

Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • October 2015

Panelists Put a Human Face on the Greek Debt Crisis

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Greece hovered on the brink of chaos this summer as the country seemed likely to default on its international loans and banks began to close.

Amid prolonged bailout negotiations, Eurozone meetings and endless economic minutia, reporters covering the crisis strived to humanize its impact.

On Oct. 7, the OPC and the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism hosted a forum with three veteran reporters to discuss how to pull compelling narratives out of this knotty story.

Panelists described shocking conditions, with one in two Greeks under 24-years-old unemployed, and close to half of all bank loans in the country in default.

Dody Tsiantar, a freelance journalist who has been teaching journalism at CUNY since 2006, said raw emotion sometimes overwhelmed her when talking to people affected by the crisis.

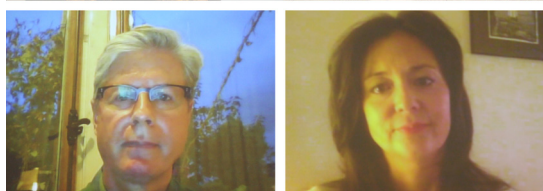
She said in July, people were “numb with fear” as they were only

allowed to withdraw 60 euros a day from banks, and were panicked that the government might seize their funds as had happened in Cypress in March 2013.

She remembered a family that had spent thousands of euros to tutor their son for college exams was devastated to find that they could not send him to school because they lacked the funds to pay for his living expenses.

“It’s heartbreaking to see people’s dreams dashed like that,” she said. “Through no fault of their own.”

Liz Alderman, the chief European business correspondent for the *International New York Times* who



Chad Bouchard

Clockwise from upper left: Dody Tsiantar, Marcus Mabry, Liz Alderman and Jack Ewing.

joined the panel via Skype from Paris, recalled reporting on growing child hunger in schools due to budget cutbacks.

“This story made me realize the extent to which austerity and the economic downturn was hitting the

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Author to Discuss Black Heroes of WWII

EVENT PREVIEW: Nov. 4

By Patricia Kranz

The OPC, the New York Association of Black Journalists and the Foreign Press Association will host an evening with author Linda Hervieux on her book *Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day’s Black Heroes, at Home and at War*. Her book tells the story of the the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, the only unit of African-American combat soldiers to land on D-Day.

Hervieux, a freelance journalist and photographer based in Paris, follows the men from their hometowns in segregated Jim Crow America to their training camp in Tennessee, where

they faced racism and violence. From there, they traveled across the Atlantic to Britain, where they were welcomed like movie stars and embraced by people who had never seen people of color. This African-American experience abroad, Hervieux argues, helped plant the seeds of the civil rights movement in post-war America.

The moderator is Mark Whitaker, former managing editor of CNN Worldwide and a reporter and editor at *Newsweek*, where he rose to become the first African-American leader of a national newsweekly.

The program will get underway at 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP, please call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

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Sieberg to Explain Google News Lab

EVENT PREVIEW: Nov. 10

By Patricia Kranz

OPC Governor Daniel Sieberg will discuss Google News Lab and the project's collaboration with journalists and entrepreneurs to "build the future of media."

Google has been aggressively reaching out to newsrooms and media organizations since News Lab launched in June this year. The company says it has already trained 13,000 journalists in 34 countries.



Daniel Sieberg

Recent projects include helping the *Washington Post* to create a data visualization of "global warming" searches and hosting hackathons with the Center for Investigative Reporting.

Sieberg, who is the Head of Media Outreach at Google, will describe News Lab's newsroom training and education projects, how they oversee Google Trends data, how to use tools for election coverage, and programs and partnerships with organizations like CIR, Hacks/Hackers, Matter and others. He'll also discuss Google's interest in fostering new ways of storytelling through platforms like VR and YouTube 360.

The evening begins with a reception at Club Quarters at 6:00 p.m., and the presentation will start at 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP, call 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

Emmy Winners Discuss 'Firestone'

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

How do you turn 6 years of research and 44 pounds of documents into an Emmy-winning documentary?

On Thursday, Oct. 1, the OPC hosted a panel with *Firestone and the Warlord* filmmakers Jonathan Jones and Marcela Gaviria. Attendees watched clips from the film and heard behind-the-scenes insights on how they spun this investigation into a gripping narrative.

The film, aired on Frontline and produced by Gaviria's company, Rain Media, won Emmys for Outstanding Investigative Journalism – Long Form, and for Outstanding Research.

This year the film also won a citation for the OPC's Edward R. Murrow Award, and won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in the new media category and an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award.

Jones first began investigating the American tire company Firestone and its activities in war-torn Liberia in

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Left to right: Martin Smith, Marcela Gaviria and Jonathan Jones

Chad Bouchard

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OPC **Bulletin**
ISSN-0738-7202
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Overseas Press Club
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40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

OPC Offers Press ID Cards For Working Journalists

By Charles Graeber

As a young freelancer bumming around the world, I quickly discovered the power of a piece of paper with a seal on it to get access, cross checkpoints, or sometimes even cross borders. I recall how embassy staff in Riga would reproduce “official” visa stamps using the wet edge of a sliced potato.

It wasn’t just a matter of access, but one of safety too. As an identified member of the press, I was less vulnerable.

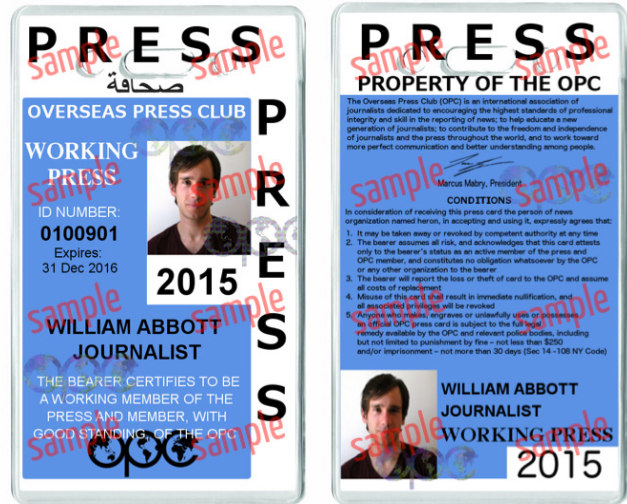
In this increasingly freelance world, I’ve found fewer viable means to secure that accreditation. NYC police press passes are near impossible to obtain, and even the larger publications are stingy with business cards. But one affiliation I can prove is my membership in good standing as an active member of the Overseas Press Club. Shouldn’t I be able to show that at a checkpoint somewhere, the word PRESS visible, as I attempt to explain why I need to rush into a situation everyone else is fleeing? Or attempt to distinguish myself from tourists, or even soldiers?

Now, the OPC board is pleased to be able to offer OPC photo ID card options for our working press members.

Option One: A double-sided hard plastic ID card, similar in size to a credit card. It is durable, bears the owner’s photo and the date of issue, and certifies that the bearer represents themselves as an active member of the OPC and active press. All members will have the option to request such an ID at no extra cost when renewing membership or joining the OPC; since the cards will be custom printed on-demand at OPC headquarters, members will also have the option to request a card at any

point throughout the year, and have it shipped to their location.

Option Two: A government or press-pass style Overseas Press Club ID that can be hung around the neck. This ID is also affixed with holograms for extra security. These IDs must be custom printed and thus will be available to members only in batch orders (50 or more, for \$50 each).



Both ID’s have been custom designed specifically for the OPC by an outside contractor (GVA Designs). They can’t be easily copied, and, we believe, will give the bearer a little added official status at checkpoints and other access points.

The free wallet cards will be available in mid-November. Please email patricia@opcofamerica.org if you want to order one, along with a passport-style photo in a high-resolution jpeg.

If you are interested in the badge IDs, call the OPC at 212 626-9220 by **Dec. 15**. We will take credit card information for the \$50 cost, but will not charge your credit card until the requisite 50 people sign up. High-resolution jpeg photos should be emailed immediately to gabrielleallen@gmail.com.



Protecting Reporters Who Run Toward Danger

EVENT RECAP

By Michael S. Serrill

Freelancers, you have our attention.

The risks facing journalists covering conflict, crime and corruption around the world have never been greater. And there have never been more news organizations focused on the quest to keep them safe. On Sept. 30 a group of more than 50 people

representing reporters and media non-profits gathered at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism to review what has become a worldwide push to establish protocols for reporting from conflict zones. The effort goes by the awkward name Call for Global Safety Principles and Practices. More than 80 news and news-related groups have signed on to abide by new reporting

standards, including the AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, Agence France-Presse, GlobalPost, CBS, NBC, ABC and CNN. The meeting was organized by the London-based Rory Peck Trust, which represents freelance reporters and photographers, and David Rohde of Reuters – who escaped from captivity in Afghanistan. The OPC Foundation was a co-sponsor

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Activist Blasts White House for Meeting With Xi Jinping

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Chinese dissident Wu'er Kaixi told attendees at an OPC event that Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit with President Barack Obama signals support for a brutal regime. In terms of human rights, brutality and oppression, he said, China is at its lowest point since Mao Zedong's rule during the Cultural Revolution.

"This lending of legitimacy from the United States to Xi Jinping is a very wrong message," he said. "The Chinese government is at war with its own people now."

Wu'er made his comments at Club Quarters on Sept. 24, on the eve of Xi's visit with President Barack Obama, during an OPC discussion moderated by Barbara Demick, author and former Beijing bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Wu'er was a student leader in the Beijing protests of 1989, after which he was forced into exile. An ethnic Uighur who has long campaigned against China's human right abuses, he has remained active in politics and is a candidate in Taiwan's 2016 parliamentary elections.

Demick asked Wu'er about Western optimism about reform in China, including American journalists' initial hope that Xi would bring democratic change when he was appointed in 2012.

"It's wishful thinking. We have such a strong wish



Barbara Demick and Wu'er Kaixi

that China can be changed. But we need to know that it's the system itself that put Xi Jinping there," he said. "So his first priority is to protect the integrity, the stronghold of the power of the Chinese Communist Party. So he has to do that. And by doing that he needs to oppress dissent in China. He needs to be a Communist tyrant."

Wu'er, who now lives in Taiwan, said Taiwan should amend its Constitution to officially recognize the People's Republic of China, breaking the so-called "one China" policy. Taiwan's government and mainland China both claim to be the sole government of China.

He also called on the U.S. to link human rights to trade deals and stop enforcing the standoff between Taiwan and mainland China.

China's Shockwaves Are Reaching Distant Shores

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

China's economy seems to be weathering some of the most turbulent waters in recent memory.

Amid aggressive moves to halt plunging stocks, the devaluing of its currency, hundreds of billions of dollars in capital outflows and slowing growth, many observers wonder if China has reached a pivotal crossroads.

On Sept. 10, the OPC hosted a forum to discuss recent developments with a panel of experts on China. During the panel, titled "China Shocks: How Serious? What Do They Mean?" moderator William J. Holstein asked whether recent events are truly unusual, or if the world is simply taking more notice because of an increasingly globalized economy.

Gady Epstein, who recently returned to New York after more than a decade in Beijing for *The Economist* and *Forbes* magazines as well as *The Baltimore Sun*, said rougher waters for China are likely ahead, and reverberations will reach farther than before.

"When China stumbles, the rest of the world feels it, and the rest of the world actually even knows about it," he said.

Gwynn Guilford, a reporter and editor for Quartz who spent six years in China, including three researching Chinese companies and macro-economic developments for hedge funds, said China has an oversupply of money, but its efforts to keep the Yuan artificially cheap have started to backfire in recent years.

"With all of this money chasing a

finite amount of goods, why isn't inflation going up?" she said. "Because overcapacity is so bad, because there is so much slack, because factories producing at a loss and selling stuff overseas because no one in China is buying it - that is overwhelming this insane increase in money."

Elizabeth Economy, C.V. Starr senior fellow and director of Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, said China's actions following the stock market crash reflect core shortcomings, such as a lack of transparency, accountability and rule of law.

"What did the Chinese do? They controlled information, arrested people, they froze assets, they did everything that you're not supposed to do in a real market economy," she said.

OPC Scholar Reflects on Covering Greece for the WSJ

By Katerina Voutsina

Katerina Voutsina won the OPC Foundation's 2015 S&P Award for Economic and Business Reporting and has a Foundation fellowship with the Wall Street Journal in Brussels. She is a student at Tufts University, majoring in European political economy.

"So what do you think about Greece? Will they leave the eurozone?" asked my interviewee on a late June afternoon. "I really don't know," I replied. "We all ask the same question."

I was aware that making small talk in Brussels after having introduced myself as a Greek reporter would never be easy.

We were standing in front of the European Council building, where Greece had faced its creditors in countless meetings. Greek banks had been closed, and European officials were sending conflicting messages about the upcoming Greek referendum result.

The word "Grexit" has dominated my reporting on the Greek debt crisis since 2010.

In June 2011, I was reporting from Syntagma Square in Athens for a Greek political daily. Police had just fired tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, and I was choking for air with tears streaming from my eyes. Inside the parliament lawmakers were voting on austerity measures aimed at averting the euro area's first sovereign default.

Over the summer, I spent hours at the doorstep of European institutions. I listened to hundreds of different voices on the future of a country – my country – that was again teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

To small-talk questions, I had no ready answers. In Brussels politics, there are no such answers. That's why good reporting is difficult. It demands patience, erudition and humility.

Brussels reporting demanded something more: becoming an outsider. I was not.



Voutsina

Michael Dames

('Greek Debt' - Continued From Page 1)

lives of average people," she said.

Jack Ewing, the European economics correspondent for *The International New York Times* who also joined via Skype from Frankfurt, said the crisis brought to light how little unity there is among European nations.

"It's not the single fabric that people wanted it to be. Arguably the longest term effect of the whole

crisis will be the way that it's challenged the whole idea of Europe," he said. "And it raises questions about what they can do to fix it."

Marcus Mabry, president of the OPC and Editor at large at *The New York Times*, moderated the panel. He asked where the panelists saw the story going next.

Ewing said the economic story would shift to long-term debt relief for Greece, and more broadly about tensions between anti-European

Union factions and the need to protect the union from future crises. Alderman anticipated that the Syrian refugee crisis would strain European solidarity as Syrians land in Greece and make their way to other countries. Tsiantar said while media coverage would likely diminish, conditions would continue to worsen as Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras puts austerity measures into place. "I don't think it's over by any means," she said.

('Firestone' - Continued From Page 2)

2007. Two years later, he wrote an essay about his findings for the OPC Foundation's I.F. Stone scholarship, which he won.

With help from a UC Berkeley Fellowship, he began to dig. He made a Freedom of Information Act request in February 2009 for cables and documents about Firestone's activities during the civil war. Jones also conducted more than 100 oral history interviews with current and former Firestone employees in Liberia.

The documents, which included company cables and the pages of a manager's journal, arrived a year later. Among those documents were what Gaviria called "three smoking guns."

Jones said the story started to gel when he stumbled on an insurance case in Ohio involving Firestone's claims for losses as a result of the war. They included a formal agreement between Firestone and Charles Taylor, who at the time was the rebel leader.

"It was incredible to me that it was the story of executives from Akron, Ohio, stuck in a rubber plantation in Africa in the middle of a civil war, with an army of child soldiers and a lunatic called Charles Taylor - and of course you've got the makings of a brilliant narrative," Gaviria said.

OPC Board of Governors member Martin Smith moderated. He is a producer at Frontline, a founder of Rain Media, and is married to Gaviria. He asked what the company's reaction was to the film.

"I feel that one of the ways we had an impact was that they did have to come forward and tell their side of the story, which was what the Liberians had been asking for," Jones said, noting that Liberia had been asking for Firestone to clarify its role since the early 90s.

Firestone responded to the film in a statement that is available on the Frontline website.

The project included a 20,000-word print piece published on ProPublica's site.

PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

2015 Emanuel R. Freedman scholarship winner **Ben Taub** has another piece in *The New Yorker*. “Whom Can You Trust on the Syrian Border” describes the difficulties of trying to decipher people’s affiliations and stay secure as a reporter on the Turkish border in 2013.

After an OPC Foundation fellowship with the Associated Press in Uganda, **J.p. Lawrence**, the 2015 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner, has begun his job as a breaking news reporter on the crime beat for the *Albany Times Union* in Albany, NY.



Lawrence

Michael Dames

Beth Dickinson, who won the 2007 I.F. Stone Scholarship, has been awarded a grant of \$6,000 from the International Women’s Media Foundation for an in-depth writing project that challenges traditional narratives on women’s rights in the Persian Gulf. Dickinson is a member of the global journalist cooperative Deca, and is based in the Arabian Peninsula. She also has a new Kindle Single out called “Godfathers and Thieves: How Syria’s Diaspora Crowd-Sourced a Revolution.”

2013 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship winner **Jacob Kushner** has the cover story in the September/October edition of *Moment* magazine. “Birthright Denied” is an in-depth look at the Dominican Republic’s campaign to strip citizenship from the children of Haitian immigrants. The story was funded by *Moment’s* Daniel Pearl Investigative Journalism Initiative.

2015 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholar **Ted Andersen** has landed

his first *New York Times* story with the Associated Press. He wrote about American companies fracking in Thailand.

Jenny Starrs, winner of the 2015 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship, completed her OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project – founded by OPC member Charles Sennott – in Washington, D.C. Her multimedia project shows how the U.S. lags behind much of the world in terms of women’s participation in politics. Starrs starts soon as the overnight digital video editor for the Morning Mix at the *Washington Post*, where she’ll provide both standalone videos and video content to embed in articles posted in the morning.



Starrs

Michael Dames

Tom Finn, winner of the H.L. Stevenson Award in 2013, is headed to Dohar as the Qatar correspondent for Reuters. Most recently a reporter for *Middle East Eye*, Finn will be writing about Qatar’s dominant gas sector, tracking its preparations for the 2022 World Cup and looking at Qatar’s stormy relations with its neighbors rooted in Doha’s alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood. Finn was an OPC Foundation fellow in the Reuters bureau in Cairo and previously worked with the *Yemen Times*.

Congratulations to **Frederick Bernas**, Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholar in 2013, on being named an International Reporting Project fellow. He will join 10 other international journalists for 11 days in October in Ecuador reporting on that country’s healthcare and develop-

ment, specifically the discrepancies that persist between the quality of care and resources available at public and private facilities. A freelance journalist based in Buenos Aires, his work has been published by AP, the BBC, CNN, *The New York Times*, Reuters, *The Guardian*, VICE, Al Jazeera and others. Bernas had an OPC fellowship in the AP bureau in Buenos Aires.

AWARDS

OPC Second Vice President **Abigail Pesta** has won a Front Page Award in the Interview category from the Newswomen’s Club of New York for “Chelsea Manning: No More Secrets,” co-bylined with Sara Austin. The Marie Colvin Award for Foreign Correspondence went to 2009 Hal Boyle Award winner **Farniz Fassihi** of the *Wall Street Journal*.

OPC member **Kathy Gannon** of the Associated Press is slated to receive the Committee to Protect Journalists’ Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in November. Gannon was badly injured in a shooting while covering the 2014 presidential elections in eastern Afghanistan; her reporting partner, AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus, was killed in the attack. “Gannon is widely known as one of the most thoughtful and dedicated journalists covering the region,” said CPJ board chair Sandra Mims Rowe, adding that Gannon’s commitment to journalism “has transcended personal risk and tragedy.” In June, Gannon was honored with the James Foley Medal For Courage in Journalism – a prize given by Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism to recognize “moral, ethical or physical courage in the pursuit of a story or series of stories.”

New York Times Paris bureau chief and OPC member **Alissa J. Rubin** has won the 2015 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism. The prize, named after longtime NBC News anchor John Chancellor, is presented annually by the Columbia University School of



Rubin

Journalism to honor a reporter for his or her cumulative accomplishments. "Both quietly courageous and fiercely intellectual, Rubin covers conflict through human stories of the soldiers, victims and survivors of war," wrote the school in a statement. "Her work is marked by a deep understanding of the Middle East and its people, from besieged Yazidis and female Iraqi insurgents, to Afghan women struggling to gain their rights." Rubin, who won the 2009 Ed Cunningham award, is back reporting from the region after suffering serious injuries in a helicopter crash in Iraq last year.

OPC governor **Martin Smith** presented an Emmy to his wife, **Marcela Gaviria**, at the 36th Annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards on Sept. 29. Gavira won for Outstanding Research on Frontline's "Firestone and the Warlord," about the relationship between the global tire giant and Liberia's Charles Taylor. Not to be outdone, Smith took home two statuettes himself: one for Outstanding Coverage of a Current News Story - Long Form and the other for Best Documentary. Both awards were for his work as a producer of Frontline's "United States of Secrets," about mass surveillance in the post-9/11 era.

Simon Kilmurry, an OPC member, won two Emmys for his work as executive producer on two POV documentaries. "After Tiller" shared the Best Documentary award with "United States of Secrets." It follows

the lives of the only four doctors in America still providing late-term abortions. "When I Walk" tells the story of independent filmmaker Jason DaSilva and his battle with multiple sclerosis; it won the award for Outstanding Informational Programming - Long Form.



Kilmurry

OPC members **Sheri Fink** and **Adam Nossiter**, along with fellow *New York Times* staffers Kevin Sack, Pam Belluck and Daniel Berehulak, were finalists in the Explanatory Reporting category of this year's Online News Awards for their reporting on Ebola. The *Times* team won a Hal Boyle award for its Ebola coverage earlier this year.

OPC member **C.J. Chivers** was a finalist for the ONA's Al Neuharth Excellence in Investigative Journalism Award for his *New York Times* story, "The Secret Casualties of Iraq's Abandoned Chemical Weapons." Chivers won the OPC's Best Investigative Reporting award with that story earlier this year.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: OPC member and former Bulletin correspondent **Susan Kille** went home from the hospital and happily consumed non-hospital food following her lung transplant surgery, but the road to recovery is bumpy. She thanks everyone for their kind thoughts.

Four Corners Media, co-founded by OPC member **Micah Garen**, had a documentary air on Al-Jazeera English in early October. *Off the Rails: A Journey Through Japan* travels to big cities and rural backwaters by train, exploring what the country's railways reveal about Japan's changing society.

Former McGraw Hill Executive

Vice President **Ted Smyth** has been appointed vice chair and chief of staff at global PR behemoth Edelman. *PR Week* reports that Smyth, an OPC member, will serve as senior strategist in the food and beverage and financial sectors, among other duties. Before his six years at McGraw Hill, Smyth worked at HJ Heinz.

New member **Kaya Yurieff** has joined the new digital team at *Worth Magazine*, where she's conducting interviews, writing for the websites, editing and covering events. *Worth* is a financial and lifestyle magazine founded in 1992 and re-launched by Sandow in 2009.

OPC member **Sally Jacobsen** is a co-editor of the new interactive e-book version of the *AP Stylebook*. The Associated Press released the new edition in September with Basic Books, which also publishes the print version of the vaunted style guide. While an interactive version was already available on the web and in apps, "*Stylebook* fans have asked for an e-book version for years," the organization said in a press release. With more than 5,000 entries, this year's edition is also the biggest ever.

BOSTON: The GroundTruth Project, launched in 2014 by OPC member **Charles Sennott**, has received \$300,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The grant will provide general operating support of \$300,000 over two years for reporting projects on "climate change, youth unemployment, global health and the legacy of the Arab Spring," Sennott said in a press release. Meanwhile, Sennott's previous project, GlobalPost, is being acquired by public broadcaster WGBH. GlobalPost's operations will merge with those of WGBH's Public Radio International group, which produces the radio

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(Continued From Page 7)

show “The World.” “This new chapter for GlobalPost is exciting and a very positive development for all involved,” said Sennott in a statement. “It demonstrates PRI and WGBH’s commitment to and investment in international news in a dramatic way.”

Atish Saha, winner of this year’s Madline Dane Ross award, is exhibiting his photos of the Rana Plaza factory collapse at the EMW Gallery in Cambridge. The 2013 disaster in Dhaka, Bangladesh claimed more than 1,100 lives. Saha’s photos are being shown alongside Bryan MacCormack’s pictures of the perilous trek migrants make across the Sonoran Desert of Mexico and Arizona, in an effort to highlight the individual tragedies underlying large death tolls. Saha has returned to Bangladesh after months of travel in the U.S., and hopes to come back next year.

PROVO, Utah: John Hughes retired as a professor of international communications at Brigham Young University on Sept. 1. An OPC member, Hughes won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1967 and the OPC prize for best reporting from abroad in 1970 as a foreign correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor*. He was a Nieman fellow at Harvard in 1962. Later, as editor of the *Monitor* for nine years, he served on the Pulitzer selection board, and as president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. His biography, *Paper Boy to Pulitzer*, was published by Nebbadoon Press in 2014.

WESTPORT, Conn.: OPC member **Gordon Joseloff** recently gave a speech about his journalism career to the Y’s Men of Westport Weston, a club for retirees. His talk was titled “Westport to Westport: A Journalism Journey,” because he got his start reporting for the local newspaper and is now, at 70, the editor and publisher of WestportNow.com.

In between, he worked for United Press international and CBS News in New York, London, Moscow, Tokyo and other places. Joseloff has also served as a Westport selectman.

HOUSTON: A new campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the fate of journalist **Austin Tice**, who has been missing since August 2012. Tice disappeared while preparing to travel from Syria to Lebanon. He is believed to be held somewhere in the region, and not by ISIS. His family and Reporters Without Borders unveiled the #FreeAustinTice campaign in September. Supporters are encouraged to take a photo wearing a blindfold, to symbolize what the world would be like without journalists, and post it with the #FreeAustinTice hashtag. Partners in the effort include Gannett & *USA TODAY*, GlobalPost, Hearst Newspapers Group, National Press Club, Newseum, *The New York Times*, TalkRadioNews, The Atlantic Media Group, The GroundTruth Project, The Huffington Post, McClatchy Newspapers, and the *Washington Post*.

SAN FRANCISCO: *Vanity Fair* editor and OPC member **Graydon Carter** interviewed famed photographer Annie Leibovitz onstage at the magazine’s New Establishment Summit in early October. The invitation-only event also featured Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Lena Dunham, and dozens of other speakers. It promised “inventive programming and inspiring conversations around the ideas and innovations shaping the future.” In addition, Carter keeps high-profile company in a recent *Washington Post* story compiling some of the many people who’ve been called losers by Donald Trump. “Losers: A List by Donald Trump” also includes Bill Maher, Seth Meyers, Salon.com and the Huffington Post.

OPC member **Kristina Shevory** landed a long piece in the Summer

issue of *The Believer*, McSweeney’s literary magazine. “A Common Language” tells the story of a military and State Department vet who helps fellow veterans write their way through PTSD.



George Burns (1929-2015)

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime OPC member **George Burns** has died at age 86. Burns joined the OPC in 1965 and had just passed the 50-year mark as a member at the time of his death. He served as treasurer for many years and did extensive research and writing on the OPC’s history. Having helped lead the organization out of serious financial trouble in the mid-1990s, he is remembered by many as “the man who saved the OPC.” Born in Scranton, Penn., Burns began his career as a public information officer in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the military, he ran the *Pismo Beach Times* in California and then tackled communications roles at PAN AM, TWA and Citibank. “He loved the travel and the people, but most of all he had fun,” states his obituary. “He was never too busy to help a friend, or tell a joke, host a dinner party, or meet up in a bar.” His wife, Barbara, who maintained her husband’s membership even while he was suffering with Alzheimer’s Disease, has been given an Honorary Membership to the OPC.

To read more about George Burns’s contribution to the OPC, including a 2013 article from William J. Holstein, go to our web page at www.opcofamerica.org/news/people-remembered-george-burns.

In next month’s *Bulletin*, we will include remembrances from members who knew Burns. If you have a story to share, please email: patricia@opcofamerica.org.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

2015 is on pace to become the deadliest year for journalists on record, says the International Press Institute. According to the Institute's Death Watch, 61 members of the media have been killed this year in connection with their work or due to accidents in the field. Another 54 deaths are currently under review. The Institute began tracking journalist deaths in 1997, and recorded its highest number, 133, in 2012. "IPI's figures reveal the alarming extent to which journalists around the world are increasingly targeted for their reporting," IPI Executive Director Barbara Trionfi said. "The killing of a journalist is the most heinous way not only of silencing an individual report or the media of a particular country, but also of denying the public news and information to which it has a right."

The Index on Censorship is calling for nominations for the 2016 Freedom of Expression Awards to "call attention to some of the world's bravest journalists, artists, campaigners and digital activists." Winners are honored at a gala celebration in London, and receive training and support from the Index on Censorship's Awards Fellowship program. Nominations may be made at awards.indexoncensorship.org.

China caused surprise and consternation around the world in early September by publicly shaming a journalist from the well-regarded business magazine *Caijing*. Reporter Wang Xiaolu was forced to confess on China Central Television to writing a "sensational" and "irresponsible" story on the stock market. Luo Changping, a former deputy managing editor at *Caijing*, told *The New York Times* that the government seems to be growing more repressive toward media. "Maybe a few years ago, the line was higher," he said. "But now it's dropping lower

on everyone. Many journalists are saying that nowadays, there is no media that is safe."

At least seven journalists covering the refugee crisis on the Hungarian border have allegedly been assaulted by border police, *The Guardian* reports. Four were detained or questioned. The journalists, who were from a variety of countries and organizations, reported being hit with batons, kicked, knocked to the ground, and, in the case of Associated Press cameraman Luca Muzi, forced to delete footage showing a police dog knocking over a refugee.

Cyber activists in Thailand are protesting what they say is a plan to create a single government gateway for internet traffic, according to the *Bangkok Post*. The group says the gateway would cause "immeasurable harm" by giving the government control over the flow of information in and out of the kingdom.



Mauricio Alarcón-Salvador, co-director of free speech watchdog Fundamedios.

Ecuador has abandoned its effort to dissolve Fundamedios, the country's only press freedom organization. But the decision came with a warning that the proceedings could be restarted if the government feels the group is engaging in political activities. The government launched the effort on Sept. 5 after Fundamedios promoted two blogs critical of President Rafael Correa's administration, writes the International Press Institute. IPI Executive Director

Barbara Trionfi welcomed the decision but added that "the warning that accompanies SECOM's resolution is a clear offence against freedom of information. It represents an ultimatum seeking to intimidate the members that form part of Fundamedios and make their work of monitoring violations of press freedom in Ecuador more difficult."

Kurdish journalist **Massoud Aqeel** has been freed by Islamic State after nine months in captivity, but the fate of his colleague **Farhad Hamo** is still unclear, Al Jazeera reports. A freelance reporter, Aqeel was released in a prisoner exchange with Kurdish forces. Aqeel and Hamo were kidnapped in December 2014 while on assignment in north-eastern Syria for the Rudaw Kurdish media network.

One journalist has been arrested and a dozen others detained and questioned in the latest media crackdown in Azerbaijan, according to the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. The moves have targeted former and current employees of Meydan TV, a relative newcomer to the market that has criticized the Azerbaijani government and its policies. The regional news site Caucasian Knot reports journalist **Shirin Abbasov** was sentenced to 30 days of administrative arrest on unknown charges.

The Freedom of the Press Foundation has raised more than \$160,000 for a legal appeal by Wikileaks source **Chelsea Manning**. Manning, formerly known as Private Bradley Manning, was sentenced to 35 years under the Espionage Act in August 2013 for giving Wikileaks more than three-quarters of a million military and diplomatic documents. She is currently imprisoned at Forth Leavenworth, Kansas.

(Continued From Page 9)

MURDERS

- Colombian radio host **Flor Alba Nunez Vargas** was murdered by a lone gunman on Sept. 10 while standing outside the door of radio station in Pitalito, Huila. According to *The Mirror* (UK), Flor, 25, was known for her reporting on people trafficking and corruption.

- Two journalists have been shot dead in Karachi, Pakistan in a 24-hour period. Gunmen opened fire on

a Geo TV news van on Sept. 8, the *Times of India* reports, killing senior satellite engineer **Arshad Ali Jafri** and injuring the driver. On Sept. 9, a motorcyclist carrying a gun killed journalist **Aftab Alam** outside his home. Alam had worked with Geo TV in the past. It is not known whether the murders were related.

- Reporters without Borders and the Gulf Center for Human Rights say they have confirmed the death of noted Syrian cartoonist

Akram Raslan. Security forces detained Raslan in Hama in 2012 after he published cartoons critical of the Assad regime. According to the Center, he died under torture a few months later. Michael Cavanaugh of the *Washington Post* holds out hope that the reports are false, however. “Raslan’s cartoons have shined a light upon the violent and repressive darkness of Assad’s government,” writes Cavanaugh. “And so today, in the spirit of that intellectual beam of truth, we remember Raslan. And hope.”

(‘Protecting Reporters’ - Continued From Page 3)

and Executive Director Jane Reilly provided crucial logistical support. Attendees came from as far away as Europe, and included Diane Foley, mother of James Foley, who was murdered by ISIS in 2014. She now runs the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation. Frank Urrutia was there representing the family of Steven Sotloff, another murder victim, and their 2Lives Foundation. Marc and Deborah Tice, whose son, freelance reporter Austin Tice, disappeared in Syria in 2012, also made an appearance. (You will find a compelling story about the Tices’ struggles in a recent *Texas Monthly*.)

Attendees broke into committees to work on strategies for getting freelancers free safety and first aid training, insurance and easier access to security information. Some recent developments:

- The International Women’s Media Foundation has just released an app called Reporta, which reporters can use to check in with editors daily. The Reporta app also issues alerts if the reporter or one of her or his colleagues is in potential danger, and includes an SOS button to send a distress message to designated contacts. The app then shuts down to prevent access by kidnappers.

- Jorge Luis Sierra, a Mexican investigative reporter and Knight International Fellow at the International Center for Journalists, has developed an online tool that maps countries, using a color code, according to the level of violence and the number of attacks on journalists. Sierra developed the tool while he was a reporter in Iraq, and it is now also in use in Mexico, Panama and Colombia.

- Efforts to provide safety training and other services to journalists have mostly focused on Western reporters who risk forays into war zones. Denmark-based International Media Support concentrates on local reporters, who are often much more threatened by governments and malefactors determined to suppress the news. In Mexico, Sierra noted, 85 local reporters have been murdered since 2005. IMS works in about 25

countries; it was represented at the meeting by Susanna Inkinen, who helps run the Afghan Journalist Safety Committee.

One impediment to global cooperation: no one knows exactly how many freelancers are out there, and how many of them want or need services. To address this issue, in 2013 the London-based Frontline Club created the Frontline Freelance Register – “run by freelancers, for freelancers.” FFR has signed up 600 roving journalists “to provide members with representation and a sense of community.” All members must sign a code of conduct promising to obtain proper training and equipment before entering conflict zones. The group was represented by veteran Middle East reporter Emma Beals. At the meeting, AFP agreed to attempt a worldwide census of freelancers.

One purpose of the census is to create a viable insurance pool. Yet the meeting reinforced one dictum from the business world: you can insure anything. It turns out that even people who run toward danger can get insurance – and at a reasonable price. Medical and evacuation coverage is available, with limitations, from at least two companies: World Nomads and April Insurance.

One reason the participants in the Columbia meeting got together: there are too many competing sets of programs and guidelines. To begin to resolve that issue the Committee to Protect Journalists, IMS, Reporters Without Borders, Rory Peck Trust, the OPC and other groups are working to create a single platform that freelancers can use to obtain training, insurance and security information. The groups will meet periodically to assess progress.

Michael Serrill, former president of the OPC, is now himself a freelancer after a long career as a foreign editor at Time, Business Week and Bloomberg Markets magazine.

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Rod Nordland

By Trish Anderton

Rod Nordland is an international correspondent at large for *The New York Times*. He has worked as a reporter in more than 150 countries, with postings in Bangkok, Beirut, Baghdad, Cairo, Rome, Sarajevo, San Salvador, Islamabad, London, Kabul, and other places. Before coming to the *Times* in 2009 he was *Newsweek's* chief foreign correspondent, based in London. He began his foreign reporting career for his hometown paper, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, covering the [Far East] and Central America. Nordland's honors have included a share of a Pulitzer Prize for news, and he was also a finalist for a Pulitzer in international reporting. He has won two George Polk awards and several Overseas Press Club awards.

Hometown: Philadelphia.

Education: BA in journalism, Pennsylvania State University; Nieman fellowship, Harvard.

Languages: Bad French, fair Italian, bad Spanish, some English.

First job in journalism: Philadelphia Inquirer, metro rewrite and general assignment.

Countries reported from: Based in Thailand, El Salvador, Lebanon, Italy, Bosnia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Britain, Egypt, Cyprus, but all of my postings have been bases from which I traveled to other places. Presently based in Kabul, with a second home in London, where my immediate family is.

Year I joined OPC: I think probably 1985 but not sure. Certainly back in the 80s somewhere. (January 1985)

What drew me to overseas reporting: The school board beat on the Main Line of Philadelphia. As a reward for that thankless assignment, Gene Roberts, then the editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, sent me to cover the death of Pope Paul VI, and then again the death of his successor shortly later, John Paul I. It was both my first foreign assignment, and first foreign trip, and I was hooked.

Major challenge as a journalist: Work/life balance.

Best journalism advice received: Again from Gene Roberts, re: stories: zig when everyone else zags; re: logistics: always be sure to carry a book and a flask.

Worst experience as a journalist: Losing colleagues and friends.



Adam Ferguson

Rod Nordland reporting in Afghanistan.

When traveling, I like to: Sleep, especially if the road, or flight, is rough and there's nothing to see on the way. There is nothing better than waking up at the destination with all that unpleasantness completely missed.

Hardest story: Three Mile Island, particularly since I had not yet had children and was on stakeout during the meltdown.

Journalism heroes: Heywood Broun, Ernie Pyle, Jon Krakauer.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Find a place with a good story and no resident foreign journalists, and realize it's not going to be easy. Don't go to Syria, though. No one ethical will touch your stuff and you may lose your head.

Dream job: Correspondent at large for *The New York Times*. Favorite quote: You don't get lucky unless you take a chance.

Place you're most eager to visit: Thimpu, Bhutan and Shibam, Yemen

Most over-the-top assignment: Literally, Mount Everest base camp by helicopter, the year all those climbers died; altitude sickness is no joke.

Country most want to return to: Cambodia.

Twitter handle: @rodnordland

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

New Books

HISTORY

AS THE CIVIL WAR ERUPT-
ed in the U.S., Great Britain found itself in an awkward spot: opposed to slavery, yet dependent on Southern cotton to feed its large textile industry. Lord Palmerston, the British prime minister, flirted with the idea of recognizing the Confederacy – which could have been disastrous for the Union. Luckily for both the Northern states and the Brits, they had Robert Bunch on their side.

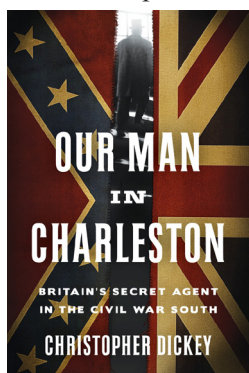
Bunch was sent to Charleston, South Carolina as a British consul in 1853. There he began leading a double life, courting plantation owners and pro-slavery politicians in public while privately urging his bosses in London to keep the South at arm's length. *Our Man in Charleston* [Crown Publishers, July], the latest book from OPC member Christopher Dickey, is his story.

Bunch was disgusted by the “peculiar institution” and never missed an opportunity to remind Palmerston, who was also per-

sonally opposed to slavery, that the Confederacy’s culture and economy were built on coerced black labor.

“The frightful evil of the system is that it debases the whole tone of society – for the people talk calmly of horrors which would not be mentioned in civilized society,” he wrote in one secret dispatch. “It is literally no more to kill a slave than to shoot a dog.”

In an interview with the *Charleston City Paper*, Dickey said he stum-



bled across Bunch while doing research for a book on British explorer Sir Richard Francis Burton. Dickey decided he didn’t much like Burton and didn’t want to write a book on him – but found himself drawn to Bunch and other consuls who had played a largely overlooked role in the diplomatic maneuverings surrounding the war.

As Dickey himself wrote in *The Daily Beast*, “Bunch was not outwardly heroic” and “his motives could be ambiguous.” But his double role, and his keen insights on the likely course of the conflict, make for a compelling tale.

“Dickey has written a book that is as much suspense and spy adventure as it is a history book,” writes *The Carolina Chronicles*. “A story as compelling as this one does not come around very often.”

MEMOIR

OPC MEMBER NEIL HICKEY’s memoir, *Adventures in the Scribbler Trade: The Most Fun You Can Have* [iUniverse, February 2015], is packed with fascinating portraits of the most memorable people and events he experienced in his long career.

There’s a seventy-ish Bob Dylan ordering a pastrami sandwich and a can of beer and talking about his craft (“Almost anything

else is easy except writing songs.”) And Kurt Vonnegut, whose “customary facial expression was one of brooding distraction,” Hickey writes, “but now and

again, as some egregious incongruity took him by surprise, the disheveled face writhed with mirth and was transformed.”

Joan Baez talks about growing up within her parents’ concept of Quakerism, in which “you reject pledging yourself to a nation-state, and instead, pledge yourself to all hu-

manity.” She demonstrated that principle by criticizing the victorious North Vietnamese regime for human rights abuses, and was pilloried for it by many in the peace movement. Looking back, she says people “saw these matters through only one eye, the left eye or the right. ... But one should be as willing to work for a woman in a Siberian labor camp as for someone in a Chilean torture chamber.”

The first half of the book is devoted to people and the second to events, including the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the Gulf War, and a wonderful chapter on space exploration before and after the Challenger disaster. *Adventures in the Scribbler Trade* is a compelling walk down memory lane for anyone who’s paid attention to the news in this half-century; Hickey’s passionate interest in his subjects makes it clear that journalism is in fact, for him, the most fun you can have.

— By Trish Anderton

Upcoming Events

**OPC Mixer
At the Half King
6:30 p.m., Oct. 21**

**Book Night:
Forgotten: The Untold
Story of D-Day’s Black
Heroes, at Home
and at War
6:30 p.m. Nov. 4**

**OPC Governor
Daniel Sieberg Explains
Google News Lab
6:30 p.m., Nov. 10**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Shreeya Sinha
Assistant Editor
The New York Times
Active Resident, 29 and under

Samuel Steinberger
Columbia School of Journalism
Student