

Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • February 2013

Calling All Tchotchkes and New Friends for OPC Party

EVENT PREVIEW: MARCH 8

by Aimee Vitrak

Dust off your Qadaffi carpets, Albanian belt buckles, Barbie burkas and any other “liberated” items from overseas postings for the OPC’s second Tchotchke Party on Friday, March 8. The evening will have cocktails, dim sum and a Foreign Correspondent story night.

This event is also a membership recruitment effort. Next year, the OPC celebrates its 75th anniversary; every member of the international reporting community should be encouraged to join an organization that supports press freedom, and journalists, around the world.

The first Tchotchke Party, held in March 2011, went over so big that it was featured as a “Talk of the Town” piece in *The New Yorker*. Ben McGrath wrote that the party was “an élite form of war-zone show-and-tell, which prompted questions from participants like ‘At what point is it looting?’ and ‘Who else has stolen the ashtray from the Rex Hotel?’ (in Saigon).”

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What will this year’s Tchotchke Party feature? It’s up to enough raucous correspondents to RSVP and bring a potential OPC member. OPC member Yvonne Dunleavy and husband Joost Schiereck have

generously agreed to donate \$30 toward the \$100 memberships for Young members (under 35 years of age). New members will also have an extended time since we are more



Col. el-Qadaffi carpet

than half way thru the billing cycle. So a New Young Member will pay \$70 for a year and a half membership.

The event will be hosted again by OPC Board member Minky

Worden and Gordon Crovitz at their home located at 55 Liberty Street, penthouse 30, on March 8 at 7 p.m. RSVP is essential. Call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or e-mail boots@opcofamerica.org

Panel on the Shia and Sunni Divide

EVENT PREVIEW: MARCH 13

News events roiling in the Middle East right now from the civil war in Syria to the episodic uprisings in Bahrain to a recent spate of bombings in post-war Iraq all have a historical theme and an ancient enmity running through them: the Sunni-Shia divide.

To help frame these news stories and to mark the 10th anniversary of the war in Iraq, the OPC will hold a panel discussion that will explore the history and the modern politics of the Sunni and Shia divide in the Muslim world.

“It’s a critical time to deepen our understanding of the Sunni and Shia divide and to analyze how contemporary politics so often fans the flames of this division. It’s been a truism throughout many centuries, but recently there seems to be a distinct uptick in the tensions in Syria, in Bahrain, in Iraq, in Pakistan and elsewhere,” said Charles M. Sen-

nott, Executive Editor of GlobalPost, which is launching a multi-part series on the issue.

The divide dates back to the death of the Prophet Muhammad and the division in ideology, religion and politics. Muslims were torn between electing a head-of-state or having a family member of Muhammad’s be the successor. A friend of the Islamic prophet Muhammad was elected and this caused a split that continues; Sunnis agreed with the decision to elect a leader, while Shias recognized Ali ibn Abi Talib, as the family member of Muhammad’s to be their leader, or as the Shia see it, Islam’s first Imam and the rightful successor to Muhammad.

Today, 85 percent of Muslims are Sunnis who recognize the decision to elect a successor. The largest population of the minority Shia Muslims resides in Iran and Iraq while large minority communities

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OPC Panel Discussion on the Shia and Sunni Divide

(Continued From Page 1)

of Shia also live in Yemen, Bahrain, Syria and Lebanon. While the two streams of Islam share many of the same philosophies, rituals and beliefs, the fundamental point of an elected or bequeathed leadership remains, and at times further erodes, the division in religion and politics.

The OPC has assembled a panel to help navigate how the history of the Sunni-Shia divide informs the present-day politics and geography in the Middle East:

■ **Mohamad Bazzi** is an assistant professor of journalism at New York University where he teaches international reporting. At the Council on Foreign Relations he is an adjunct senior fellow for Middle East studies and was their 2008 Edward R. Murrow Press Fellow. Bazzi was the Middle East bureau chief at *Newsday* from 2003 to 2007. He has written extensively about



Bazzi

militant Islam, regional politics, the war on terror and is currently writing a book about the struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran, titled *The Quiet War*.

■ **Charles M. Sennott** is the executive editor and co-founder of GlobalPost, the web-based site for international news. Before this new venture, Sennott was a long time foreign correspondent for *The Boston Globe* serving as Middle East bureau chief based in Jerusalem from 1997 to 2001. Sennott is a frequent analyst of the Middle East for the BBC, CNN, PBS NewsHour and NPR.



Sennott

■ **Lara Setrakian** is a foreign correspondent, co-founder and managing editor of SyriaDeeply.org, an indepen-



Setrakian

dent digital media project exploring a new model of storytelling around a global crisis. She is a Huffington Post correspondent and previously covered the Middle East from Dubai for ABC News, Bloomberg Television and the *International Herald Tribune*.

■ **Calvin Sims**, Program Officer, Freedom of Expression Unit of the Ford Foundation, will moderate the panel. Prior to joining the Ford Foundation in 2007, Calvin spent two decades at *The New York Times* as a foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Jakarta.



Sims

The event takes place on Wednesday, March 13. Reception begins at 6 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street, and the panel discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org.

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Eager for a Chance, Scholars Seize Spotlight at Luncheon

EVENT RECAP: FEBRUARY 22

by Aimee Vitrak

The Yale Club Ballroom was filled to capacity for the OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on February 22. This year's event launched the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship and the GroundTruth Fellowship. OPC Foundation board member and Global Post co-founder Charles M. Sennott introduced the \$10,000 GroundTruth Fellowship for freelance correspondents who have more than three years of experience and propose a reporting project in the Middle East (see page 7).

The Foundation awarded a combination of scholarships and funded internships to 14 graduate and undergraduate students from a wide range of academic institutions and from every region of the country.

The David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship winner Jad Sleiman began his reporting career as a combat correspondent for the U.S. Marine Corps. He said that the call to be a journalist is "a mandate to humanize people oceans away." OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein quipped that Sleiman hadn't had a haircut since leaving the marines.

OPC Foundation board member Roy Rowan mentioned that at 93 he was proud to have made it to the podium to introduce Stephen Kalin, who received this year's scholarship in Rowan's name. Kalin said he has a passion for journalism and the Middle East. His grandfather immigrated to the United States in 1920 and no one in his family had returned to the Middle East. September 11 motivated Kalin to seek out his roots and identity in the Middle East. "I'm inspired by correspondents who learn the language and the region," he said.

Kalin and Mateo Hoke took the opportunity at the podium to ask for work and networking opportunities in a room full of prominent media brokers like CBS News Chairman Jeff Fager who was last year's keynote speaker.

H.L. Stevenson Internship recipient Tom Finn relayed his introduction to journalism when he received an offer from the *Yemen Times* about a copy editor position: "Our copy editor has a problem with her bowels, can you be here in three weeks?" Once the audience laughter settled down, he explained that the job gave him the opportunity to wear many hats in the newsroom and that after his OPC Foundation internship with the Reuters bureau in Cairo this summer, he's headed back to Yemen.

Lunch and speeches ran a little late, but those who stayed — and that included most people — heard David Rohde deliver a heart-felt keynote address. He began by saying to the scholarship winners, "I don't know you, but I love you." He urged patience and persistence and



David Rohde gave the keynote address.

"ground truth," hitting the same theme as the luncheon's beginning announcement of the GroundTruth Fellowship.

"You will have a front row seat to history," Rohde said. "There will be moments of despair and setbacks but don't give up."

One might assume that this well-decorated journalist who has been held captive twice has lived a charmed existence, but Rohde's fight to become a journalist was self-directed and began with several desk jobs at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, ABC News and *The Christian Science Monitor*. It was at ABC News where he decided to quit and go to Lithuania to pursue his passion of being a field reporter. That experience first sent him to a copy editing slot at *The Christian Science Monitor* and then as an Eastern European correspondent to cover the war in Bosnia.

Rohde urged the scholars to ask questions and remember that every story was founded by a team effort. "In Afghanistan and Pakistan, our strongest team members were the Afghan and Pakistani local journalists," he said.

He stressed that journalism has changed since he began in the 1990s. "In Bosnia then, all sides saw us as journalists. In Afghanistan, I was seen as part of the U.S. war machine and therefore useful," Rohde said. "It's not fair, but you're a target."

He advised that it's critical to weigh the risks of interviews and stories. "Ask yourself, will the story be there tomorrow?" He said he stood by his decision in Bosnia to follow the story about the mass graves; he was held captive for 10 days. In Afghanistan, however, where he was kidnapped and held for seven months and 10 days, just two months after getting married, he confessed that he let competition get the best of him. "If you take a risk," he said, "it will be your family and editors who will suffer." His voice became choked with emotion when he mentioned his wife and their two-year-old daughter. "We're paid to explore and learn. I urge you to pursue the ground truth. That is an honor."

The 2013 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



From left: Mateo Hoke, Jacob Kushner, Jad Sleiman, Stephen Kalin, Valerie Hopkins, Christopher Harress, Patricia Rey Mallén, Frederick Bernas, Marina Villeneuve, Tom Finn, Justine Drennan, Anders Melin, Xiaoqing Pi, and Adriane Quinlan

Jad Sleiman

Temple University

DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family. Presented by Matt and Miranda Schweisberg.

Schweisberg joined United Press International in 1980 and worked for its bureaus in Detroit, New York, Washington, Hong Kong and Tokyo. In 1987 he worked in UPI's bureau in Beijing. During the Tiananmen Square student uprising in 1989, his astute dispatches, delivered under the threat of censor and arrest by the Chinese authorities, were read and heard throughout the world. He was one of the last reporters to leave when the protest was finally crushed by the Chinese Army.

Anders Melin

New York University

REUTERS INTERNSHIP

Sponsored by Reuters and funded by The Correspondents Fund.

Presented by Eddie Evans, Reuters.

A native of Sweden, Anders wrote about the little known fact that the European Union is the world's largest subsidizer of agricultural activity, a line item that consumes 40 percent of the EU budget and yet

90 percent of the recipients are unknown. A graduate of the University of Missouri, Anders will spend his OPC Foundation internship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.

Mateo Hoke

University of California-Berkeley
Graduate School of Journalism

HARPER'S MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP in memory of I.F.STONE

Endowed by John R. MacArthur and the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust. Presented by Rick MacArthur, publisher of Harper's.

Mateo is currently working on two main projects, traditional plant medicines in the Peruvian Amazon and life in the occupied Palestinian territories, the subject of his winning essay and the place where he has spent most of the last two years working on a book. A graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder, the multimedia journalist wrote about tear gas launchers and victims in the small village of Bil'in.

Marina Villeneuve

Dartmouth College

IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by the Scripps Howard

*Foundation. Presented
by Jack Howard-Potter.*

Marina's winning essay was about the disproportionate impact of climate change on the vulnerable, indigenous populations of Mexico which is in the throes of its worst drought in 70 years. Her focus was the small village of Xaltipan and the consequences when the nearest river gradually dries up. Conversant in Spanish, Marina intends to return to Columbia, her homeland, for six months after college as a news assistant and researcher for NPR.

Tom Finn

New York University

H.L. STEVENSON INTERNSHIP

Funded by the Gamsin family and sponsored by family and friends.

Presented by Sharon Gamsin.

As a British Fulbright scholar, Tom is pursuing a dual master's degree in journalism and near eastern studies. He began his career with the *Yemen Times* and later covered Yemen for a variety of news outlets. In his essay, he described the dangerous plight of illegal immigrants who are frequent kidnapping targets of Yemen's criminal gangs. A graduate of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, he has an OPC Foundation internship in the Reuters bureau in Cairo.

Justine Drennan

Cambridge University

STAN SWINTON INTERNSHIP

Endowed by the Swinton Family.

Presented by Helen Swinton.

As a Princeton-in-Asia fellow at the *Phnom Penh Post*, Justine covered the deportation of a Swedish hacker and possible WikiLeaks collaborator. She wrote how international aid often plays a role in the Cambodian politics of deporting foreign criminals. A graduate of Princeton University, Justine has an OPC Foundation internship in The AP bureau in Bangkok.

Christopher Harress
Columbia University Graduate
School of Journalism
EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN
SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family.

Presented by Alix Freedman.

Christopher studied journalism at Edinburgh Napier University so he could tell the stories he experienced as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Now a committed investigative journalist, he wrote about the unknown world of human trafficking in soccer players. His essay focused on the 1,000 young Africans living in poverty in Paris, having been drawn there by the promises of unscrupulous fake football agents—a practice that will only get worse in the run-up to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Patricia Rey Mallén
CUNY Graduate School
of Journalism

THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by family and friends.

Presented by Roz Massow.

A native of Spain and a graduate of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Patricia wrote about the perils of illegal mining in Peru, a story she covered while there on an internship with *LaRepublica*. She focused her essay on the impoverished family of a college student who perished in a mine collapse, a not uncommon occurrence in a country where 500,000 are engaged in the illegal enterprise. She is fluent in English and French and proficient in Portuguese.

Stephen Kalin
American University in Cairo
ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by family, friends and admirers. Presented by Roy Rowan.

Now living in Cairo on a year-long Arabic language immersion fellowship program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Stephen is the first in his family in a century to return to their Middle East roots. The Davidson College graduate wrote about the humanitarian efforts

of Syrian refugees in Egypt helping their countrymen adjust to the hardships of their temporary home. He is the first recipient of an OPC Foundation internship with the GlobalPost.

Adriane Quinlan
University of Minnesota
FLORA LEWIS INTERNSHIP
Endowed by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust. Presented by Jackie Albert-Simon.

Adriane will spend her OPC Foundation internship at the AP bureau in Beijing, the city that convinced her to become a foreign correspondent. Having lived there as a freelancer and speed typist in the lead-up to the 2008 Olympics, the Yale graduate, who is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing, wrote about theme parks in China, specifically, her own Beijing rite of passage: a trip to World Park.

Xiaoqing Pi
University of California at Berkeley
Graduate School of Journalism
S&P AWARD FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS REPORTING
Endowed by Standard & Poor's. Presented by Patricia Walsh, S&P.

A graduate of Fudan University, Xiaoqing is fascinated with the Chinese tech industry, especially its largest tech companies and the under-covered stories of their connections to oppressed regimes and reliance on Chinese government support for success in global markets. Having interned already for The New York Times in Shanghai and the Phnom Penh Post, Xiaoqing will continue her work with an OPC Foundation internship in the Reuters bureau in Beijing.

Valerie Hopkins
Columbia University Graduate
School of Journalism
JERRY FLINT INTERNSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPORTING
Endowed by family and friends. Presented by Kate McLeod.

Having grown up in Voice of America newsrooms, Valerie always knew her passion was international reporting. Proficient in three Balkan languages, she has spent the last 2.5 years in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She wrote about countries that condone tax havens and money laundering, including the US. A graduate of William & Mary, she has an OPC Foundation internship in the Reuters bureau in Belgrade.

Frederick Bernas
Columbia University Graduate
School of Journalism
THE WALTER & BETSY CRONKITE SCHOLARSHIP
Funded by Daimler and Supported by CBS News and friends. Presented by David Rhodes, president, CBS News.

The unlikely topic of Frederick's winning essay concerned a hip-hop battle of the bands for musicians within Mexico City's prisons and their message of hope and rehabilitation. Fluent in Russian, the former Moscow-based broadcast journalist has sets his sites on Latin America. A graduate of the University of Bristol in England, he has an OPC Foundation internship in the AP bureau in Buenos Aires.

Jacob Kushner
Columbia University Graduate
School of Journalism
NATHAN S. BIENSTOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation. Presented by Richard Leibner.

Jacob intends to use the investigative skills honed during a two-year stretch in Haiti to uncover the stories and human consequences of China's rise in Africa. In his essay, the University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate reported on how the rapidly deteriorating Sudanese economy may lead to the ouster of its 23-year Arab president. Fluent in Spanish, Jacob has an OPC Foundation internship in the AP bureau in Nairobi.

OPC Scholarship Luncheon

Photos by Michael Dames



From left: 2013 scholars Xiaoqing Pi and Patricia Rey Mallén with OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein.



From left: OPC Executive Director Sonya Fry, keynote speaker David Rohde and OPC Foundation Executive Director Jane Reilly.

From left: Jeff Fager CBS News Chairman and Han Tjan of Daimler.



Scholars Jacob Kushner and Anders Melin flank a guest before the luncheon began.



Miranda and Matt Schweisberg talk with the 2013 David Schweisberg winner Jad Sleiman.

MANY THANKS

The OPC Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2013 Scholarship Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of our scholarship and internship program.

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Scholarship winner Mateo Hoke accepts the Harper's Magazine Scholarship.

Grant Launches to Aid Freelance Correspondents

by Aimee Vitrak

OPC Foundation board member and co-founder of GlobalPost Charles M. Sennott announced the launch of a \$10,000 GroundTruth Fellowship for a reporting project in the Middle East at the OPC Scholars luncheon on February 22. The fellowship will be awarded to a correspondent working on the ground in the Middle East with a minimum of three years of experience.

"GroundTruth" is a belief that you need to be there on the ground to get the story," Sennott said in a statement. "In an age in which too many journalists operate out of cubicles, we are committed to providing support for correspondents who live and breathe the story, who speak the language and who know the people and understand the culture from where they are reporting."

The fellowship is in their collective honor and particularly in the spirit of the late foreign correspondent Anthony Shadid, who had a long and distinguished report-

ing career in the Middle East for The Associated Press, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. OPC member Shadid who won the OPC Hal Boyle Award and was a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, died last year while on assignment in Syria.

Applicants are asked to submit a CV, five news writing samples, a cover letter to Charles Sennott explaining why they are qualified and a project memo of no more than 500 words outlining an idea for one long-form narrative piece or several shorter pieces that would form a series. Applications should be e-mailed to ejudem@globalpost.com. Deadline: March 28. The winner will be announced mid-April and the work will take place on a mutually agreed upon schedule for publishing on GlobalPost.com in September 2013.

The three-year grant was provided by The Correspondents Fund and the fellowship will be directed by Sennott. The OPC Foundation will administer the grant.



Scholarship winner Patricia Rey Mallén accepts the Theo Wilson Scholarship.



David Rhodes, president of CBS News, with Frederick Bernas, the Cronkite winner.



Carole Cooper of N.S. Bienstock talks with Jacob Kushner, the first N.S. Bienstock winner

Irene Curbally Kuhn winner Marina Villeneuve with Jack Howard-Potter.



From left: Larry Smith, Roy Rowan and Bill Holstein, all former OPC Presidents.

OPC SCHOLARS

Jeremy Gantz, who won the 2007 H.L. Stevenson award from the OPC Foundation, reported in February for the website of *In These Times* about the precarious financial and physical nature of foreign reporting as news organizations continue to shrink and rely on freelance journalists rather than staffers. Gantz, a contributing editor to *In These Times*, had a strong personal angle to his report noting that he is a friend, colleague and former roommate of **James Foley**, a freelancer who was kidnapped by masked gunmen in Syria on Thanksgiving Day and is still missing.

William J. Holstein, president of the OPC Foundation, was quoted by Gantz in the piece. "The whole model that made me a foreign correspondent has been blown up," Holstein said. "Editors and producers have resorted to using freelancers on a much wider, systematic scale. Since so many of them are young, they lack knowledge about how to operate in dangerous places."

WINNERS

The George Polk Awards were again a showcase for foreign reporting. OPC member **Martin Smith** and freelancer **Austin Tice**, who has been missing in Syria since August, were among the winners of 14 awards announced February 18. Bloomberg News and **David Barboza** of *The New York Times* won foreign reporting awards for separate exposés on the wealth and connections of the families of China's rulers. *The Times* won three awards and Bloomberg earned two. Tice and **David Enders** were part of a team from McClatchy Newspapers honored for articles on the civil war in Syria. **Tracey Shelton** of GlobalPost won for video reporting on the Syrian conflict. CBS correspondent **Holly**

World Press Photo of the Year



Photo of the year for spot news: Two-year-old Suhaib Hijazi and his older brother Muhammad were killed when their house was destroyed by an Israeli missile strike.

A photo by **Paul Hansen**, a Swedish photojournalist for the daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter, was named the World Press Photo of the Year for 2012. The painterly image shows a funeral procession in Gaza where anguished uncles hold the corpses of two small boys as their father's body is carried behind on a stretcher. The three died in November when their house was destroyed in an Israeli missile strike. **Santiago Lyon**, vice president and director of photography for The Associated Press and an OPC board member, was chairman of the jury. He said a successful photo connects in at least one of three places, "your head, your heart and your stomach, and I think this picture works on all three." Other winners include photos from Syria taken by **Rodrigo Abd** of The Associated Press and **Alessio Romenzi** for Slate.

Williams and cameraman **Andrew Portch** were recognized for coverage of a Chinese human rights activist. Smith, a Frontline correspondent, and producer **Michael Kirk** won for "Money, Power and Wall Street," a series about the global financial crisis. Other winners were California Watch, *The Maine Sunday Telegram*, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *The New Yorker* and *The Washington Post*. The awards honor **George W. Polk**, a CBS reporter who was killed in 1948 while covering the Greek civil war.

Three women in Syria reporting

under dangerous conditions were honored with Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards on January 22. **Clarissa Ward** of CBS News, repeatedly snuck into Syria and lived with families there to provide details

about life in a country where reporting is heavily restricted. Reporting for NPR, **Kelly McEvers**, who is based in Beirut, and **Deb Amos**, a roving correspondent who's spent



Ward



McEvers

three decades covering the region, also made frequent trips into Syria. Other winners include a Frontline story about underage girls in Afghanistan forced to become brides to pay off opium debts, Current TV's Vanguard series for a report on Mexican drug cartels buying guns in the United States and a documentary by **Alison Klayman**, about Ai Weiwei, a dissident Chinese artist. **Abi Wright**, an OPC associate board member, is director of the awards. OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** was a presenter.



Amos

PRESS FREEDOM

NEW YORK: In its annual "Attacks on the Press" survey, The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported February 14 that 70 journalists had been killed while doing their jobs in 2012, a grim increase from the 47 deaths in 2011, while another 35 journalists had disappeared. CPJ said that in 2012 it had identified 232 journalists who had been imprisoned, 53 more than a year earlier and the highest number since the survey began in 1990.

MANGALORE, India: Seven people were arrested after individuals believed to be part of a right-wing Hindu group attacked employees of *Karavali Ale* on February 6, seized and burned copies of the paper's February 7 edition and threatened news vendors, news reports said. The daily paper had published a front-page story linking the Hindu group to drug trafficking.

TERHAN: At least 15 journalists from four Iranian newspapers and one news agency were arrested at the end of January and accused of contact with foreign news media. Iranian rights advocates said the arrests were part of a broad campaign of intimidation to forestall unrest with the approach of the presidential

election in June. Most of those detained work for pro-reform publications. A state-run news agency said the arrested journalists had been accused of "collaborating with some of the Persian-language foreign media" — apparently a reference to the BBC and the Voice of America.



Journalists protest the detention of Abdiyaz Abdinur Ibrahim.

MOGADISHU: Protests that followed the January 10 arrest of Somali freelancer **Abdiyaz Abdinur Ibrahim** grew into an international outcry when he was sentenced February 5 to a year in prison. In a country where rape and sexual violence is rampant, Ibrahim was convicted of insulting state institutions after interviewing a woman who said she was raped by government security forces. He did not file a story from the interview. The 27-year-old woman was accused of making a false claim and insulting a government body and also sentenced to a year. The sentences have been appealed. Also in February, journalist **Daud Abdi Daud** was arrested and detained without charge for more than a week after speaking out against the imprisonment of Ibrahim. In a letter from the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee, **Larry Martz** and **Jacqueline Albert-Simon** urged Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon to drop the charges against Ibrahim.

LONDON: Freelancers have said *The Sunday Times* has asked them to stop sending reports and photographs from Syria. The *Press Gazette*, a British media trade magazine, reported February 5 that photojournalist **Rick Findler** said he was

thanked by *The Sunday Times* for his previous work but told they had a policy "of not taking copy from Syria as we believe the dangers of operating there are too great." Syria is the deadliest country for journalists, with CPJ reporting 28 deaths in 2012.

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar: Foreign journalists will soon be able to work here for up to a year on new short- and long-term journalist visas announced in February and expected to go into effect in April. For decades, reporters visited using tourist visas and filed under pseudonyms. The move is part of the dismantling of some, but not all, of the country's draconian censorship laws.

BANGKOK: **Somyot Prueksakasemsuk**, editor of the *Voice of the Oppressed* magazine, was sentenced January 23 to 10 years in jail for publishing articles in 2010 that prosecutors said defamed King Bhumibol Adulyadej. An extra year was added to Somyot's sentence for an unrelated defamation conviction. The articles criticized the role of a fictional character that prosecutors said represented the king. Discussions about the role of the monarchy are forbidden in Thailand.



Prueksakasemsuk gestures as he arrives at court in January.

MURDERS

A Ukrainian prosecutor said in a February 20 broadcast interview that his office has collected evidence that proves former President Leonid Kuchma was involved in the 2000 murder of **Georgiy Gongadze**, who founded the *Ukrainska Pravda*

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news site. Gongadze had been probing alleged corruption in Kuchma's government when his headless body was found in a forest outside Kiev. Kuchma was investigated for the killing but charges against him were dropped. In January, a former surveillance official was sentenced for his involvement in the death.

Bangladesh shut down a blog site for spreading "hate speech and causing communal tension" after it was linked to the February 15 murder in Dhaka of a blogger who helped organize protests against the leaders of the largest Islamic party. **Ahmed Rajib Haider**, an architect and an outspoken anti-Islamist blogger, was hacked to death near his home after he joined a large protest demanding the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami party leaders who are on trials for war crimes. According to news reports, a fellow blogger said the pro-Jamaat website that was shut down had named Haider as a target.

The body of **Nemichand Jain**, a journalist based in Tongpal, India, was found February 12 on a road with his throat slit. A note clipped to his belt accused him of being a police informer, according to the *Times of India*. Reports said that Jain, who worked for the Hindi dailies *Hari Bhoomi* and *Dainik Bhaskar*, had gone to a weekly market that day and never returned.



The body of **Abdihared Osman Aden**.

In the same month that judicial officials in Somalia enraged the world by sentencing a reporter to jail for interviewing a woman who said she was raped, the Somali govern-

ment announced a \$50,000 reward for information leading to convictions for the murders of journalists. According to the International Press Institute, at least 18 Somali journalists were killed in 2012. On January 18, **Abdihared Osman Aden**, a producer for Shabelle Media Network, became the fifth journalist working for Shabelle to be murdered in the last 13 months. He was shot several times when three men armed with pistols opened fire on him as he was walking to work in Mogadishu.

Marcelino Vásquez, who owned a radio station in Paraguay near the Brazil border, was shot dead February 6 by two armed motorcycle riders. He was killed while leaving the station on the way home. Reporters Without Borders said the attack likely came from organized crime. In 1991, journalist **Santiago Lequizamón** was murdered in the same small town; that case has never been solved.

Snipers in Syria were blamed for the deaths of two reporters within 24 hours. The Aleppo Media Centre said a Syrian Army sniper murdered **Yves Debay**, a French journalist and founder of the military affairs magazine *Assault*, on January 17 in Aleppo. On January 18, **Mohamed Al-Massalma**, a freelance reporter for Al Jazeera, was shot dead while covering frontline fighting in the southern Syrian province of Deraa. A statement from Al Jazeera said targeting its "collaborating journalists and crews will not change the editorial method and guidelines adopted by the network since it was launched 16 years ago for the sake of delivering the truth."

Ikechukwu Udendu, a Nigerian who published and edited a monthly newspaper, *Anambra News*, was killed January 12 after he left his



Udendu

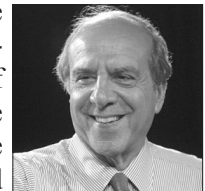
home in Ogidi to visit the paper's printing house, reports said. The victim's brother and co-publisher, **Chukwulozie Udendu**, said he received a call that night telling him where to find her brother's body.

UPDATES

GLOBAL: On the first anniversary of the deaths of **Marie Colvin** and **Rémi Ochlik** on February 22, "A Day Without News?" launched to provoke the public to imagine what a day without news might be like. The initiative, started by a coalition of international photo journalists, is an awareness campaign to encourage better protection of journalists and is being led by **Aidan Sullivan**, who is a Vice President for Getty Images. In the next year, the coalition will continue to meet with governments to push policy to fight against impunity and to partner with educational institutions and NGOs to identify, investigate and prosecute cases where journalists and media personnel have been targeted and killed. The initiative seeks journalists of every stripe to sign a petition of support and promote the cause through social media. More information and the petition can be found on the website adaywithoutnews.com.



NEW YORK: OPC member **Stephen B. Shepard** said in February that he will step down as dean of CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism at the end of 2013. He said he expects to continue as a professor and work on projects including the university's new journalism book imprint. Shepard became the founding editor of the school in 2006 after serving



Shepard

Photojournalists Now Have an Action Figure

War Journalist: Battlefield Hero, a photojournalist action figure, has gotten a lot of buzz recently, for its novelty, the accompanying realistic camera kit and a striking resemblance to Leonardo DiCaprio. In addition to camera gear and changes of clothes, the set includes a press pass, pen, notebook, cell phone, Bluetooth headset and water bottle. The best place to get one is on eBay by searching for "toymaster war journalist." The complete package sells for about \$100 but the miniature camera kits are available separately for around \$20. On Petapixel.com, comments about the action figure included:



"This plastic man has better gear than I do!" "I would love a female version!" "Hipsterism now comes to action figures." "Is this the **Jim Nachtwey** action figure circa 1990 (minus the laptop)?"

more than 20 years as editor-in-chief of *BusinessWeek*. Previously, he was a senior editor at *Newsweek* and editor of the *Saturday Review*. In 2012, he published a memoir called *Deadlines and Disruption: My Turbulent Path From Print to Digital*. The upcoming vacancy at CUNY follows the announcement in October that **Nicholas Lemann** will leave as dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in June; Columbia has not announced his replacement.

In a restructuring at Thomson Reuters announced by Editor-in-Chief **Stephen Adler** in December, OPC member **Chrystia Freeland**, who had been editor of Thomson Reuters Digital, was promoted to managing director and editor of consumer news. She is now responsible for editorial, product, sales and design of digital and mobile news properties, all of which will be re-launched in 2013. **Alix Freedman**, who is a member of the OPC Foundation board which grants a scholarship named for her father, **Emanuel Freedman**, became global head of ethics and standards. Freedman had editorial responsibil-

ity for ethics and standards in the previous structure. In January, **Jim Impoco**, a veteran business journalist who had been one of Freeland's main deputies on the digital side, said he would leave Reuters at the end of the month. Impoco, who worked as an editor at *The New York Times* and the late *Portfolio* magazine, did not say where he was headed. In February, Freeland announced that **Jim Roberts**, who took a recent buyout from *The Times*, would be executive editor of Thomson Reuters Digital, a new position.

Digital First Media, which operates MediaNews Group, Journal Register Co. and Digital First Ventures, announced a content partnership in January with GlobalPost. The partnership will provide Digital First Media access to all content produced by GlobalPost's growing network of more than 50 journalists across the globe. **Charles Sennott**, an OPC member, is vice president, executive editor and co-founder of GlobalPost.

John M. Geddes, a managing editor for *The New York Times* for the last decade, is the highest-rank-

ing editor to accept a buyout package in January from *The Times*. It was the fourth time in five years that the newspaper has offered buyouts to cut newsroom staff. While Geddes is staying on to help with the transition, others who have left their former jobs include Culture Editor **Jon Landman**, classical music critic **James R. Oestreich**, Deputy Business Editor **Winnie O'Kelley**, Assistant Managing Editor **Jim Roberts**, Deputy Managing Editor **Bill Schmidt**, Editor of News Technology **Terry Schwadron**, Sports Editor **Joe Sexton**, and News Editor **Paul Winfield**.

HONG KONG: **David Schlesinger** is making good use of decades of China and media experience after stepping down in August as chairman of Thomson Reuters China. Schlesinger is the managing director and founder of Tripod Advisors, a consultancy that advises on political risk analysis and strategy and on running global organizations with an emphasis on China and media. He is also chairman of Poseidon Research, a due diligence firm. Schlesinger joined Reuters in 1987 as a Hong Kong correspondent and managed editorial operations in Taiwan, China, and the Greater China region from 1989 to 1995. He was appointed Reuters editor-in-chief in January 2007 after posts that included global managing editor. He became chairman of Thomson Reuters China in 2011.

SAN FRANCISCO: **Damon Darlin**, who has enjoyed one of the great runs in international journalism working for a variety of publications in major cities, is moving to New York to begin work as international business editor at *The New York Times*. He began his career in 1979 at the *St. Cloud Daily News* in Minnesota. He worked at *The Wall Street Journal* in Cleveland and Detroit and then moved to Tokyo for

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the *Journal*. He was the *Journal's* bureau chief in Seoul from 1989 to 1992 until *Forbes* lured him to Los Angeles. Then, he became assistant managing editor at *U.S. News & World Report* in Washington in 1996. In 2000, at the height of the Internet bubble, Darlin took the plunge to *Business 2.0* magazine in San Francisco. In 2005, he joined *The Times* as a columnist on the West Coast and became technology editor in 2007 while based in San Francisco.

LONDON: You might want to mark your calendar for March 11 and not just because it's **Rupert Murdoch's** 82nd birthday. **John Dale**, a veteran British journalist, is expanding "24 Hours in Journalism," a 2012 effort that led to a publication voted one of the 40 best books ever about journalism. This year he's calling it "24 Hours In World Journalism." He is inviting journalists across the world to detail their day's activities beginning at 6 a.m. GMT Monday, March 11. Details are available at 24hoursinjournalism2013.com.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Tom Aspell, a foreign correspondent for NBC News, died February 11 in Cyprus after a two-year battle with lung cancer. He was 62. After beginning his career as a scriptwriter and cameraman for Visnews in 1970, Aspell worked for CBS and ABC before joining NBC in 1985 as a producer. He later became a foreign correspondent and covered events including the fall of Saigon, the toppling of Saddam Hussein, the Bosnian War and Beirut. NBC's **Brian Williams** described Aspell, a New Zealand native, as "an intense brand of cool under fire."



Stanley Karnow, a prize-winning historian and journalist, died January 27 at his home in Potomac,

Maryland. He was 87 and had congestive heart failure. Although best known for his books and documentaries, Karnow spent decades as a correspondent in Southeast Asia, working for Time-Life, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Washington Post*, NBC News, *The New Republic*, King Features Syndicate and the Public Broadcasting Service. Working for *Time* magazine, he reported on the first two American deaths in Vietnam in 1959 and went on to cover the war in its entirety. In 1983, he published the 750-page book *Vietnam: A History* and a 13-hour PBS documentary, "Vietnam: A Television History," followed. Karnow delivered a second comprehensive book about Southeast Asia in 1989 that was also accompanied by a television series; the book, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*, earned a Pulitzer in a career that included Emmy, OPC, Peabody, Polk and duPont-Columbia awards. Karnow also wrote *Mao and China: From Revolution to Revolution* (1972) and was a co-author of or contributor to other books based on his years in Asia.

Harold A. "Hal" Drake, who for nearly four decades was a reporter, senior writer and columnist for *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, died of stomach cancer January 27 in a hospice in Queensland, Australia. He was 83. His diverse reporting career included the Vietnam War, interviews with global entertainers, Mohammed Ali's boxing, high-level summits and high school sports. An obituary written by **Geoffrey Tudor** of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan relates how Drake's strengths as a journalist and his doggedness led the FCCJ board to change its "Regular" membership qualifications to include *Stars and Stripes*, a U.S. military paper published in Tokyo since shortly after World War II. Drake's backers pointed out he was known for defying military bureaucrats who periodically tried to influence the

paper. One of Drake's eccentricities, Tudor wrote, was a whirligig, a spinning toy made of wire that he twirled when working on story ideas. A whirling whirligig meant Drake was in creative mode.



Once-and-future bureau chiefs in April 1972 in AP's Saigon bureau, from left: George Esper, '73-75; Malcolm Browne, '61-64; George McArthur, '68-69; Edwin Q. White, '65-67; Richard Pyle, '70-73.

Edwin Q. White, a former Saigon bureau chief for The Associated Press, died November 1 at his home in Honolulu, where he lived after retiring in 1987. White, who was 90, had congestive heart failure and was among five fabled AP Saigon staff members to die in 2012, including his close friend and former Hawaii neighbor **Roy Essoyan**. The others were **George Esper**, **Horst Faas** and **Malcolm Browne**. White, who spent four decades with the AP, began covering Vietnam in 1962 when he was assigned to AP's Tokyo bureau. He served as Saigon bureau chief from 1965 to 1967 as the United States shifted from an advisory to a full combat role. He left on one of the last evacuation helicopters from the roof of the U.S. embassy. In the book *Lost Over Laos: A True Story of Tragedy, Mystery, and Friendship*, Faas and co-author **Richard Pyle** recalled how White, known as "unflappable Ed" worked in the Saigon bureau one night in 1969. As Viet Cong rockets tore through the city, White "calmly cranked a new sheet of paper into his typewriter," they wrote, "put the world on hold while he relit his pipe, and said, 'If you are a journalist at this time in the 20th century, and you are not in Vietnam, just what ... are you doing?'"

Results of Hackers' Work Threatens Press Freedom

by Susan Kille

Hacked off? You could be. Either with anger at unethical journalism and the dangerous backlash it could bring or more personally hacked, as described in *Bloomberg BusinessWeek's* February 18 cover story: "Yes, the Chinese Army Is Spying on You."

First, the journalist hackers: Six more journalists who had worked for the defunct *News of the World* were arrested February 13 in connection with what Scotland Yard described as "new lines of inquiry" in its probe of phone hacking at the paper that has resulted in 32 arrests so far. Altogether, more than 100 reporters, editors, investigators, executives and public officials have been arrested in an investigation into possible criminal activity at British newspapers including allegations of bribing officials to obtain confidential information. The investigation has centered on two of **Rupert Murdoch's** British tabloids: *The Sun*, a daily, and *The News of the World*, a Sunday publication closed as the scandal broke in July 2011. Murdoch's News International has paid millions of pounds in damages to hacking victims. Backlash could bring legislation that would end more than three centuries of press freedom from statutory regulation.

On January 30, **Nicole Perlroth** reported for *The New York Times* that Chinese hackers infiltrated the company's computer system in an attack that coincided with the October publication of an exposé on wealth accumulated by the relatives of Wen Jiabao, China's prime minister. The hackers broke into the e-mail accounts of **David Barboza**, the Shanghai Bureau chief who wrote the Wen report, and **Jim Yardley**, who is based in India as South Asia bureau chief and who had been Beijing Bureau chief. Security experts hired by *The Times* found evidence that the hackers stole the corporate passwords for every employee and used those to gain access to the personal computers of 53 employees, mainly journalists who work outside the New York newsroom. The experts said the hacking techniques used were similar to those of the Chinese military. Also, Bloomberg News confirmed to *The Times* that it had been attacked after a June 29 report on the wealth accumulated by relatives of Xi Jinping, China's vice president at the time.

After Bloomberg News and *The Times* published their Chinese exposés, their websites were blocked in China and they remain blocked.

In the two days after *The Times* reported it was hacked, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post* also reported they had been victims of Chinese cy-

berattacks. Then, Twitter, Facebook and Apple said they were hacked. And it's not just the Chinese. Bloomberg reported February 20 that those three companies were among 40 firms targeted in malware attacks linked to Eastern European hackers trying to steal company secrets.

Reporters Without Borders was among 45 groups that sent a letter on January 24 asking Skype and its owner Microsoft to release information about user data it gives to third parties, including government agencies. Microsoft said it would consider the request. Other online companies, including Google and Twitter, release regular reports detailing requests for user data by third parties. "Many journalists or activists have reported to us that their Skype communications have been intercepted," **Grégoire Pouget** of Reporters Without Borders told *The Verge*, a website that covers technology and society.

At a news conference about "Attacks on the Press" on February 14, **Robert Mahoney**, deputy director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, described cyberattacks of journalists and news organizations as inexpensive and easy censorship. He cited the examples of *The Times* and major publications but said many lesser-known news organizations as well as individual journalists had been subjected to cyberattacks.

At least 12 reporters working for foreign and local media in Myanmar, including a correspondent for The Associated Press, said in early February they received warnings from Google that their e-mail accounts might have been hacked by "state-sponsored attackers." Myanmar's government denied that it was behind any hacking attempts. A Google spokesman confirmed the attacks but the company would not say how it determines an attack is "state sponsored" and would not identify a suspected government.

The *Bloomberg Businessweek* cover story on hacking by the Chinese Army was written by **Dune Lawrence** and **Michael Riley**. In a sidebar, Lawrence wrote that her laptop crashed while she was working on the piece. After she rebooted, a pink banner at the top of her Gmail in-box read: "Warning: We believe state-sponsored attackers may be attempting to compromise your account or computer." Google would not comment on the alert or what triggered it.

Lawrence wrote: "Security experts can't say it enough: There are very few places Chinese digital spies haven't gotten into."



In Search of the Calcutta Colonialism Left Behind

EVENT RECAP: FEBRUARY 20

by Aimee Vitrak

OPC member, photo journalist and Indiana University Professor of Journalism Steven Raymer's interest in Calcutta began in 1972 when he worked in layout at *National Geographic* magazine and saw a story about the once-great colonial capital. His interest renewed when he delved into its history, the culture — the city has more than 200 theater troupes and its residents are known for their affection for politics and literature — and most tantalizing of all: the press corps has been focused elsewhere. "It's nice to have a bit of an exclusive," Raymer said at his OPC Book Night on February 20. "I had never been to Calcutta and wanted to see it and bring it to the rest of the world."

He made six trips in five years, partially funded by Indiana University and the rest self-funded that eventually became his new book, *Redeeming Calcutta: A Portrait of India's Imperial Capital* [Oxford University Press]. The trips became more difficult for him to make during this time because airlines cut back their direct service to the city. Now, Raymer said, Calcutta is refocusing itself to the South East Asian tourist market and less on the Western world, which only extends the "exclusive" aspect of the city and its charm.

To navigate the city and its many bureaucratic thickets, Raymer did what some journalists might consider taboo: he went to the American consulate and asked for help. "The consulate opened so many doors for me," Raymer said. "I used the Americans when I needed to fight bureaucracy."

The press person from Mother Teresa's Kalighat, the Home of the Pure Heart, a hospice for the sick and dying, gave him the run-around with all kinds of stipulations for photographing and time limits. He enlisted the help of the consulate general who arrived to the hospital with two American military personnel and the doors to the hospice were opened and exposed not a decrepit hospital but one with many European doctors-in-training who are required to volunteer their services in underserved regions in the world in order to complete their medical degrees.

Raymer also volunteered to give lectures at universities and met local journalists, which gave him greater insight and sometimes even pointers on where and how to shoot certain locations. Raymer said this type of partnership is a necessary ingredient for jumping into an assignment where so many variables are unknown to the visitor.

The people of Calcutta were not always enthusiastic participants in Raymer's project, however, and were sometimes hostile when they saw a camera. Raymer said



Interlocutor Ruth Fremson and Steve Raymer pose with his book and the projection of the cover shot behind them before the talk.



The cover image on Raymer's book of rickshaw-pullers resting on a backstreet. There are some 6,000 licensed rickshaw-drivers in Calcutta. Raymer mentioned the spontaneous symmetry of this photo during the talk.

this dates to colonial times and how Calcutta is often portrayed in the media as a poor city with subjugated natives. He was sensitive to this history and knew that being Western put him as an immediate and obvious outsider. Still, he contends that the outsider status enabled him to see the city with fresh eyes, and an enthusiasm about Calcutta's architecture, people and history that a local might overlook. "I could go to a mosque and say, 'this is all in good faith,' without being a Hindu or a Jain without so much baggage as a local," Raymer said. "I brought an emotional distance and persistence."

Photos from the book were projected during the talk with Ruth Fremson, staff photographer for *The New York Times* who traveled extensively in India from 2005 to 2011, served as the interlocutor.

One photo was of people on a bridge, but it was the story behind the photo that made it all the more amazing: one million people cross the bridge daily and so many people spit on the bridge that the acid from their saliva

(Continued on Page 15)



Photos: Steven Raymer

The Hindu faithful perform purification rituals along the Hooghly River. In the background is the Howrah Bridge where one million people traverse daily. So many people spit while walking on the bridge the acid has weakened the structure.



Raymer used this photo to urge students to be tenacious: he knocked on doors in an apartment building to ask to shoot this photo from a balcony. He finally found the right angle with this photo of Chitpur Road, Calcutta's greatest thoroughfare that winds through the city center.



A shepherd drives his flock through Calcutta tethered by a mobile phone to markets and customers. Hundreds of millions of working poor across India have seen their livelihoods improved thanks to mobile phones.

(Continued From Page 14)

has weakened the entire structure to the point of collapse. The book is filled with photos that one would instantly recognize as the complexity, chaos and beauty of an Indian city, and so the book designer suggested a catch-your-breath photo. Raymer selected a photo of a doorway that allowed the eye and mind to rest on a few simple objects.

Raymer said his initial plan with shooting Calcutta was to preserve a time in history, but when he met with the city's people and saw that so much of India exists with manual labor while a strong push is being made by large, Western retailers, the photos and book became more about documenting the human condition.

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alongside the British Eighth Army in North Africa. The book was only recently published because when it was written, publishers in a country hungry for victory rejected its peace-making message.

Bowen's war reporting was not from the front lines. He experienced war in field dressing stations, on hospital ships and along what he describes as the "war's reverse supply lines" where the wounded and dying were removed from battle. He



Bowen in AFS uniform before leaving for Tobruk.

was wounded during the battle of Tobruk in 1942 and evacuated as a medical casualty. He received the Africa Star and the British Empire Medal. Instead of the romance and adventure he had expected, he saw the common experience of suffering by soldiers of all nations.

The memoir was largely unread for some 65 years before being rescued by his daughter, **Betsy Connor Bowen**, who served as editor. "It's about the brutality of war, the compassion

that springs from shared suffering, and how the vision of world peace through international government might give that suffering meaning," Betsy Bowen said.

Croswell Bowen, an OPC member who died in 1971, wrote extensively for *PM*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Town and Country* and *Cosmopolitan*, among other publications, in the 1940s and 1950s. His books included the National Book Award-nominated *The Curse of the Misbegotten: A Tale of the House of O'Neill* (1959).

Betsy is planning a biography of her father to be called *Truth Teller*.

— by Susan Kille

New Books

GLOBAL

THE ABOUNDING AMOUNT

of data being collected about the world — and about ourselves — is changing the way we live. Faster processors, improved networking and declining costs of storage allow greater volumes of data to be captured and sorted to reveal information valuable to business, government, science and society. And, along the way, information we might want to keep private is being exposed.

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, March 2013] promises to “equip the reader with the tools needed for this next phase of human evolution.”

Kenneth Neil Cukier, an OPC member and data editor of *The Economist*, wrote the book with Viktor Mayer Schönberger a professor at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford. They ex-

plain what big data is, what can be done with it, how it will continue to change our lives and what we can do to protect ourselves from it.

With data, more isn't just more. More is different. Big data and the ability to process it means there's no need to sample or carefully structure an analysis for randomness.

Everything, including information that seems to be unrelated, can go into the bucket and be examined for common characteristics. Increased computing power allows greater tolerance for messier data that was once discarded. Having more information in the mix can reveal insights that weren't seen before. Analyses of

samples focus on the “why,” but big data has the power to grasp the “what.” The results, the authors write, will transform businesses, organizations and the relationship between citizens and governments.

Want specifics? Big data companies include Amazon, eBay, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn and many other innovators. A deluge of data told Walmart to ship Pop-Tarts to areas expecting a hurricane and allowed New York City officials to

identify the manholes most likely to explode. Google uses big data for its powerful language translation service. Farecast uses it to predict the price of airline tickets over time. This is how Netflix makes its personalized recommendations.

Cukier recently settled into his current job in London after working from Japan covering business and finance. Earlier, he worked at *The Wall Street Journal Asia* in Hong Kong and the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris.

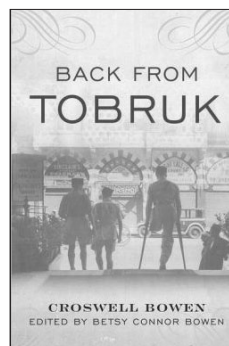
NORTH AMERICA

CROSWELL BOWEN WAS

born in 1905 and grew up in a wealthy family. He went to Choate, Yale and the Sorbonne. With his family fortune lost in the Depression, he joined the International News Service and was known as a hard-hitting reporter. Bowen, a Catholic pacifist, signed on with the non-combatant American Field Service as a photographer in 1941, before America entered World War II.

He began writing and taking photographs for *Back from Tobruk* [Potomac Books, November 2012] in 1941 while en route with his unit of AFS volunteer ambulance drivers to serve

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Upcoming Events

Tchotchke Night
Bring a fun story
and potential
OPC member

March 8
Details on page 1

OPC Panel:
Sunni-Shia Divide

March 13
Details on page 1

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA