

## Awards Dinner to Honor Correspondents Under Fire

### EVENT PREVIEW: April 30

By Patricia Kranz

“Free Press Under Fire” is the theme of this year’s *Dateline* magazine, which will be distributed at the OPC’s Annual Awards Dinner on April 30. Two reporters with first-hand knowledge of the challenges and dangers facing international journalists today will be featured at the dinner, as well as the OPC’s efforts to improve training for those who report in crisis zones.

OPC President Marcus Mabry selected David Rohde, investigative reporter for Thomson Reuters, to receive this year’s President’s Award. While on leave from *The New York Times* to write a book about Afghanistan, Rohde and two Afghan colleagues were kidnapped by the Taliban in 2008. Held captive for seven months in the tribal areas of Pakistan, Rohde managed to escape with the help of one his Afghan colleagues. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for his coverage of the massacre in Srebrenica, and shared a second Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“I want to honor you, your history, your spirit, your survival, your self-



Left to right: Dean Baquet of *The New York Times*, David Rohde of Reuters and Deborah Amos of NPR.

less concern for our profession and its practitioners,” Mabry told Rohde.

Rohde’s key role this year in crafting a new set of industry standards for freelancers working in danger zones was another important factor, indicating “how centrally I want to put those issues to the mission of the OPC,” Mabry said.

Kathy Gannon, special regional correspondent for Afghanistan and Pakistan for The Associated Press, will lead a moment of silence in the traditional Candlelighting Ceremony

to honor journalists killed during the course of their work over the last year. Gannon was seriously wounded in Afghanistan last April when an attacker shot the car she was riding while en route to cover upcoming elections. She was riding with Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus, who was killed in the attack. She talks about the incident in an interview that is posted on our website.

Pulitzer Prize winner Dean

(Continued on Page 2)

## Theater of War Event to Heal Hidden Wounds

### EVENT PREVIEW: April 28

The OPC is co-hosting a dramatic reading of scenes from Sophocles’ *Ajax* with actors Frances McDormand and David Strathairn.

Journalists who cover conflict often carry lingering effects of the suffering they witness. Theater of War is a public health project that has presented hundreds of readings of ancient Greek war plays in military communities as a catalyst for facilitated audience discussions about the visible and invisible wounds of war. This special presentation for journalists, and their

family and friends, will be aimed at generating crucial dialogue about the unique challenges faced by those report on war, conflict, and other types of trauma throughout the world.

The reading is translated, directed and facilitated by Bryan Doerries and produced by Phyllis Kaufman.

The event is co-hosted by the OPC, the Kal and Lucille Rudman Institute for Entertainment Industry Studies at Drexel University and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Check our website for details on how to reserve seats.

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Baquet, executive editor of *The New York Times*, will deliver the keynote speech. Baquet started his career in 1978 at the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* and worked for the *Chicago Tribune* before joining *The New York Times* in 1990. He also worked for the *Los Angeles Times* as managing editor and editor between 2000 and 2005. Baquet took over as executive editor at the *Times* in May last year. He won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 1988 for leading a *Tribune* team that exposed City Council corruption.

Deborah Amos of NPR will present this year's 22 awards in categories including news coverage, print, cartoons, photography, broadcast, books, commentary and multimedia. Amos covers the Middle East for NPR. She started her career at the network in 1977, and worked overseas as London Bureau Chief and correspondent in Jordan, where she won accolades for her coverage of the Gulf War in 1991. Amos worked for ABC's Nightline and World News Tonight as well as PBS programs NOW and Frontline. She returned to NPR in 2003. In 2009, Amos won the Edward Weintal Prize for Diplomatic Reporting from Georgetown University, and won Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

The dinner will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Columbus Circle, and begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., sponsored by multinational computer company Lenovo. Daimler, maker of Mercedes-Benz automobiles, is sponsoring a "Meet the Winners" reception immediately following the dinner. Tickets for this year's dinner are \$250 for OPC members and \$250 for a member's guest; \$750 for non-members. Table prices are \$7,500 (Friend), \$9,000 (Sponsor), \$12,000 (Patron), \$15,000 (Fellow).

Dress for the event is black tie. For the first time, the Awards Dinner will be streamed live. Check the OPC website that day for the link.

### THE OPC THANKS SUSAN KILLE

The OPC bids a fond farewell to Susan Kille, who began writing for the *Bulletin* in November 2011. Following the death of Al Kaff, she took responsibility for the People column. She also wrote our Press Freedom Update, book reviews and introduced the member Q&A feature.

Susan worked for *The New York Times* for 30 years and then returned part-time for another four years. "I thank my former boss Seymour Topping for introducing me to the OPC and its members, speakers and award winners. The OPC is doing important work and I was proud to have a small part in that," Susan said.

Susan is a consummate professional who met every deadline, challenged us to widen the scope of the *Bulletin* and helped the OPC keep track of the activities of our far-flung members. We will sorely miss her.

Helping out with the *Bulletin* and preparations for the Annual Awards Dinner is the OPC's new intern, Randy Fung. Randy is a second-semester student at the Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program that combines internships during the day with advanced coursework on international affairs in the evening. Two of his teachers last semester are OPC members: Andrew Nagorski and Ilan Greenberg.



Kille

## Panel: More Women's Voices Needed to Fight Extremism

### EVENT RECAP: March 16

By Chad Bouchard

When reporting on an international crisis, it's critical for journalists to seek out the voices of women.

Women are often the first to bear the brunt of rising extremism and militarism, and they are also in a unique position to detect and prevent radicalization among their own children. But their voices are too often lacking in stories from foreign media, speakers said during a March 16 forum to highlight the work of women activists in North Africa and the Middle East.

The OPC co-hosted the panel with Peace is Loud, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and International Civil Action Network (ICAN). Abigail Disney, founder of Peace is Loud, told the capacity crowd that militarism and extremism are the two main challenges to women's lives around the world, and therefore "we are more in need now than we have ever been for women's voices."

Filmmaker Gini Reticker said she wants to see women portrayed not merely as victims of violence, but as active agents against extremism.

"Women, in fact, are in leadership positions in a lot of the human rights organizations that are working still on the ground, and I don't feel like their stories are covered," she said.

Egyptian journalist Rana Allam, former Editor-in-Chief at the English-language *Daily News Egypt*, said that many women feel deceived by the revolution they fought for, which has excluded women as polygamy and repressive laws increase.

OPC Board of Governors member Rukmini Callimachi of *The New York Times*, who moderated the forum, asked Allam if she thought international media is covering the challenges of women in Egypt properly.

"Absolutely not," she said. American media tends to focus on women's issues from an American perspective, and is "concerned with what we wear or whether we're being harassed or not. Our problems are much bigger," Allam said. "Our problems are violence at home." Nearly every married woman she knows was beaten by her husband at some point, she added.

After a recent crackdown on non-governmental organizations, Allam said, "we really don't have civil society working for women anymore." Only a few such organizations are operating, but they are under legal restrictions and lack support. ICAN co-founder Sanam Anderlini agreed that foreign journalists should seek out more women as sources.

"Ask the women about what's going on in their countries. They will give you a perspective which is deep in terms of the social context, but directly links it to the political, to the economic, and gives you an understanding that you will not get from the political male elite,"



Rukmini Callimachi, left, and Gini Reticker



Rana Allam



Sanam Anderlini, left, and Mossarat Qadeem

she said. "They're often the first ones to warn us about things because they're the first ones to feel it and see it."

Pakistani activist Mossarat Qadeem combats extremism by enlisting mothers and training them to recognize signs of radicalization in their sons.

"We build [a mother's] critical thinking first. We build her ability and capacity to start questioning, because in my view it's the mother who is the first one to recognize and realize the first sign of anger resentment or behavioral change in her child."

Her network, the Institute for Inclusive Security, teaches women to make their own livelihoods so they can gain more independence and influence in their communities.

"Unless and until a woman is economically empowered, she can't question."

Qadeem said her group in Pakistan has rehabilitated and reintegrated more than 900 boys who were on the path to violence and extremism.

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# Junger Offers Wisdom, Urges Caution at Luncheon

## EVENT RECAP: Feb. 20

by Chad Bouchard

This year's OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon featured stories of inspiration and optimism – a welcome antidote to a year of tragic news for foreign correspondents.

This year's keynote speaker, award-winning journalist, filmmaker and author Sebastian Junger, told the 15 OPC Foundation scholars he was impressed by award winners' work, and encouraged the group to continue to dig in to a vocation he called "an almost sacred task."

Eleven of this year's scholars have fellowships around the globe with The Associated Press, Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the GroundTruth Project.

"This is a critical missing link in the career of many young people," OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein said. "They need to get on the ground and get that first dose of professional experience; the first ratification of their talent."

Scholars shared stories about past projects and talked about what seeded their passion for journalism. Transforming suffering and hardship into positive work emerged as a common theme of the afternoon event.

Theo Wilson Scholarship winner Fatima Bhojani, a student at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism who grew up in Karachi during violent upheaval, talked about her reporting on children who live under the threat of drone attacks in northwest Pakistan.

"The reason I'm so fascinated by violence and terrorism is that these are not just abstract forces that have fundamentally shaped my life," she said. "You can either run away from it or embrace it and create something from it. I hope I can create something meaningful out of what's been given to me."

Yale University student Alexander Saeedy won the foundation's first ever Fritz Beebe Fellowship, which is aimed at aspiring business journalists. The fellowship, endowed by former OPC President Larry Martz and his wife Anne, will take Saeedy to Belgium to work for Reuters, where he will bolster his pursuit of a business journalism career.

H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner J.p. Lawrence spoke about meeting Ugandan soldiers working for U.S. contractors while he was serving with the U.S. Army National Guard in Iraq. He learned that they had not been compensated for injuries sustained during their work. His fellowship will take him to the Associated Press bureau in Uganda, where he plans to follow up with those contacts.

Roy Rowan Scholarship winner Tusha Mittal, also a journalism student at Columbia University, talked about covering brutal conflict in eastern India, and visiting massive migrant labor camps in Abu Dhabi. She plans to work with the GroundTruth Project to return and continue telling their stories.



Sebastian Junger

Kyle Walker, a senior at the University of Tulsa and winner of the David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship, compared journalism to noisemakers he'd seen in a festival procession during a trip to Croatia, a tradition meant to scare away malevolent forces.

"Journalism seems to be about making some noise, throwing light on things, getting people's attention," he said. "We've got to stave off the darkness in some small way."

During his keynote speech, Junger offered advice and words of caution as he recounted his first impulsive foray into foreign reporting during the Bosnian War in the early 1990s. Ambitious but unprepared and inexperienced, he packed a bag, flew to Vienna and showed up at the Associated Press bureau, disheveled and sweating, ready to cover the war.

"You know, we're actually fine," he remembers an editor telling him that day, "But maybe you would like a glass of water?"

Undeterred, Junger eventually found work covering the war in Sarejevo, and embarked on a career that included covering the war in Afghanistan.

He said part of the power of journalism is that you don't need an advanced degree or "permission" to go report in risky areas, which "makes the profession and the world wide open to people," but can also put early-career journalists in danger.

"One of the downsides of journalism is that it's incredibly exciting, and you really can get sucked into the drama and the adventure and the thrill of frontline war reporting," he said.

Junger decided to stop covering conflict after his friend, filmmaker Tim Hetherington, died from a shrapnel wound while covering the civil war in Libya in 2011. He felt he no longer wanted to risk causing grief and stress among family and friends. Hetherington died from blood loss that might have been preventable if colleagues near him had been trained to stop the bleeding. In his honor, Junger founded Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues (RISC) to give free combat training and frontline medicine for experienced freelancers who cover wars.

# 2015 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



Left to right, Fatima Bhojani, Alexander Saeedy, Katerina Voutsina, Max de Haldevang, J.p. Lawrence, Makini Brice, Mariam Berger, Timothy Patterson, Jenny Starrs, Kyle Walker, Eilís O'Neill, James Reddick, Tusha Mittal, Ted Andersen and Ben Taub.

Following is a list of the 15 scholarship and fellowship recipients for 2015. The winners emerged from a highly competitive selection process consisting of 170 applicants from around 60 different colleges and universities.

**Kyle Walker**  
University of Tulsa  
**DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family; presented by David's brother, Matthew Schweisberg*

As a journalist, Kyle intends to cover national conflicts and societies in transition. In his essay, he wrote about Holy Week traditions on the Dalmatian island of Korcula where groups of local men lead a Good Friday procession singing, as they have for centuries, medieval Croatian hymns. With a double major in physics and philosophy, Kyle, a college senior and Rhodes finalist, is editor-in-chief of his student newspaper.

**Max de Haldevang**  
Columbia University Harriman Institute  
**REUTERS FELLOWSHIP**  
*Sponsored by Reuters and funded by The Correspondents Fund; presented by David Rohde of Reuters*

A Russian major at Cambridge University, Max has traveled extensively throughout the former Soviet Union. He wrote about how the government of Kyrgyzstan does not recognize the existence of "novostroi-kas," or squatter settlements, and thus denies basic services and resi-

dent status to desperate villagers. He is also fluent in Spanish and French.

**Eilís M. O'Neill**  
Columbia University 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, Harper's Magazine*  
A former freelance reporter in Argentina, Eilís intends to return to South America, this time as an environmental reporter to cover the pressing issues that plague the entire continent, including specifically the clean-up of the Riachuela River in Buenos Aires. A graduate of Oberlin College, she is fluent in Spanish. In her essay, she wrote about the problems caused by the "soy revolution" in Argentine agriculture.

**James Reddick**  
University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism  
**IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by the Scripps Howard Foundation; presented by Jack Howard-Potter of the Pamela Howard Family Foundation*

James was already working as a journalist in Beirut when the Arab Spring erupted in 2011. He wants to return to take stock of the region's collective loss and document the next chapter. Fluent in French with some Arabic, the Lewis & Clark graduate wrote about Nakba, the day Palestinians and Lebanese sym-

pathizers make an organized annual march to the Israeli border via the reverse route taken by fleeing Palestinians in 1948.

**J.p. Lawrence**  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism  
**H.L. STEVENSON FELLOWSHIP**

*Funded by the Gamsin family and sponsored by family and friends; presented by Sharon Gamsin*  
J.p. was a military photojournalist with the U.S. Army National Guard in Iraq when he first met the Ugandan soldiers employed by American private contractors. He is intent on telling their stories and the price they paid to fight in America's wars. In his essay he wrote how U.S. aid to Uganda supports a corrupt and abusive regime. A graduate of Bard College, J.p. has an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Uganda.

**Mariam Berger**  
Oxford University  
**STAN SWINTON FELLOWSHIP**  
*Endowed by the Swinton Family; presented by Helen Swinton, Stan's wife*

Possessing an extensive background reporting and studying in the Middle East, Miriam wrote about media politics in the region and the pressing need to cover the stories that go beyond terrorism. An Arabic speaker with some Hebrew and Persian skills, she is now earning a degree in Modern Middle Eastern studies. A former Fulbright Scholar in Egypt and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wesleyan University, Miriam has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the AP bureau in Jerusalem.

**Ben Taub**  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism  
**EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by family; presented by Alix Freedman, Manny's daughter and Ethics Editor, Reuters*

Ben got hooked on foreign correspondence when he took a year off from Princeton to learn more about the freelance world and found



his way to Kilis on the Turkey-Syrian border. In his essay, he wrote about his last encounter in Kilis with American Steve Sotloff who was soon kidnapped and later beheaded by ISIS. Proficient in Italian and Dutch and learning Arabic, Ben has also a keen interest in immigration and has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Jerusalem.

**Fatima Bhojani**  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism  
**THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Sponsored by donations from family and friends; presented by Theo's friend, Roz Massow*

Born in Karachi at a time when political turmoil claimed the lives of many family members and raised in Islamabad, Fatima is no stranger to the chaos caused by violence, a subject she covered in her poignant essay about children in northwest Pakistan living with the constant threat of drone attacks. An aspiring national security and military affairs correspondent, Fatima is also fluent in Urdu and Hindi and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Tusha Mittal**  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism  
**ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by family, friends and admirers; presented by Roy Rowan*  
Already an accomplished journalist in her native India, Tusha wrote about "India's hidden civil war," the Maoist conflict in eastern India, and its brutal human toll. In her essay, she discussed a prisoner exchange involving 14 innocent indigenous women. Born and raised in Calcutta, she is a graduate of DePauw University and speaks Hindi and Bengali. Tusha has an OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project.

**Makini Brice**  
New York University  
**FLORA LEWIS INTERNSHIP**  
*Endowed by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust; presented by Jackie Albert-Simon, Flora's friend*  
With a BFA in screenwriting from the University of Southern California, Makini is now pursuing

a joint Master's degree in Journalism and French Studies and is focusing on the ways migration is shaping Europe. In her essay, Makini wrote about the plight of unaccompanied child migrants in France who lose the protections of the child foster care system when they turn 18. Fluent in French, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Senegal.

**Katerina Voutsina**  
The Fletcher School, Tufts University  
**S&P Award for Economic and Business reporting**  
*Endowed by Standard & Poor's; presented by Natalie Evertson, S&P Capital IQ*

Majoring in European political economy, Katerina is focused on policy making in the EU, its history and politics of institutions. In her essay, she questioned whether Jean-Claude Juncker is the right choice to lead the European Commission. A native of Greece, she is a graduate of Panteion University with a master's from Boston University. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship with *The Wall Street Journal* in Brussels

**Timothy Patterson**  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism  
**JERRY FLINT FELLOWSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPORTING**  
*Endowed by family and friends; presented by Kate McLeod, Jerry's wife*

After eight years in the U.S. Navy, the Annapolis graduate spent two years on a motorcycle on a 28,000-mile trek from the top of Alaska to Ushuaia, Argentina, learning Spanish and Portuguese en route. Having volunteered to go to Afghanistan as a combatant, Tim wrote about his investigations of corruption within the Afghan National Police. Intent on a career as a conflict reporter, he has an OPC Foundation fellowship in an Associated Press bureau in South America.

**Ted Andersen**  
University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism  
**THE WALTER & BETSY CRONKITE SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Funded by Daimler and Supported by CBS News and friends; presented by Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews; Vice President, CBS News*  
Ted became fascinated with Latin America via a 3,000 mile, 23-state trek through Mexico. A graduate of UC-Santa Barbara with an M.A. in international relations from San Francisco State University, Ted wrote about the economic and environmental problems posed by the 172-mile Nicaragua Canal. A multimedia journalist, he has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Bangkok bureau of The Associated Press.

**Jenny Starrs**  
Northwestern University  
**NATHAN S. BIENSTOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by the Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation; presented by Steve Sadicario, N. S. Bienstock*

In her essay, Jenny wrote about Election Day in South Africa and its impact on immigrants trying to build lives and attain citizenship, a story she covered for the City Press in Johannesburg. A college senior, she has experience both in print and visual media and is looking to expand her coverage beyond the African continent. She speaks intermediate French. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship in multimedia journalism with the GroundTruth Project.

**Alexander Saeedy**  
Yale University  
**THE FRITZ BEEBE FELLOWSHIP**  
*Endowed by Anne and Larry Martz; presented by Larry Martz*

Pursuing a combined bachelor/master degree in economic history in four years, Alex is intent on a career in business journalism. Fluent in French and learning German, he analyzed the explosive growth of low-cost airline carriers in Europe and the rest of the world and asked why their growth has not been as great in the U.S. He has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.

## OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon



Sebastian Junger, left, and Bill Holstein



Jacqueline Albert-Simon and Flora Lewis winner Makini Brice



Sebastian Junger and Theo Wilson winner Fatima Bhojani



Fritz Beebe winner Alexander Saeedy, left, and Larry Martz

Photos by Michael Dames



Roy Rowan Scholarship winner Tusha Mittal with Roy Rowan

### THANK YOU

The OPC Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2015 Scholar Awards Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of our scholarship/fellowship program.

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## PEOPLE... By Randy Fung and Chad Bouchard

### OPC SCHOLARS

**John Ismay**, 2014 Flint winner, is now the Veterans & Military Issues Reporter at KPCC Public Radio in Los Angeles. Ismay had an OPC Foundation fellowship with GlobalPost. He was also a contributor to the C.J. Chivers' story in *The New York Times* of American military exposure to chemical weapons in Iraq.

**Nizar Manek**, winner of the 2012 I.F. Stone award, will now be at the Center for International Development at Harvard University. With a keen interest in Africa, he will be focusing on Egypt's automotive sector. Manek was previously a Marjorie Deane Fellow at the *Financial Times* in London and *Baron's* in New York. Manek is a frequent contributor to *Africa Confidential*.



Manek

**Michael Miller**, former OPC foundation fellow at the AP bureau in Mexico City, has taken on the Morning Mix team at the *Washington Post*. Michael won several Society of Professional Journalist Awards for his work the last five years with the *Miami Times*.

### WINNERS

**Heidi Levine** became the first inaugural winner of the Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award for her work in Gaza. The award, which was in honor of Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer Niedringhaus, who was murdered by Afghan police in Afghanistan in April 2014.

Four-time recipient of the OPC's Thomas Nast award, **Kevin "KAL" Kallaughner**, cartoonist for the *Baltimore Sun* and *The Economist*, received two awards in less than one month. He received Europe's Grand Prix Award for cartoon of the year, and the 2015 Herblock Prize for edi-

torial cartooning. Kal has been an editorial artist for nearly four decades and his cartoons are widely distributed by CartoonArts International and the New York Times Syndicate.

Photographer **Mads Nissen** of the Danish newspaper Politiken received the World Press Photo of the Year 2014 for his image of a gay couple during an intimate moment in St Petersburg, Russia, where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people live under the shadow of discrimination and harassment. The photo also won first prize in the Contemporary Issues category.

Syrian lawyer and human rights activist **Mazen Darwish** has been named as World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute (IPI). Darwish has defended media freedom Syria for more than a decade, and carried out his work over the last three years from prison. The award was presented on March 28 in Yangon, Myanmar during IPI's annual World Congress.

### UPDATES

**HOLLYWOOD, Calif.:** Steven Spielberg will direct Jennifer Lawrence in a biopic based on the memoir of OPC member and war photographer **Lynsey Addario**. Addario won the OPC's Olivier Rebbot Award in 2010. She also received the MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, and was part of a *New York Times* team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for International Reporting for work in Waziristan.

**SEATTLE, Wash.:** Three-time OPC Award winner **Rajiv Chandresakaran**, has announced he will leave the *Washington Post* to launch a startup in Seattle, in partnership with Starbucks, that will produce long-form documentaries focused on social impact. Chandresakaran recently

co-authored a book about veterans, *For the Love of Country*, with Starbucks CEO Howard Schulz.

**NEW YORK:** Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent **John F. Burns** has retired after 40 years at *The New York Times*. Burns started reporting from his first overseas post in South Africa in 1976. He has since filed stories from bases around the world, including Moscow, Bosnia, China, Afghanistan and Iraq. He served as head of the Baghdad bureau during the American invasion and occupation of Iraq. During his career, he has written more than 3,000 articles and has won two Pulitzer Prizes for International Reporting.

### PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**Ned Colt**, a former NBC News foreign correspondent who covered Asia and other regions around the world, died after a stroke on Feb. 12 at age 58. He was instrumental in the network's coverage of the Iraq War, and was kidnapped for three days near Fallujah during his stint there. After leaving NBC in 2009, Colt worked at the United Nations reporting on the Syrian refugee crisis and with the International Rescue Committee. He joined NBC News in 1996 and worked in London, Beijing and Hong Kong. Colt is survived by wife, Cathy Robinson.

**Maria Golovnina**, Reuters bureau chief for Afghanistan and Pakistan, died in Islamabad on Feb. 23 at age 34. Golovnina joined Reuters in Tokyo in 2001 and worked in London, Singapore and Seoul. She was based in Russia from 2002 to 2005, and later became chief correspondent in Central Asia. She reported from Afghanistan during the 2009 presidential election and reported from Iraq. Golovnina moved to the London editing desk in 2010, and covered the war in Libya in 2011. She was found unconscious in Reuters' Islamabad office, but could not be revived.



Addario

Wikimedia Commons

## PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* reports that police in Moscow have filed charges against Sergei Dorovskoi, a former deputy governor accused of arranging the murder of **Igor Domnikov**. Dorovskoi, a journalist with the *Novaya Gazeta* who died after he was beaten with a hammer near his apartment building in Moscow in July 2000, had written reports critical of Dorovskoi and other government officials. The charges mark an "unprecedented" move against a mastermind in the killing of a journalist in Russia, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported.

Al Jazeera is calling for the release of two journalists whom the Nigerian government has detained for more than a week. **Ahmed Idris** and **Ali Mustafa** were taken from their hotel room on March 24 while they were getting ready to report on Nigerian military fighting Boko Haram, part of the network's coverage of Nigeria's elections. The two were accused of operating without protection or clearance. Idris is a veteran journalist with more than 30 years of experience. He joined the network in 2010. Mustafa, a cameraman, has worked with Al Jazeera since 2011.

*Washington Post* Tehran correspondent **Jason Rezaian**, who has been detained in Iran on unspecified charges for nearly eight months, has been allowed to hire a lawyer. He hired Leila Ahsan, who also represents Jason's wife, Iranian journalist **Yeganeh Salehi**. The two were arrested in their Tehran home on July 22, but Salehi was released on bail after two months. President Barack Obama called for the release of Rezaian and two other Americans in a statement on March 20, which marked the Persian New Year.

An Egyptian court has adjourned the trial of two Al Jazeera television journalists until April 22. After a year

in jail, **Mohamed Fahmy**, a naturalized Canadian who has given up his Egyptian citizenship, and Egyptian **Baher Mohamed** were released on bail in February. The two face charges that they aided a terrorist organization, which both have denied. Australian **Peter Greste**, also an Al Jazeera journalist, was deported in February.

In a report released on March 2, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China found that its members were experiencing fewer delays receiving press cards than in previous years, but authorities continue to threaten cancellation or non-renewal during the course of their work or as a result of critical content. A member survey conducted in January revealed that 10 members had been threatened, and others detained or interrogated about their work. *The New York Times* has not been able to secure visas for its correspondents since October 2012. Meanwhile, Reuters appears to be the latest to join a list of news services with websites blocked in mainland China. The agency reported on March 19 that its homepage was not available, and the Cyberspace Administration of China did not respond to a request for comment. Censorship tracking website Greatfire.org reported at press time that Reuters.com is 65 percent blocked in China. Bloomberg News, *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* websites remain fully blocked.

Singapore police arrested and jailed a teenager for distributing a YouTube video in which he celebrated the death of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and criticized his authoritarian control of the country. 16-year-old **Amos Yee**, a frequent video blogger, was released on bail and faces a fine and three years in jail if convicted. The incident comes as press freedom watchers wonder if Kuan Yew's death could spark reform and loosen longstanding limits on free speech.



Rob Stothard/Getty Images

**BBC staff hold a silent protest in London against jail terms for Al Jazeera journalists in Egypt last summer.**

● **Avijit Roy**, a freelance journalist and naturalized U.S. citizen of Bangladeshi origin, was stabbed to death on Feb. 26 by two unidentified men while he was leaving a book fair in Dhaka with his wife, who was critically injured but survived in the attack. Roy covered a range of secular issues on his blog, including atheism, science, homosexuality and free expression. He reported receiving email and social media death threats to himself and family and friends from Islamists before the attack. Bangladeshi police arrested a 29-year old student and extremist blogger in connection with the murder on March 2.

● Journalist and human rights activist **Abdul Karim Mohammed al-Khaiwani** was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen near his home in Sanaa, Yemen on March 18. He was a contributor opposition media and a former editor of Al-Shoura, a pro-democracy newspaper that closed in 2005. Al-Khaiwani won Amnesty International UK's Special Award for Human Rights Journalism under Threat in 2008.

● **Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani**, a well-known dissident journalist in Yemen, was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle in Sana'a on March 18. Khaiwani reported on civil rights abuses and corruption, and was beaten and jailed under the

(Continued on Page 10)



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former regime. He was a supporter of the Houthi rebel movement, which took over Sana'a last year and sparked political upheaval. Houthi forces have raided news outlets, detained journalists and banned websites amid escalating violence.

- Ukrainian photographer Serhiy Nikolayev, who worked for the newspaper Segodnya in Kiev, was killed

in a mortar explosion while covering fighting between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian separatists. Both sides blamed the other for the death, according to news reports. He died in a hospital from his injuries. Nikolayev joined Segodnya in 2008, and covered conflict and unrest in Iran, Somalia, and Libya.

- **Gerardo Ceferino Serván Coronel**, a radio journalist for Radio

Ciudad Nueva in Zanja Pytã, Paraguay, was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle in the Brazilian border city of Ponta Porã on March 4. The Paraguayan Union of Journalists said in a statement that Serván was critical of the local government, but it was not known if he had received threats before the attack. Four other journalists have been killed near the country's northern border since the start of last year.

## GJS Teaches Situational Awareness to OPC Foundation Scholars

By Kyle Walker

In the late morning of Saturday, Feb. 21, all fifteen 2015 OPC Foundation scholars gathered on the fifteenth floor in the headquarters of The Associated Press in midtown Manhattan. We were there to hear from Frank Smyth, veteran freelance journalist and founder of Global Journalist Security (GJS).

Smyth has filed stories from numerous countries including El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Rwanda and Iraq, where he was detained for 18 days by Baathist forces in Abu Ghraib prison while reporting from Kurdistan. Smyth is now a world-recognized expert on press freedom. He's what they call the real deal.

And so is his colleague, Sara Salam, GJS's senior trainer in personal safety and emotional care. Though not a journalist, Salam is a certified Krav Maga instructor and founder of Washington, D.C.-based martial arts studio Luminous Warrior.

But Smyth and Salam made sure to caution us: Impressive as they might be, when you do find yourself in a hostile environment, you don't have time to ask yourself, "What would Frank do?" or "What would Sara do?"

In these fight, flight or freeze situations, it will be the ability to act intelligently and quickly, combined with a lot of planning ahead and a little luck, that will make the difference between escape and death or serious injury.

So what's the trick? The metaphor that stuck with me the most (but also the one whose faults I think GJS would most emphasize) was this one: "Being a journalist is like being a street fighter."

In spite of the obvious faults of this image (e.g., journalists are better off avoiding fights than seeking them out), it is a profitable comparison. Street fighters and foreign correspondents are both playing a certain kind of game, and in both cases the stakes are high and the dice

probably loaded. In neither case are the rules of the game 100 percent clear.

This is where situational awareness comes in. You can't know ahead of time what specific threats will present themselves when you're working on a story.

Sure, you can research the lay of the land, the political situation, the major actors, whether or not there have been recent kidnappings – all topics we discussed Saturday – but precisely what will put your life on the line, that's impossible to know. So, like a street fighter, it's important to be constantly aware of the changing situation on the ground.

In all honesty, situational awareness was never something I spent much time worrying about. But for the past year it's been impossible not to give it some thought: the murders of James Foley and Stephen Sotloff and the deaths or disappearances of other journalists worldwide lent a serious tone to my experience of Saturday's discussion.

I can't speak for my colleagues, but I can thank them for what they brought with them to that room on the fifteenth floor. We were a group diverse in ability and experience level, ranging from me, a senior undergraduate, to a graduate student who spent time on the Turkey-Syria border, to another graduate who has spent several years now reporting on India's Maoist insurgency. And that was a strength.

The combination of other scholars' perspectives with the expertise and experience brought by Smyth and Salam made our discussion of personal safety, situational awareness and risk assessment not only useful, but empowering.

There's something Smyth said at the beginning of the day that might at first be frightening, but the broad-based solidarity I found with other scholars turned a potentially alarming mantra into a call to action: "It's up to you to figure this out on your own."



Frank Smyth, center, trains OPC Foundation scholars how to avoid and survive conflict.

Jane Reilly

## Meet the OPC Members: a Q&A With Tracy Wilkinson

By Patricia Kranz

**Tracy Wilkinson** is a longtime foreign correspondent who currently works as Mexico bureau chief for the *Los Angeles Times*, covering Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. She started working as a metro reporter for *The Times* in 1987, and later covered news from postings in El Salvador, Vienna, Jerusalem and Rome. She became Mexico bureau chief in 2008, when she was part of a team that won an OPC Hal Boyle Award for coverage of the drug war. In 2011, she won a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for coverage of the earthquake in Haiti, and in September last year, she won a Maria Moors Cabot Prize for outstanding reporting on Latin America and the Caribbean.



Tracy Wilkinson

**Hometown:** I'm not sure what "hometown" means any more. I live in Mexico City, I haven't lived in the U.S. for 22 years. The last place in the U.S. where I lived was Los Angeles, and I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. But Atlanta is probably the closest thing I have to a hometown, since I went through most of elementary and high school there, and it's where my mother lives.

**Education:** Proudly went to public schools in New York City and Atlanta, and then to Vanderbilt University. Also studied at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.

**Languages:** English, Spanish, some Italian. Can say "no problem" in about half a dozen languages.

**First job in journalism:** Interned at the Atlanta Journal and then worked for United Press International, just out of college, in Lima, Peru.

**Where I have lived:** Peru, Nicaragua, El Salvador, U.S., Austria, Bosnia, Israel/Palestinian territories, Italy, Mexico. Where I have reported: Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Chile, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Britain, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Turkey, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

**When did you join the OPC?** Can't remember. Maybe late 1990s?

**Advice to journalists who want to work in conflict zones:** Secure as much backup from a major organization as possible. You don't want to be on your own these days. Always have extra radar up to survey your surroundings. Develop networks of people and sources you can trust. Work fast, discreetly, have an exit strategy.

**Best advice about journalism received:** Type your notes. (I never did, and I regret it.) Also: always ask, "did you see it with your own eyes?" People will tell you all kinds of stories, but what did they actually witness? Verify, verify, verify.

**Hardest story to cover:** At the time, the war in Bosnia

was probably the hardest story I had covered because it took me out of my comfort zone (Latin America) and I had so much to learn while also working under dire conditions including mortar fire, lack of electricity and extremely complicated logistics just to get around. More recently, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti was another very difficult story – the concentrated mass of death and hopelessness in a country that was already pretty much on its ass.

**My pet peeve about editors:** Well, of course, I've been blessed with wonderful editors. (Are they reading this?) But I have seen cases at other papers where editors sitting somewhere in the U.S. think they know the story better than the reporter in the field, and dictate what the story should be based on their (usually faulty) assumptions. Or they encourage and accept faulty reporting that jibes with a preconceived narrative.

**My journalism heroes:** My father. A slow-and-steady-wins-the-race kind of guy. Unassuming, but, by all accounts, a true pro. In one of the eulogies when he died in 2013, someone said he managed to be a tough and exacting journalist who was also a good man.

**What motivated you to write *The Vatican's Exorcists: Driving Out the Devil in the 21st Century*?** It grew out of a feature story I wrote for *The Times*, about one exorcist in Rome. The story got a lot of attention and a publisher asked me to consider a book. I was reluctant because I knew it would be a difficult topic, where one would have to suspend some of one's own beliefs and attempt to analyze seriously things you might not necessarily understand or even think possible. But ultimately, I thought it was fascinating that the Roman Catholic Church has official, authorized exorcists, the ritual is still very much a part of church doctrine, and there are different schools of thought within the clergy. The book has been translated into numerous languages.

**Twitter handle:** @TracyKWilkinson

*Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).*



# New Books

## NORTH KOREA

**I**N THE GREAT LEADER AND the Fighter Pilot, author and former *Washington Post* [Viking, March] journalist Blaine Harden weaves together the dual biographies of No Kim Sok, a young fighter pilot who defected by flying his MiG-15 to an American base in South Korea at the end of the war in 1953, and that of “Great Leader” Kim Il Sung.

No, who changed his name to Kenneth Rowe after defecting, secretly renounced Communism but pretended fanatical devotion so he could rise to the position of fighter pilot and make his bid for freedom. In doing so, he gave Americans a fully functioning specimen of top Soviet technology, as well as documents, photographs and interviews to U.S. intelligence agencies.

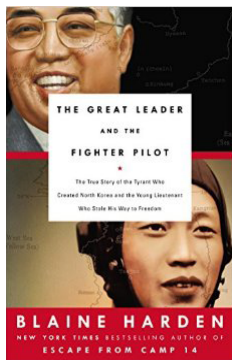
No, who is now 83, called Harden after reading his best-selling biography of North Korean defector Shin Dong-hyuk, *Escape from Camp 14*, and offered to tell his own story.

Harden filled in gaps using documents from archives in China and

Russia, as well as recently declassified U.S. government documents outlining what No had divulged to American interrogators after his defection.

“He was one of the great witnesses of the cold war,” Harden said in an interview. “His ability to tell a story was exceedingly good.”

Harden covered East Africa and Eastern Europe for the *Post* during the fall of the Eastern Bloc states in 1989. He covered Japan and the Koreans from Tokyo from 2007 to 2010. He accepted a buyout from the *Post* in 2010, and his work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Policy* and *Politico*.



## MYANMAR

**R**ENA PEDERSON, a journalist and former U.S. State Department speechwriter, sheds new light on the story of Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Aung San Suu Kyi in *The Burma Spring: Aung San Suu Kyi and the New Struggle for the Soul of a Nation* [Pegasus, January].

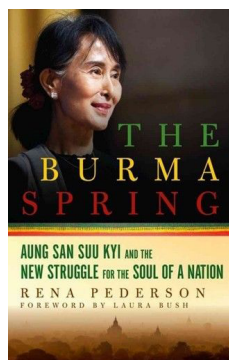
Pederson’s biography begins with her secret interview with Suu Kyi in 2003 at her home during the 15 years she was still under house arrest. She was smuggled past guards to visit with the pro-democ-

racy activist who became a beacon of the dissident movement. As Pederson left the Yangon home, Suu Kyi asked her to spread the word about the hardships that the people of Myanmar have endured under military rule. “Don’t let people forget us,” she told Pederson. In the book, she draws from exclusive interviews with “The Lady” after her release in 2010, as well as recently disclosed diplomatic cables, and even risked a trip to the country’s closed and opulent new capital Naypyidaw during her research.

Suu Kyi was elected to parliament 18 months after she was released, part of the country’s so-called “winter thaw” that has resulted in some loosening of oppressive policies.

Pederson is a writing teacher at Southern Methodist University and a frequent commentator on Dallas Public Radio. She is a graduate of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. She has written about Myanmar for the *Huffington Post*, the *Washington Post* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. She was previously the Editorial Page editor at the *Dallas Morning News* and has served on the Pulitzer Prize board. Pederson, who currently lives in Dallas, Texas, has written two other books, *What’s Next* and *The Lost Apostle*.

— By Randy Fung



## Upcoming Events

**Mixer at The Half King**  
6:00 p.m. April 22

**Theater of War**  
6:00 p.m. April 28

**OPC Awards Dinner**  
6:00 p.m. April 30

**Book Night:**  
**Nazila Fathi**  
6:30 p.m. May 20

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dean Baquet  
Executive Editor  
*The New York Times*  
Active Resident

Donald “Dalton” Bennett  
Video Journalist  
The Associated Press  
Berlin  
Active Overseas, 29 and under

Scott Kraft  
Deputy Managing Editor  
*The Los Angeles Times*  
Active Non-Resident

Brianna Lee  
International Affairs Reporter  
*International Business Times*  
Active Resident, 34 and under

MaryAnn Talavera  
Program Manager  
Columbia Journalism School  
Associate Resident, 34 and under

Lucy Wescott  
Reporter  
*Newsweek*  
Active Resident, 29 and under