

Russia Hands to Gather and Swap Stories at Reunion

By Patricia Kranz

Covering Russia in the 1990s was the highlight of my journalism career, so when Bill Holstein suggested that the OPC sponsor a Russia Hands reunion, I jumped at the chance. Since November, I have had a great time reaching out to old friends and colleagues and asking them to spread the word. By Feb. 18, over 170 people had signed up for the event, which is co-sponsored by Columbia University's Harriman Institute and will be held there on Feb. 24, starting at 4:00 p.m.

The program includes two panels followed by a reception. The first panel, moderated by Harriman Director Alexander Cooley, will look at the challenges of covering Putin's Russia. Panelists are Carol Williams, who has reported on every regime since Konstantin Chernenko in the mid-1980s for the *Los Angeles Times*; Vladimír Lenski, an anchor for Russian TV International; and Timothy Frye, a professor at the Harriman Institute.

The second panel is focused on the Communist era and the fall of Communism. Robert Kaiser, former managing editor of *The Washington Post* and a Moscow correspondent, will moderate. His *Post* colleague

David Hoffman will join him on the panel, along with Ann Cooper, NPR's first Moscow bureau chief, Tom Kent of the Associated Press and the Harriman Institute, and Seymour Topping, former correspondent and editor of *The New York Times*.

The gathering is an opportunity to reminisce with old friends as well as analyze Russia's political and media landscape.

I fell in love with Russian history and literature in college. When McGraw-Hill abruptly closed the news service I was working for in Washington DC in early 1990, I decided

to take the severance money and run to Russia. There was a visa war at the time, and the Soviet Foreign Ministry would not give U.S. news organizations permission to bring in more full-time correspondents. I was certain that if I could get myself there, I could get work. Thanks to my Russian teacher, who persuaded friends in Moscow to sponsor me on a private visa, I hopped on a plane in July, and stayed for much of the next decade. I worked my way up from stringer to Moscow bureau chief for *BusinessWeek*.

I look back on my time in Russia
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Mei Fong Discusses 'One Child' Aftermath

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

When a deadly earthquake hit Sichuan, China in 2008, Mei Fong, longtime China correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, traveled from Beijing with migrant workers to report on the disaster.

They arrived to devastating news. The quake struck during school hours and thousands of children were killed when poorly constructed school buildings collapsed. Many of the workers lost their only children.

Sichuan, she discovered, had also been a pilot site for China's one-child policy before it was imposed nationally in the late 70s.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, parents who lost their only children soon flocked to hospitals to get sterilizations reversed.

Under the policy, parents were



Chad Bouchard

Mei Fong, left, with Minky Worden. required to be sterilized soon after having their first child.

"Of course, 30 years later all these people were trying to reverse the procedures. They were so desperate."

This reporting eventually spurred her to write a personal memoir and analysis of the policy, *One Child, The Story of China's Most Radical Social Experiment*.

On Feb. 9, OPC Governor Minky Worden hosted a Chinese New Year-themed Book Night to discuss Fong's work with OPC

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Karl Meyer Recounts 1958 Meeting With Fidel Castro

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

When *Washington Post* reporter Karl Meyer first met Fidel Castro as a rebel leader in the Sierra Maestra mountains in the summer of 1958, his first impression was of a “slightly manic” man with what he described as an “enormous ego.”

“The impression you got from Castro was very much of a guy of overweening self-confidence and a sense of mission, and a sense of humor.”

“Like Donald Trump?” an attendee joked.

“The two would get along absolutely!” Meyer responded.

On Feb. 3, the OPC hosted a lunch in the Club Quarters dining room to talk about Castro’s legacy with the veteran reporter, who served on the editorial boards of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Former OPC President David Andelman, who worked for many years at *The New York Times* and *World Policy Journal*, moderated.

Castro and his army had been hiding and out of touch with the press for weeks when Meyer, still a cub reporter for the *Post* but slowly making a name as a Latin America specialist, contacted Castro’s movement in Washington and hatched a plan to meet “El Comandante” in Cuba.

Risking arrest if he’d been discovered as a journalist, Meyer slipped into the country under guise as a teacher and told his editors that he was going on a “vacation.”



Chad Bouchard

Karl Meyer, center left, and David Andelman.

When he was ready to depart for the mountains, he sent a telegram from Santiago to *Post* editor Bob Estabrook, which read “Dear Bob, business in our line is excellent. Have a possibility of making a deal, but involves seeing two brothers. And that means a side trip from Via Hermosa. Probably be out of touch for a week or more. Unless I hear from you within 48 hours, I will assume that you said ok,” he recalled the telegram reading. “And then I left immediately.”

Meyer got into a car with his guide and went through a series of checkpoints. They rode on horseback for three days through the Sierra Maestra before finally meeting Castro at his camp.

The two soon struck up a friendly conversation, in mixture of broken English and broken Spanish. He re-

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as one big adventure, and one that afforded me the privilege of witnessing history in the making. I will never forget being in the Russian White House in August 1991 when the mayor announced over the loudspeaker (in typically sexist Russian fashion), “All women and children must vacate the building,” because the hardline putsch leaders had ordered KGB troops to storm the building. (The troops defied the order, which spelled the end of the 3-day revolt.) When Yeltsin triumphantly returned to the White House and waved to the crowd, I was a half dozen yards away from him. (No one else would be able to pick me out in the crowd surrounding Yeltsin in the *BusinessWeek* cover photo, but I swear the figure in the white sweater with long hair is me!)

Two years later, after a hiatus back home, I arrived just in time to witness the 1993 uprising. My apartment was not far from the White House, and I awoke around 7:00 a.m. to the unmistakable sound of tank treads chewing up the tarmac on Kutuzovsky Prospekt, which I had first heard in 1991. I ran to the Hotel Ukraina and soldiers shooed me away from the tanks that were circled on the road below along the Moscow River. Moving to the front of the hotel facing the White House, I felt bullets whiz by my ears, possibly from snipers across the river. Then the tanks started firing their big guns at the White House. Each time, the reverberation caused me and others nearby to jump a few inches off the ground.

As a reporter for *BusinessWeek*, I interviewed all of the so-called oligarchs of the Yeltsin era, several more

than once. I remember the braggadocio of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who was so proud to call himself “an industrialist,” and who ended up in a Siberian prison when he underestimated the wrath of Putin; baby-faced Mikhail Fridman, who ruthlessly manipulated local courts to take over companies he coveted; and the Donald Trump-like cockiness of Boris Berezhevsky, who thought anything good for him was good for the country.

Politicians of that era courted the Western press. I interviewed Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov in the White House, only to realize when I got back to the office that my slacks had been unzipped. Thank goodness the jacket had covered it! I, like many others who knew him, were sickened when a sniper killed him last year on a bridge near Red Square. Nemtsov had embodied better than anyone else the optimism of the early Yeltsin era.

Of course, many journalists also have been killed pursuing their craft in Russia. We still mourn Forbes reporter Paul Klebnikov. I am proud that I was a judge on the OPC panel that gave the brave Anna Politkovskaya her first award from an American organization. Investigative reporter Yuri Shchekochikhin was a frequent guest at the *BusinessWeek* bureau.

On a personal level, the friends I made in Russia, both Russian and expat, are among my closest. I was delighted to find out that the daughter of close friends, who was 8 years old when I met her, was inspired by my friendship to become a journalist.

There are many other tales to tell, some not suitable for the *Bulletin*! Please join us on Feb. 24 and share your stories.

Rod Nordland’s ‘The Lovers’ Paints Portrait of Honor Killings

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

While serving as Kabul bureau chief for *The New York Times*, Rod Nordland stumbled on a story he hoped would bring the horrors of so-called “honor killings” in Afghanistan into sharp focus.

These murders of women are common in Afghanistan, where those who carry out acts of vengeance, usually male family members, against female family members considered to have shamed the family, often receive little punishment.

Women’s right activists put Nordland in touch with a young couple, Zakia and Ali, Afghan lovers from different tribes who defied their

families and sectarian taboos to live in hiding.

He covered the story closely for the *Times*, gaining access to the couple as well as their would-be killers from Zakia’s family, to paint a portrait of a tragedy in progress. The story became the subject of his book, *The Lovers: Afghanistan’s Romeo and Juliet, The True Story of How They Defied Their Families and Survived an Honor Killing Program*.

On Jan. 27, the OPC and *The New York Times*’ Asian Heritage Network hosted a Book Night at the *Times* building to discuss his work.

Nordland said he wanted to get inside the mind of the would-be killers and hopefully by covering



Marcus Mabry and Rod Nordland

it to prevent the murders from happening.

“They’re being pursued by people who are very determined and who know that if they do kill them they’ll get the same sort of penalty that all other honor killers have gotten, which is to say none at all,” Nordland said.

He felt that a book focused more

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Panelists Urge Journalists to Protect Sources with Encryption

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Protecting sources and keeping information secure has always been a critical part of the journalist's job. But as digital tools become more and more integrated into the profession, the ways for adversaries to trace, steal or censor data and communication have also proliferated.

Digital encryption has become an indispensable tool in the journalist's fight for safety and secrecy.

On Feb. 2, the OPC co-sponsored a forum on encryption for journalists with the New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute.

The discussion featured Ryan Tate and Erinn Clark of The Intercept, an online magazine published by First Look Media that was launched in February 2014 as a platform to report on documents released by Edward Snowden.

Jennifer Valentino-DeVries, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, moderated the panel.

"It's getting to the point from what I see in newsrooms," Clark told students and other attendees at the institute, "where it's going to be hard to avoid learning this stuff. If not this year, within the next three years I think it's going to be an expected basic skill for journalists."

The panelists recommended that journalists start with a few "baby steps," like using an encryption app such as Signal, which allows users to talk and text chat securely over mobile phone networks.

For online communication and research, Clark also recommended using TOR, a browser that encrypts your Internet traffic and then hides your identity by bouncing



Left to right: Jennifer Valentino-DeVries, Ryan Tate and Erinn Clark.

through a series of computers around the world. Clark was part of the development team for the open-source project.

More complicated tools include using a so-called "Pretty Good Privacy" or PGP key to encrypt email messages that only recipients with the right password can access.

Clark said that these tools all have different uses depending on the sensitivity of the information and need for secrecy. Part of the skill of digital security, she said, is to know when to use the right tools.

She said that while some communication is fine by encrypted email, for some digital conversations you want more rigorous tools with "forward secrecy" that will keep information safe longer.

"If someone someday recovers your private key, or your PGP key, they will be able to decrypt every single

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('One Child' - Continued From Page 1)

members – and invited prospective members – at Worden's Manhattan home.

In the book, Fong explores many knock-on effects of the policy, such as gender imbalance caused by a cultural preference for sons that resulted in 30 million more men than women – roughly the population of Canada, Fong noted.

"It's not just sterilizations and abortions that the one-child policy affected, but just simple ordinary decisions like marriage and dating."

The shortage of women spurred an increase in the "bride price" paid by a groom's family, from a traditional gift of a few pieces of furniture and household items to the

equivalent of 10 years of farming income.

The bride shortage also created more demand for trafficking of women from neighboring Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and North Korea.

As in most of the world, greater longevity has meant an ageing population for China. But because so many families only have one child, Fong notes, there will be a much smaller workforce to support ageing parents.

"China already has 25 percent of the world's Alzheimer's sufferers. Jump forward 20 years and it's going to be over 60 percent," she added.

In October last year, the Chinese government announced it would

end the one-child rule and allow two children per couple. Fong said the decision, stemming from concerns about the ageing population, is still an extension of the mostly-male government's control and restriction of reproductive rights for women.

"Just last week they announced they will offer free operations to women to remove their sterilization process and to remove their IUDs so they can have these more children that China wants," she said. "Well, first you want no children and then you want more. I mean women are like taps here – you know, 'turn on, turn off.' It's fundamentally very unsettling for a woman."

(‘Encryption’ - Continued From Page 4)

mail addressed to that key, however many years old it is, whereas if someone intercepts a chat, they may not be able to decrypt every single chat that you’ve had.”

And sometimes, the panelists said, material is sensitive enough that the best protection is good old fashioned face-to-face conversations. Tate said at The Intercept, workers employ strict “operational security,” with ongoing projects kept in compartments and information shared only on a “need to know” basis, even with top editors.

Tate, who worked for Gawker, said he learned to curb gadabout tendencies when working on sensitive material.

“I’m certainly not the only one internally who has to really watch his mouth. [Journalists] like to chat, we like to find out what’s going on,” he said. “A lot of times the answer is not encryption. A lot of times the answer is keeping your frickin’ mouth shut or just waiting until your story is already out.”

As an example of the need for operational security, Valentino-DeVries cited the case of FOX News journalist James Rosen, who asked for classified information from a State Department source. The US Justice Department used the timing of phone, email and ID badge records for the building to trace the leak and obtain a search warrant against Rosen in May 2013.

“Even if they had used encryption on those communications that they were making, it doesn’t matter if all the metadata that they were throwing off would have been beyond enough to go after this guy,” she said.

Clark said it’s important to remember that encryption is rarely a permanent way to secure information, but it can give you time – “breathing room” – to report, talk with sources and then to destroy risky information once the story is published.

“The only downside of being overly paranoid – besides impacting your mental health – is that it’s inconvenient. In the day-to-day aspect, if you’re really paranoid at worst it

ENCRYPTION RESOURCES

- Signal – An app for iPhone and Android phones that allows you to do end-to end encrypted phone communication.
Site: whispersystems.org
- TOR – A browser that encrypts Internet traffic and obscures your location then by bouncing it off of computers around the world.
Site: torproject.org
- OnionShare – A Dropbox-like file sharing service for sending files between computers over the TOR network securely.
Site: github.com/micahflee/onionshare
- Tails – A secure operating system you can boot to using a USB stick, so you’re not actually using your normal computer. It’s a version of LINEX that is more anonymous and private, with information routed through TOR. Site: tails.boum.org
- PGP – Pretty Good Privacy keys give you a way to send messages from one email to another without allowing outsiders to read them. A good resource to get started with PGP is available at [Help Keybase.IO](http://Help.Keybase.io)
- Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) – A Surveillance Self Defense Guide for journalists is available at ssd.eff.org.

makes things incredibly inconvenient. But if you’re not paranoid enough, that could mean jail, that could mean someone gets killed – it could mean really a lot of bad things.”

The panelists discussed an arsenal of tools and services during the panel that journalists can use to keep their reporting secret. See the box on this page for some of their top recommendations to get started. More links from the panel are posted on the “resources” page of the OPC website at opcofamerica.org.

(‘Castro’ - Continued From Page 2)

calls Castro quoting Mussolini during their first meeting.

“You can make a coup with the army, or you can make a coup without the army, but you can never make a coup against the army.” Meyer recalled Castro saying. “Karl, we’re proving Mussolini wrong.”

Articles from his meeting were one of the only confirmations the rest of the world had that the rebel leader was still alive.

Meyer said Castro’s relations with America began to sour after the Eisenhower-Nixon administration,

fearing Cuba’s Communist leanings and loyalty toward the Soviet Union amid a crackdown on dissidents, imposed a sugar embargo. Castro responded by nationalizing U.S. assets in Cuba, and later declared Cuba as a socialist enterprise and proclaimed himself a “Leninist-Marxist.”

But before these events, Meyer argues, Castro showed no passion for Communism and little interest in an alliance with the Soviet Union.

Meyer said Castro once told Jules Dubois, a Chicago Tribune correspondent, that he was not a Communist. “If I were, I would be brave enough to declare it publicly,”

Castro said. “I have often told how I think, but I understand that you, as a U.S. journalist, have to ask about Communists.”

He adds that seeds of animosity were sown in April 1959 when Castro met with then-Vice President Richard Nixon (President Eisenhower dodged a meeting with the Cuban leader), who spent the whole meeting pressing Castro on his attitude toward Communism.

“Castro was fuming when he came out of that meeting. He felt humiliated,” Meyer said. “And he has used that word several times in his discussions of his relations with America.”

PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

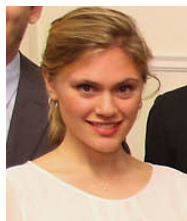
John Ismay, winner of the 2014 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, has received a 2015 George Polk Award for a *New York Times* investigation of the Navy SEALs. The award, in the Military Reporting category, recognizes seven journalists – Ismay, Nicholas Kulish, Christopher Drew, Mark Mazzetti, Matthew Rosenberg, Serge F. Kovaleski and Sean D. Naylor – for two stories. One story focused on SEAL Team 6, the unit that killed Osama bin Laden, while the second probed the 2012 beating death of an Afghan detainee. Ismay, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, served as an explosive ordnance disposal officer in Iraq. He is currently a Military and Veterans Issues Reporter at KPCC 89.3FM, a public radio station based in Pasadena, California.



Ismay

Michael Dames

Maddy Crowell, who won the Irene Korbally Kuhn scholarship in 2014, has started a new job as a reporter for the *Khmer Times*. The Phnom Penh-based English-language publication was launched by OPC member **Jim Brooks** in 2014. Crowell, a Carleton College graduate, has previously reported from Ghana and New Delhi.



Crowell

Michael Dames

Also at the *Khmer Times* is **James Reddick**. The 2015 Irene Korbally Kuhn Scholar is now an editor there. Reddick got his master's from the journalism school at UC Berkeley last year. He has also lived and reported in Beirut.

Lauren Bohn, winner of the 2012 H.L. Stevenson Internship, has landed a long story in *The Atlantic*. The Jan. 23 piece profiles five families about the aftermath of the uprising that felled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak five years ago. Bohn is the Middle East correspondent for the GroundTruth Project, which was founded by OPC member Charles Sennott. She is also the co-founder of Foreign Policy Interrupted and a contributing editor at *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*.

Justine Drennan, the Stan Swinton Internship winner in 2013, has been named a junior editor at the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, a social policy magazine at Stanford University. Drennan was an OPC Foundation fellow in the AP bureau in Bangkok.

2015 Stan Swinton Fellowship winner **Miriam Berger** has a story on BuzzFeed about Uber's efforts to address sexual harassment in Egypt. Berger is currently freelancing while studying toward her master's degree at Oxford.

Georgia Wells, Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2012, is now a multimedia producer covering technology for *The Wall Street Journal* in San Francisco. Previously, Wells was an editor at WSJ.com and wrote about emerging markets.

AWARDS

Orb Media, which is headed by OPC Governor **Molly Bingham**, has won a \$450,000 award in the Knight News Challenge on Data. The "Weighing the Wisdom of the Crowd" project aims to create an open-source tool to help journalists and others carry out scientifically sound surveys online. Orb, a non-profit, was founded with the goal of

producing a "new kind of journalism that challenges and unites us around our human story."

Martha Mendoza, who shared the 1999 Madeline Dane Ross Award with colleagues at the AP, has won a George Polk Award with another AP team. The prize for Foreign Reporting went to the agency's series on the Thai fishing industry, "Seafood from Slaves." It documented how poor people from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand are locked up, beaten, and forced to risk their lives catching seafood for the U.S. grocery and pet food markets. More than 2,000 captives have been rescued and companies have been shut down in the wake of the stories.



Mendoza

Two-time OPC Award winner **T. Christian Miller** of ProPublica has won a Polk Award for a joint effort with The Marshall Project, "An Unbelievable Story of Rape." The piece showed how police in Lynnwood, Washington, pressured an 18-year-old rape victim to recant her story – only to discover later that the serial rapist who had attacked her had gone on to assault five other women.

Tom Yellin, who has won two OPC Awards, was honored with a Polk Award for Documentary Film for his work on "Cartel Land." The Oscar-nominated film spotlights citizen groups that are trying to counter the influence of Mexican drug cartels.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: OPC Governor **Paul Moakley** and members **Santiago Lyon** and **Vaughn Wallace** will mentor young photographers at the Fourth Annual New York Port-

folio Review in April. The event assembles “75 of the most influential editors, curators, gallerists and book publishers” to give private photo critiques to 150 up-and-coming members of the profession. There’s no charge, but admission is by application only. The Review is jointly sponsored by *The New York Times* Lens Blog and the City University of New York’s Graduate School of Journalism.

OPC Governor **Robert Nickelsberg** spent eight months working with Al Jazeera America reporter Dorothy Parvaz on a story about sex trafficking. The seven-parter, “Selling American Girls,” ran in December with Nickelsberg’s powerful photos from streets and jails around the U.S.

OPC Governor **Daniel Sieberg** is leading a plenary session at the annual convention of the Religion Communicators Council in late March. Sieberg, the global head of media outreach for Google News Lab, will “share insights about the ever-evolving innovations and challenges of storytelling at the intersection of media and technology.”

Last year’s OPC President’s Award recipient, **David Rohde**, has been promoted. His new title at Reuters is national security investigations editor – a new role at the news service, according to *AdWeek*. His work will focus on national security, international relations, defense and diplomacy; he’ll also handle some social media duties. Rohde joined Reuters in 2011 and previously worked for *The New York Times*.

HBO aired a documentary about slain reporter **James Foley** on Feb. 6. *Jim: The James Foley Story* was directed by Foley’s close childhood friend, Brian Oakes. It traces his life story, including his captivity at the hands of Islamic State, through interviews with friends and fellow



hostages. Foley was murdered while in captivity in 2014.

The New York Times ended the fourth quarter of 2015 with a net income of \$52 million, a 48 percent increase over the same period in 2014. Revenues were flat, however, and executive editor and OPC member **Dean Baquet** announced a sweeping review to “develop a strategic plan” for the news operation. Baquet said costs are a concern but he did not anticipate any layoffs this year. He added that some areas of the newsroom, such as multimedia and international coverage, might eventually grow.

The New York Times has also debuted a Spanish-language news site, *AdWeek*’s FishbowlNY reports. The site, located at NYTimes.com/es, features translated *Times* stories as well as original reporting from a team in Mexico City and correspondents in Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Miami. It is edited by Elias Lopez.

Al Jazeera America is closing down its digital operations by the end of February – earlier than originally expected – according to Politico Media. Digital staff have reportedly been told not to come to work after Feb. 26, but will still be paid through April. Employees on the TV side will continue working until April 12. Al Jazeera announced last month that the channel would shut down in April after struggling with losses and low ratings.

Meanwhile, **Al Jazeera America** digital staffers have built a site to showcase their work – and promote themselves to potential employers. The Best of Al Jazeera America

Digital, at bestofajam.com, provides online stories indexed by topic and journalist. It also offers bios of all the digital staffers. As Poynter.org points out, it’s at least the third example of journalists promoting each other’s work and careers online after projects shutter. The other two are Circa, the news app that closed last year, and Digital First Media’s Thunderdome project, which ended in 2014.

Vice Media’s daily news show is tentatively set to launch on HBO in the second quarter of 2016, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. Former Bloomberg chief content officer Josh Tyrangiel is overseeing the project. The half-hour newscast will air five days a week and feature original reporting. Vice has been mum about the show’s content, but Tyrangiel told the *New York Post* that he likes “complicated stories, versus hitting people over the head with a hammer.”

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.: OPC member **Dan Rather** is defending the story that ended his reign at CBS News. “We reported a true story. We didn’t do it perfectly. We made some mistakes of getting to the truth. But that didn’t change the truth of what we reported,” the former anchorman told the *Hollywood Reporter* in December. Rather left CBS in late 2006 after questions arose about the legitimacy of the documents in his 2004 story about George W. Bush allegedly going AWOL from the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. A movie about the controversy, *Truth*, was released in late 2015. Rather is currently hosting the web series “The Big Interview.”

ATLANTA: The entire staff of CNN’s international desk at its headquarters in Atlanta has been laid off and asked to apply for new jobs and titles, according to *AdWeek*’s TV Newser. Several positions will reportedly move to Hong Kong and London,

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while the jobs that remain in Atlanta will undergo title changes. The moves are part of a restructuring and will not include layoffs, the website reported, adding that the changes are set to take place in late March.



LONDON: The BBC is merging its radio and TV divisions as part of a reorganization designed to slash more than \$700 million from its budget, Poynter.org writes. The move will do away with the network's channel-based system and reshape it to focus on audience and content type. It will also help the organization cut its payroll. "This is mostly about stripping out outdated management and executive jobs," said Rick Edmonds, Poynter's media business analyst. "It's not clear how it will impact staffing of TV, radio and digital journalism activities."

The Guardian has announced it will slash costs in a bid to erase its operating deficit within three years. The plan will cut its \$380 million annualized costs by 20 percent, according to *The New York Times*. The company also hopes to double revenue from readers. It would not comment on whether the austerity plan included staff cuts.

PARIS: A year bracketed by shocking terrorists attacks has left Paris a different place, OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** told *Time* magazine in January. "There's definitely a sense of vulnerability that was never there before," she said in a video posted on the *Time* website. "There are soldiers everywhere at sites that just would

have been unimaginable a year ago." But, she added, successfully hosting 40,000 visitors for the Paris climate talks – just weeks after the November terror attacks that claimed 130 lives – helped restore a sense of unity and solidarity to the city.

BRUSSELS: The Press Club Brussels Europe, headed by OPC member **Jonathan Kapstein**, recently hosted the secretary general of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC), Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk, as well as Club Suisse de la Presse director Guy Mettan. The clubs discussed the IAPC and European Press Club Federation Congress to be held in Geneva in May.

AMSTERDAM: **Marcus Bleasdale**, who won last year's OPC Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for his work documenting militia-fueled violence in the Central African Republic, co-hosted a master class at Human Rights Weekend in late January. Bleasdale and Human Rights Watch emergencies director Peter Bouckaert discussed "the essentials of international crisis reporting – from on-the-ground investigation methods to techniques for ensuring that stories reach the broadest audience possible." Bleasdale is a photographer for National Geographic and Human Rights Watch. He and Bouckaert collaborated on his work in the CAR.

LISMORE, New South Wales, Australia: OPC member **David Burnett's** exhibition of presidential photos has just finished a run at the Lismore Regional Gallery. Burnett is one of the few photographers to capture every U.S. commander-in-chief since John F. Kennedy. "Being in the company of presidents remains a rarefied place," Burnett told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "You seldom have second chances. You need to be on top of your game. When that look, that gesture, that moment happens, there is nothing like that click of a

camera to let you feel like you are entitled to exhale." The exhibition, called simply "The Presidents," will go on display next in Melbourne, Australia in mid-2016.

KISH ISLAND, Iran: **Minky Worden**, an OPC governor, recently published an opinion piece on CNN.com about the human rights problems associated with an Iranian beach volleyball tournament scheduled for this month. Iran bans women from attending volleyball matches, in violation of the International Volleyball Federation's own constitution. The ban was adopted in 2012, and women have been arrested for protesting against it. Worden, the director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch, calls on the federation to insist that Iran scrap the ban.

OLD GABALA, Azerbaijan: "The hand is what draws your attention. It belongs to a man. It rests, gently, on the woman's face." That's how 2006 Bob Considine Award winner **Paul Salopek** begins his latest report from the Out of Eden Walk, his seven-year trek along the path the first humans may have taken out of Africa. Salopek goes on to describe the 1800-year-old grave of two lovers – "that hand to the cheek makes it impossible to call them otherwise" – recently unearthed in an archaeological dig in this corner of northern Azerbaijan. Salopek began walking just over three years ago in Herto Bouri, Ethiopia and aims to end his journey at the tip of South America. He's documenting his experiences at outofedenwalk.com

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Ronald Singleton, who spent four decades as the Rome correspondent for the *Daily Mail* of London, has died at age 92. In Italy, Singleton covered topics ranging from the Mafia, to earthquakes, to opera. He also had postings in Los Angeles and New York. He continued working well into his seventies.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Freelancer **Anna Therese Day** and her three-person camera crew were arrested and held for two days in Bahrain in mid-February, during the fifth anniversary of that country's Arab Spring uprising. The government claimed the journalists were "participating with a group of saboteurs who were carrying



Chad Bouchard

Day

out riot acts" in the village of Sitra. The families of the four expressed gratitude to Bahrain and to U.S. diplomats for their release. Day spoke on a panel about journalist safety at the OPC in December last year. She has reported from numerous countries in the Middle East and elsewhere for VICE, Huffington Post, CNN and CBS.

A university newspaper adviser in Maryland has been offered his job back after being fired in a controversy over remarks by the institution's president. **Ed Egan** oversaw Mt. Saint Mary's University student newspaper, *The Mountain Echo*, when it ran an article on Jan. 19 quoting president Simon Newman comparing students to bunnies and saying they should be drowned or shot. Egan was told he was being fired for disloyalty, according to *The New York Times*. He was reinstated following a public outcry. Newman has since apologized for his remarks.

The offices of two pro-government newspapers in **Istanbul** were simultaneously attacked with guns and Molotov cocktails on Feb. 11. According to *Today'sZaman.com*, empty cartridges were found in front of the **Yeni Akit** and **Yeni Şafak** offices and their windows were shattered. No deaths or injuries were reported.

Turkish prosecutors are seeking

multiple life sentences for two journalists accused of revealing state secrets. **Can Dündar** and **Erdem Gül** of the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper were arrested in November after publishing photos that purported to prove President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government had attempted to send weapons to Islamists in Syria. Prosecutors asked the Istanbul court to sentence each of the men to one aggravated life sentence, one ordinary life sentence, and an additional 30 years in prison. International press freedom groups held a vigil outside the jail to protest the prosecutors' request.

Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court has invalidated a criminal defamation law that has been used to prosecute dozens of journalists. The International Press Institute quoted local media reports saying all nine justices had agreed that the law violates the constitutional right to free speech and freedom of the press. The 2004 law made it possible to sentence journalists to up to two years in prison for publishing content that was found to be defamatory.

At least six journalists have died in **Yemen** due to airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The military coalition has announced plans for a "high-level independent" investigation into bombing deaths in civilian areas. Camera-man Hashim al-Hamran, 17, is the most recent journalist to die in the strikes; he was seriously injured in the town of Dahyan on Jan. 21, and died the next day.

A Greek radio reporter was hospitalized after being attacked by a mob at a demonstration in early February. In a press release, Reporters Without Borders writes that **Dimitri Pierro** of municipal radio

9.84 was covering a protest by trade unions when he was stopped and questioned by some 20 men carrying sticks. When Pierro said he was a journalist, they began hitting him. Authorities in Athens said the attack was under investigation.

A court in Seoul has given a one-year suspended sentence to a **South Korean journalist** for making positive statements about North Korea on his blog. The journalist, identified only by his surname Lee, also faced charges for following North Korea's official Twitter account, but was acquitted because he didn't retweet any posts. According to the *Korea Times*, South Koreans are forbidden from praising the North in any way under the South's national security law.

Hungary is the latest nation to weigh anti-terror laws that could clamp down on the media's right to report the news. The International Press Institute reports that in the event of a "terror threat situation," the proposal would enable the government to "seize broadcasters' equipment and control media content" and "suspend the use of telecommunication services and control Internet access and traffic." These powers would be in effect for 60 days and could be extended by Parliament. The leaked draft proposal has been condemned by press freedom organizations.

Two TV stations have been ordered off the air in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that Nyota TV and Radio TV Mapendo were shut down on January 28, allegedly for non-payment of taxes and licensing fees. But local press freedom groups say the stations have paid their outstanding bills.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

Both stations are owned by Moïse Katumbi, rumored to be a potential opposition candidate in presidential elections slated for later this year.

Washington Post reporter **Jason Rezaian** and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke at the opening of the *Post's* new building on Jan. 28. Both men choked up as they talked about Rezaian's recent release from captivity in Iran. "For much of the 18 months I was in prison, my Iranian interrogators told me *The Washington Post* did not exist, that no one knew of my plight, that the U.S. government would not lift a finger for my release," said Rezaian. "Today I am in this room with the very people who helped prove the Iranians wrong." "In the military, the most sacred pledge is you can never leave a buddy behind," said Kerry, a Vietnam veteran. "Like most pledges, it's a lot easier to say than to do."

MURDERS

Seven employees of Afghani-

stan's TOLO TV were killed in a suicide bombing on Jan. 20, and 26 people were injured. The station listed those killed as: **Mohammad Jawad Hussaini**, video editor; **Zainab Mirzaee**, dubbing artist; **Mehri Azizi**, graphics; **Mariam Ibrahimi**, dubbing artist; **Mohammad Hussain**, driver; **Mohammad Ali Mohammadi**, dubbing artist; and **Hussain Amiri**, decoration. TOLO reported that the employees were on their way home in a bus in Kabul when they were targeted by a car bomber. The Taliban has taken credit for the attack.

Anabel Flores Salazar, a reporter who covered crime in Veracruz, Mexico, was dragged from her home near the city of Orizaba by eight men on Feb. 8, according to her family. Her body was found by the side of a road in the neighboring state of Puebla the next day. Police have since arrested a suspect in the case. Flores Salazar was 32 years old.

Political violence claimed the life of journalist **El Hadj Mohamed**

Diallo in the Guinean capital of Conakry on Feb. 5. Diallo was shot in the chest when fighting broke out in front of an opposition party office. Media organizations held a "press-free day" on Feb. 9 to protest his killing; according to the Guardian, TV stations and news websites carried a photo of Diallo's face and the words "Press-free day in Guinea. Justice for El Hadj Mohamed Diallo." Diallo, 30, was a reporter for the websites Guinée7 and Afrik.

Two media figures were killed in a two-day period in Oaxaca, Mexico in January. Community radio host **Reinel Cerqueda Martinez** was shot dead in the city of Santiago Laollaga on Jan. 22. Martinez, 43, worked for the station El Manantial. Reporter **Marcos Hernández Bautista** was shot to death while getting into his car in San Andrés Huaxpaltepec on Jan. 21 January. The 38-year-old was a reporter for the newspaper *Noticias Voz e Imágen* and also worked for a number of radio stations, according to Reporters Without Borders.

(*Rod Nordland* Continued From Page 3)

generally on these kinds of murders would not be as effective as an intimate and personal look at one couple's struggle.

"It's something I think most people would not take the trouble to read a book about. But they will read a love story about two very appealing young people, and there are an awful lot of lessons to relate between the bigger picture and what's happening to them."

Nordland said as he became more involved in the couple's lives, his objectivity and journalistic ethics were tested. He recalled meeting with the couple, who were on the run from police, in a remote area with a large and conspicuous team of photographers and videographers.

"It became apparent, once we knew that the police were probably on their way, that it wouldn't take them long to find us or find where we had been, so we would have been responsible for leading them to them in a way," he said.

He had to choose between letting things unfold and covering the couple's arrest, which might have been a better and more representative story on that day, or putting the couple in the team's car and shepherding them to safety.

"I made a decision to intervene and I think did the right thing. I don't really think I had a choice as a human being."

Zakia and Ali remain in hiding, and Nordland said their lives are still in great peril.

"Their story's not over, and they're still not safe. I think they're safe this winter but come spring I think any day they could easily be killed."

Their best hope for survival, Nordland said, is to escape Afghanistan and apply for asylum from another country. They have been turned away by many consulates and embassies in Kabul, Nordland added.

Countries have told the couple that to make a case for asylum, they would have to risk their lives to cross into Iran and then Turkey and into Greece. But the couple is not willing to risk the life of their baby to do it.

During a Q and A session, an audience member asked Nordland, who has been covering conflict zones since 1978, how he copes with witnessing the struggles of people like Zakia and Ali while reporting abroad.

"I think you become a war correspondent or a foreign correspondent by some happenstance, and then having done it you become qualified to do it, and then the longer you do it, the more qualified to do it - if you can still keep up your interest and your energy and not become cynical."

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Jim Maceda

By Trish Anderton

Jim Maceda has reported from more than 100 countries and interviewed dozens of world leaders in a career spanning more than four decades – most of it spent as a correspondent at NBC News. He began in Paris in 1973, working for CBS News and French TV before joining NBC in 1980. His postings have included Tel Aviv, Manila, Moscow, Frankfurt and London. He has done scores of embeds with U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Maceda has received four OPC Awards, an Edward R. Murrow, two Emmys along with seven nominations, and three National Headliner awards. NBC announced his retirement in January 2015 with an on-air tribute.

Hometown: “Hometown” is a bit complicated for me, and perhaps why I feel like a “world citizen.” I was born and raised in New York City, but went to school mostly in California. I spent my formative adult years in Paris, and lived for decades – off and on – in London. I truly feel at “home” in more than one “town.”

Education: Graduated from Stanford in 1970, majoring in English Literature. Studied French and Theater at the Sorbonne, 1971-72.

Languages: Fluent in French, conversational in Russian and Spanish, and have survival Portuguese.

Year you joined the OPC: September, 2004.

You retired from NBC News a year ago, but you say you’re busier than ever as a freelancer and author. Can you tell us what you’re working on?: Currently working on my 4th play, based on the true story of Pvt. Henry Nicolas Gunther, an American soldier and the last to die in WW1, sixty seconds before the Armistice. Have recently published *Kamila & Yossi*, a ‘doomed’ love story between an Israeli Jew and Arab set in the Galilee. Have continued my TV reporting, with an exclusive look in December at the military buildup by Russia and NATO in Eastern Europe and specifically in and near the Baltics, the frontline of what many are calling the New Cold War. Have also enjoyed moderating at the Althorp Literary Festival in the British countryside, and a 6-month, “around-the-world” tour of the US, Canada, Asia and the UK with my wife, Cindy, which will wrap up in Portugal, where we’ve retired – or “retooled” – to, in May.

What drew you to international reporting?: My father was a wire service journo and *Los Angeles Times* sub-editor. Growing up, we watched more historical documentaries on TV than sitcoms. Still, I wanted to be a musician, not a journalist. (I think I found my



Photo courtesy of Jim Maceda

Jim Maceda reporting from the West Bank during an Israeli ground offensive in 2003.

dad’s wire service “hack” friends a bit too rowdy and unhealthy. But I guess journalism was in the blood and, when I started out as a copyboy at CBS News Paris in 1973, I had the amazing luck to learn the business of broadcast journalism from some of the Murrow-era reporters, like Charles Collingwood, Bob Trout and Peter Kalischer, who had largely invented the craft of minute-ten spots, tops and tails, SOT’s and standuppers. I believe what *kept* me in the business for 42 years was a love of history, the thrill of witnessing that history from a front row seat, and the belief that peoples’ stories are inherently interesting and really matter.

Major challenge as a journalist: My major challenge has never changed – how to tell someone’s or something’s story without short-changing the subject...or the truth. And this corollary challenge – how to write a simple declarative sentence. (That’s still a work in progress.)

Worst experience as a journalist: Having an investigative piece on the fleecing of American taxpayer money and the mismanagement at the Marshall (Defense) Center in Germany pulled off the air, after threats from the U.S. DoD. (NB: this was the *ONLY* time in my career that my story was killed for political or corporate reasons. It was ugly then, and still is.)

Hardest story: Covering the 1996 and 1999 Chechen Wars. There were no red lines. Nowhere to hide. The Russians never hesitated to strafe or bomb civilian targets – which sometimes housed ethnic Russians and Western journalists. It didn’t matter, as long as there might be Chechen rebels inside.

Most memorable interview: in one Moscow afternoon, Mikhail Gorbachev on the fall of the Soviet Union, and Boris Yeltsin, on the future of Russian-NATO relations.

Want to add to the OPC’s collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.

New Books

AP HISTORY

I T WAS THE MID-1930s, AND Mahatma Gandhi was being released from prison in the middle of the night. On his way out, he found an Associated Press reporter waiting for him. Gandhi reportedly “shook his head and professed that he would likely run into an AP even at heaven’s door,” writes Giovanna Dell’Orto in *AP Foreign Correspondents in Action: World War II to the Present* [Cambridge University Press, November 2015].

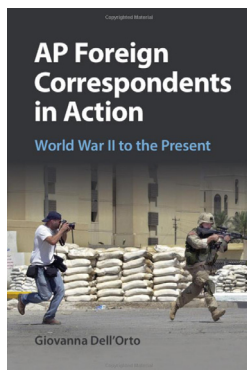
That’s an appropriate opening for Dell’Orto’s book, which examines the role of the AP in journalism – as well as in the ordinary person’s understanding of world events. After all, the AP is expected to be wherever news is happening. As Nick Polowetzky, AP foreign editor from 1973 to 1990, once said: “The basic point about a wire service like the AP is that we are there; we’re always there. We have always been there, we are there now, and we will be there.”

The agency has stuck to this game plan despite rapid upheavals in the business. The AP established bureaus in Pyongyang in 2012 and Yangon in 2013, signaling an on-going commitment to “what some call its Marine Corps tradition – first in, last out,” Dell’Orto writes.

Dell’Orto interviewed 61 correspondents about their methods, their tools, how they choose stories, combat-zone safety, the

editing process, bylines and more. Along the way, she unearthed fascinating stories from many of the major news events of the past eight decades.

Anyone who’s worked as a foreign correspondent will recognize themselves or their colleagues in these tales. There’s the war reporter with a fear of flying who’s logged hundreds of hours in helicopters and fighter planes. There’s the journalist who was writing about “basketball and fatal car crashes” in Albany, New York – and four days later found himself in Saigon covering the war. Or the reporter whose favorite assignment was a mudslide in Nicaragua, because “I had a feeling that if I wasn’t there, nobody would care.” While the book is a serious academic exploration of what foreign correspondents do and why, it also often feels like a love letter to the profession.



International Reporting Project Director John Schidlovsky writes: “At a time of new models of international news coverage, this book reminds us of the fundamental importance of having trained journalists at the scene. Plus we get some terrific

memories and anecdotes from legendary correspondents about how they did it.”

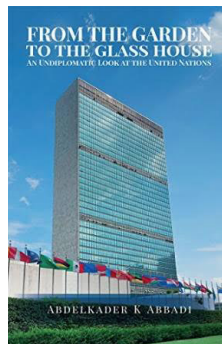
UNITED NATIONS

OPC MEMBER ABDELKADER

Abbadi was born in a small village in Morocco in the 1930s, in a house without running water or electricity. By the time he retired in 1997, he held the office of director of the African division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs at the United Nations.

In *From the Garden to the*

Glass House: An Undiplomatic Look at the United Nations [CreateSpace, January 2016] Abbadi shares his remarkable journey from the village, to the United States on a Fulbright



Fellowship, through his many years at the U.N.

Abbadi offers insights into the world organization and its leaders: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for example, was a man “of great intellectual ability and enormous diplomatic experience,” but he

offended the U.N. bureaucracy and faced a distrustful staff. Kofi Annan, while charming and well-liked, was hampered by his lack of political and diplomatic experience and “did not show leadership” during his decade at the helm.

Ban Ki-Moon, Abbadi writes, has “demonstrated that he could face the vast problems of the United Nations while remaining a calm, respectful and dignified diplomat.” Still, he has “tackled many issues without, so far, being able to resolve them completely.”

Abbadi also offers his thoughts on reforms to make the U.N. more effective, from reorganizing the Security Council to making internal hiring and promotion more democratic. He recommends the organization shift resources from peace-keeping – “the expensive correction of problems that have grown out of control” – to preventing conflicts through diplomacy. He also advocates for a stronger role for the secretary-general, a position he says is currently “a mere figurehead, with no real power.”

While he is critical of the institution, Abbadi notes that in the “relatively short period of its history, it has achieved much.” With changes, he argues, it could achieve more.

— **By Trish Anderton**

Upcoming Events

Russia Hands Reunion
4:00 p.m., Feb. 24

**OPC Foundation
Scholarship Luncheon**
11:30 a.m., Feb. 26