The wildlife, people and varied cultures are fascinating and challenging.

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Contact Susan Kille at susan@opcofamerica.org.

New Books

FIELD REPORTS

AFTER A DECORATED CAR-reer in international news, Tra-

cy Dahlby is a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin who found students with ambitions to report abroad needed and wanted more than extensive digital skills and knowledge of journalism history. They had questions about the nuts and bolts

of foreign reporting.

"Good foreign reporting is mainly the result of hard digging and nimble, prodigious footwork in the field," Dahlby writes in Into the Field: A Foreign Correspondent's Notebook [University of Texas Press, October]. To explain what he means, he takes readers "into the field"

as he tells the stories behind the stories of a half-dozen pieces from around the South China Sea he wrote for National Geographic. The result is a spirited memoir and a how-to handbook.

tions and interviews and networks set up in advance, Dahlby shows that the on-the-ground reality in a foreign country can be the reverse of what you expected. Flexibility is needed.

Despite meticulous prepara-

Dahlby provides advice on successful travel planning, managing fixers, dealing with circumstances both friendly and formidable, and talking your

way into a far place or out of a tight spot.

Dahlby spent 13 years living in in Asia, where he served as Tokyo bureau chief for The Washington Post and then Newsweek. In 1987, he became managing editor of Newsweek International. As a regular contributor to Nation-

al Geographic magazine between 1993 and 2002, he specialized in writing about Asia. His book about Islamic fundamentalism in Indonesia, Allah's Torch: A Report from Behind the Scenes in Asia's War on Terror, was published in 2005. He was part of a Newsweek team that won OPC's Morton Frank Award in 1985 for a report on the rising economic power of South Korea.

MEMOIR

John Palmer

JOHN PALMER, A VETERAN NBC News correspondent, was known for his geniality and engag-

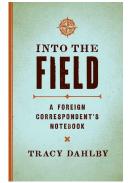
> ing storytelling. In Newscatcher: A Memoir [KCM Publishing, October], he shares the stories he collected and covered in a 40-year career that ranged from war zones to the White House and the Today show.

> Palmer had finished writing Newscatcher before he died from pulmonary fibrosis in August 2013. His wife Nancy, who he met in

1979 when NBC assigned her to be his production assistant, finished the photo research and pushed the book to publication. Tom Brokaw, the former NBC Nightly News anchor, wrote the afterword and his successor, Brian Williams, wrote the foreword.

Palmer tells about a gamble that paid off in a series of exclusive interviews with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt; describes how another president almost made him late for his wedding when shortly before the ceremony Ronald Reagan called to tell the story of how he "married his Nancy"; and recounts his 1980 scoop of breaking the news of the Carter administration's failed attempt to rescue the American hostages held in Iran.

- By Susan Kille



Upcoming Events

The New World Disorder: 7:45 a.m. Dec. 17

OPC Holiday Party: 6:00 p.m. Jan. 7

Book Night With Roger Cohen: 6:30 p.m. Jan. 14

Mixer at The Half King: 6:00 p.m. Jan. 15

OPC Screening 'The Rise of ISIS' 6:30 p.m. Jan. 22