

## Blumenstein to Address Scholars at OPC Foundation Awards Luncheon

By Jane Reilly

Rebecca Blumenstein, deputy editor-in-chief of *The Wall Street Journal*, will be the keynote speaker at the annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, at the Yale Club.



Rebecca Blumenstein

challenges today,” he said. “She has come to speak to our winners and understands our program very well. We are thrilled that another major news organization such as the *Journal* has become a

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She is the highest-ranking woman to lead the paper’s news organization to date has and also served as page-one editor, deputy managing editor, international editor and China bureau chief, overseeing China coverage for the *Journal*.

Bill Holstein, president of the OPC Foundation, was especially pleased to see Blumenstein headline the Foundation’s signature event. “Rebecca has earned her way to the top of a major news organization, having started out at regional newspapers and climbing the ladder at the *Journal* in part by living in China and winning a Pulitzer Prize. She thus has a commanding view of the news media’s

## Middle East Panel Set for March Reunion

### EVENT PREVIEW: March 1

On March 1, the OPC and International House will host a “Middle East Hands Reunion” for foreign correspondents who covered the region. Deborah Amos, the OPC’s first vice president, will moderate a panel to discuss the shifting geopolitical landscape and media coverage in the wake of recent changes. Amos covered the Middle East for NPR News and is now a domestic correspondent reporting on refugees in America. Panelists include: Mohammad Bazzi, an associate professor of journalism at New York University and a former Middle East bureau chief at *Newsday*; Rukmini Callimachi, a governor of the OPC and foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* who writes extensively about ISIS; Farnaz Fassihi,

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[Click here to RSVP for the Middle East Hands Reunion.](#)



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# Join a Mentorship Revolution for Women Journalists

By Kiran Nazish

The Coalition for Women in Journalism – a global peer-support network – is thrilled to begin launching chapters in twelve countries in the coming months. Starting this month, we launch in four countries: India, Pakistan, Turkey and Mexico. The coalition is a global network aimed at establishing the spirit of stewardship among woman journalists. Our network of individuals and organizations is working to help women journalists make the most of their skills and maximize understanding of the environment they work in. Developed to foster mentorship for women in the industry, we connect female journalists to mentors who can help and guide them through a complex assignment or situation. Mentorships are offered to applicants pro bono (with a \$12 processing fee) based on personal or professional need. Our mentorship network is created by established journalists who are masters of a beat, region or country. The coalition focuses on handling stress and trauma, and can offer mentorship and counseling for journalists looking to recover from a tough assignment or year.

Board members include Alexis Gelber, Janine di Giovanni, Kati Marton, David Rohde, Jay Newton Small and me, Kiran Nazish. Mentors include Salome Anderson, Rana Ayub (India), Alice Driver (Mexico), Dalia Ezzat (Middle East), Mac McClelland (Haiti) and Amna Nawaz (ABC News), among others.

As the number of women foreign correspondents and freelancers steadily increases, so has the number of

complaints about discrimination, sexual harassment and unhealthy competition that hampers women's careers. Coalition member and UMass Amherst Journalism Professor Shaheen Pasha said that women face "discrimination within newsrooms as much as they do in society. Of-

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Left to right: Arbana Xharra, editor-in-chief of Zeri; Una Hajdari, independent journalist; Jeta Xharra, editor-in-chief and country director, BIRN; Lura Limani, editor of Prishtina Insight; and Valerie Plesch, freelance journalist based in Kosovo, who moderated the panel.

(Middle East' Continued From Page 1)

senior writer at *The Wall Street Journal* focusing on the UN & global diplomacy after 14 years of covering wars and uprisings in the Middle East; and Ben Taub, a contributor to *The New Yorker* on jihadism in Europe and the war in Syria. Taub won the OPC Foundation's 2015 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship.

The event begins with a reception at International House, 500 Riverside Drive, at 6:30 p.m. The program follows at 7:30 p.m. in Davis Hall.

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# Experts Draw Crowd for Panel on U.S. Election Hacks

## EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

A standing-room crowd of more than 170 gathered at the Harriman Institute on Jan. 18 to hear thoughts from Russia experts about the uncertain relationship between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, the impact of Russian hackers on the U.S. presidential election, and the future of a shifting world order.

The event, co-sponsored by the OPC, the Harriman Institute and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, was held just two days before U.S. president Donald Trump's inauguration, and on the heels of a CIA Open Source division report on Jan. 9 strongly suggesting Russian interference in the election.

The declassified report concluded – with high confidence – that Putin had ordered an “influence campaign” to help Trump win the election.

Masha Gessen, author of *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin* and other books, was not convinced the CIA showed strong evidence to support its conclusions, saying the connection is thin between Russia's hacking of the Democratic National



Chad Bouchard

Left to right: Alexander Cooley, Will Englund, Masha Gessen, Kimberly Marten, and Paul Sonne.

Committee and the country's direct influence on the election outcome.

“I'm surprised that we're at a point where legacy media pick up products of illegal actions without debate,” she said, citing *New York Times* coverage of the story. “I mean they ran with the WikiLeaks publications the day after they appeared. The argument that's being made by the report of the intelligence agencies is that it was

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[Click here to watch video clips from the panel.](#)

## OPC Holiday Party Kicks Off 2017 Event Calendar



Patricia Kranz, left, and Minky Worden.



Left to right: Edith Lederer, Lilian King, Clarissa McNair, Deidre Depke, Abigail Pesta and Allan Dodds Frank.



Left to right: Albert Goldson, Robert Sullivan and Sandy Coliver.



Left to right: Allen Alter, Lindsay Krasnoff, Marcus Mabry and Terrell J. Starr.



Yvonne Dunleavy, left, and Linda Fasulo.



Left to right: Emma Daly, Evelyn Leopold, Andy Katell and Deborah Amos.

Photos: Chad Bouchard

full-fledged media partner.”

Blumenstein joined the *Journal* in 1995 as a reporter in the Detroit bureau, where she covered General Motors. She began her journalism career at *The Tampa Tribune*, and then moved to Gannett Newspapers and *Newsday*. She received a New York Newswomen’s Award in 1993 for best deadline writing for her coverage of the aftermath of the Long Island Railroad shootings. In 2003, she was part of a team that won the Gerald Loeb Award for deadline writing for coverage of WorldCom. She oversaw the China team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 2007. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she served as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper.

At the luncheon, the Foundation will award a combination of scholarships and fellowships to 15 graduate and undergraduate college students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. The winning recipients are from City University of New York, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, New York University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Florida, University of Missouri, University of Texas at Austin, and Yale. “Never has there been a time in our profession, our craft, when we need to work harder to defend the values we believe in, particularly as it relates to what is happening in the world,” added Holstein.

“Are we going to continue to support on-the-ground telling of truth or will we be swamped by non-truths and non-facts from the spinmeisters?” asked Holstein. “These young people are part of the answer to that question. They have excellent language skills and some have multiple passports. They have astute eyes for detail and the ability to capture the complexity of what they see in prose. They have the right stuff. They are ready to go.

“Even though the economic model that has long supported international journalism has taken a terrible beating, these winners inspire me every year because they want to travel down what I regard as the sacred path of bearing witness. They just want a chance. Our imperative is to help train them and keep them safe as they explore the world,” he said.

Events for the 2017 winners will last three days starting on Thursday afternoon, when for the first time, the Foundation will host two panels at Reuters for those award winners interested in business journalism or television news. That evening, Stephen Adler, editor-in-chief of Reuters, will host the traditional reception for current and past winners of OPC Foundation awards at the news organization’s Times Square headquarters. On Friday, be-

sides addressing a distinguished audience of more than 200 luncheon guests at the Yale Club, the award winners will meet with Holstein and veteran international journalists in a pre-luncheon breakfast and with several foreign editors following the luncheon. For many, said Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary awards.

For the third year in a row, on Saturday after the luncheon, the OPC Foundation will offer a day of risk assessment and situational training for the winners, this time at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Frank Smyth, president and founder of Global Journalist Security, a hostile environment training firm based in Washington DC, will again lead the program. Those who participated in the past called the experience invaluable. “We have a responsibility to make sure our winners engage in the world’s stories in ways that keep them safe,” said Holstein. “We will continue to do what we can, as fiscal sponsors of the ACOS Alliance, to see that journalists throughout the world have the training and support they need to do their jobs as well and as securely as possible.”

Up to 12 of this year’s winners will receive fellowships to work in the foreign bureaus of the Foundation’s media partners, including The Associated Press, Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, GroundTruth Project and *Forbes*. The fellowships will ensure that the awardees gain valuable experience and insight working with veteran editors and reporters. In 2016, the Foundation funded fellowships in bureaus across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East. The Foundation picks up the cost of the airfare and one to two months of living expenses for the winners.

Holstein is grateful to Bloomberg, which again hosted the judging in December, and to the dedicated panel of judges who chose the 2017 recipients: Allen Alter; Bob Dowling; Joe Flint and Michelle LaRoche of *The Wall Street Journal*; Allan Dodds Frank; Sharon Gamsin; Tim Ferguson of *Forbes Asia*; Sally Jacobsen; Felice Levin; Larry Martz; Marcy McGinnis; Kate McLeod; Ellen Nimmons of AP; David Rohde of Reuters; Charlie Sennott of The GroundTruth Project; Michael Serrill; Steve Swanson of the New York Botanical Garden; and Karen Toulon of Bloomberg. Holstein also served as a judge.

Luncheon tickets are \$85 for OPC members and \$150 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its three levels of giving: Benefactors, \$9,000; Patrons, \$6,000; and Friends, \$3,000. Tables seat 10. The reception is at 11:30 a.m.; the luncheon ends promptly at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly at 201 493-9087 or [foundation@opcofamerica.org](mailto:foundation@opcofamerica.org).



# Colleagues Celebrate John Morris' 100th Birthday

By Sonya K. Fry

Over 200 people celebrated OPC member John Morris' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Paris, but one person was absent – John himself. The previous week, John had an operation and could not be released from the hospital in time for the party, so he was Skyped in. His opening words: “this is the happiest and saddest day of my life.” John always loved a party, but he had to miss this very important one.

The OPC presented a proclamation, which was written by Mort Rosenblum, and we were eager to read it to John in person because we were sure he would enjoy it. Instead Gabriel Morris Moscovitz, John's grandson, made a video of the three OPC members, Vivienne Walt, Sonya Fry and Mort Rosenblum, each reading a line. We trust that John will be able to see and enjoy the video sometime soon. Mort said “I think he will laugh.”

John Morris has been an OPC member since 1954 when he was the executive editor of Magnum Photos. Since John was Robert Capa's editor at *Life* magazine he has always been a special member of the OPC family of journalists. The OPC has sponsored the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award since 1955 and it is one of the most prestigious award for photojournalists because it requires courage and enterprise.

Updated news on John's health: Gabriel sent this message: on Jan. 10: “My granddad is doing better! He's out of the hospital now and in a rehab facility nearby where he will be for at least a couple of weeks convalescing.”



Photos courtesy of Sonya Fry

**Top left: A signed proclamation in honor of John Morris.**

**Bottom left: Jim Bitterman of CNN, Vivienne Walt of TIME and Sonya Fry, former OPC executive director.**

**Bottom right: Fry and other attendees speak to Morris via Skype from the hospital.**

[Click here to watch a video of Mort Rosenblum reading the proclamation.](#)

(*'Russia' Continued From Page 3*)

RT that played a key role. It would be quite difficult to argue that Russia influenced the American election by using the *New York Times*.” RT, or Russia Today, is an international news channel funded by the Russian government.

Will Englund, Asia and Russia editor on *The Washington Post's* foreign desk, agreed that it is difficult to know how much impact the hacking really had.

“It may have helped to feed the scandal a little bit. [Hillary Clinton] did get nearly three million more votes than Trump did, so how can you say what motivated the 70,000 people in the three states that made the difference?” he said, adding that rumors of Russian influence “helps to shake things up a little bit, perhaps cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election the sanctity of the election. Perhaps that was really the intention.”

Englund served three tours as a Moscow correspondent, two for the *Baltimore Sun* and one for the *Post*, from 2010 to 2014, and was one of three co-recipients of the 1997 Whitman Bassow Award at the *Sun* for their “The Shipbreakers,” a series about U.S. Navy scrapping programs overseas.

Kimberly Marten, director the U.S.-Russia relations program at Harriman, said Russia had tried many times to influence Western elections, with “singularly unsuccessful” results.

“Maybe [Putin] actually blew it,” she said, “because the intervention was so ham-handed that it was easy for CrowdStrike to figure out what was going on. He never intended to have this made as public as it was.”

CrowdStrike is the private firm that identified the fingerprints of Russian hackers in the leaks.

Paul Sonne, Pentagon correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, said

U.S. intelligence agencies could be reluctant to disclose how they arrived at conclusions about the influence for fear of putting sources at risk.

“The flip side of the argument is that they don't have the goods,” he said. “So then we're in this tricky position of being asked to simply believe in the conclusion of this great American institution at a time when we are probably in one of the greatest crises of faith in institutions in America.”

Sonne writes about national security and was the *Journal's* Moscow correspondent from 2013 to 2016. He was the OPC Foundation's 2008 Stan Swinton scholar and served as intern in AP's Moscow bureau. He was also part of a *Wall Street Journal* team that won the OPC's 2011 Malcolm Forbes Award for “Censorship Inc.,” a series of articles on how Western and Chinese tech companies enabled Iran, Egypt, Libya and Syria to spy on dissidents.

## PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

### OPC SCHOLARS

**Simon Akam**, the 2009 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholar, has been named a 2017 fellow at the Carey Institute for Global Good's Logan Nonfiction Program for 2017. Akam will continue working on his Penguin Random House book on the recent evolution of the British Army. The Logan Nonfiction Program supports deeply-reported, longform nonfiction about the most pressing issues of the day and helps to disseminate it on a variety of media platforms.

**Tess Taylor's** second book of poetry, *Work & Days*, was named among the best poetry books of 2016 by *The New York Times*. Taylor won the 2004 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F.Stone.

**Sophia Jones**, Reuters Scholarship winner in 2012, has joined the Fuller Project for International Reporting as a senior editor and journalist reporting from Istanbul and surrounds. She has spent the last three years as a Middle East correspondent for the Huffington Post. The Fuller Project is a global team of journalists, photographers and filmmakers and researchers dedicated to in-depth and independent reporting, with an emphasis on the traditionally underrepresented role of women in media. Their articles regularly appear in *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, CNN, *TIME*, *VICE*, *ELLE*, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian* and other outlets.

**Derek Kravitz** is now a contributing research editor at ProPublica. Previously, he was a reporter and editor for the Greater New York section of *The Wall Street Journal*; a national economics writer for The Associated Press in



Kravitz

Washington, D.C.; a local government and transportation staff writer at *The Washington Post*; and a crime reporter at the *Columbia Daily Tribune* in Missouri. He was also a postgraduate research scholar at Columbia University, and co-authored the journalism school's independent review of *Rolling Stone* magazine's now-retracted campus rape story. Kravitz won the 2014 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F.Stone.

**Matt Whittaker**, the Stan Swinton winner in 2004, is now a contributing writer at *US News & World Report*, where he covers natural resources. His work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's* and other international publications. Whittaker has reported from the Americas, Europe and Asia.

**Pete Vernon**, 2016 Theo Wilson winner, is now a Delacorte Fellow at the Columbia Journalism Review. He did an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Johannesburg.

### WINNERS

**The GroundTruth Project** will receive an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award on Jan. 25 for the two episodes of its Foreverstan project, "The Girls' Schools" and "Razia's Way." The episodes focus on the efforts of one Afghan woman from Massachusetts who returned to her country to educate girls. GroundTruth is a nonprofit international news organization founded and headed by OPC member Charles Sennott. Foreverstan combines video, podcasts, text and photos to document America's longest war – the conflict in Afghanistan.

### UPDATES

**NEW YORK:** OPC member **Daniel Berehulak's** harrowing ac-

count of extrajudicial killings in Manila for *The New York Times* has sent ripples across social media. The story is an "instant Pulitzer contender," tweeted *The Wall Street Journal's* James Grimaldi, while the BBC's Nomia Iqbal called it "astonishing journalism." Berehulak spent 35 nights on the streets of the Philippines' capital, photographing and writing about the victims of government-sponsored death squads that have targeted alleged drug users and dealers. One of the images was included in *TIME's* list of the top ten photos of 2016.



Berehulak

**Apple** has removed the *New York Times* news app from the Chinese version of its app store, citing a request by Chinese authorities. According to the *Times*, the government has been blocking its websites since 2012 when it published a series of stories on riches accrued by relatives of then-Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. The *International Business Times* called the move the "highest profile instance of Apple's acquiescence to China's efforts to censor certain content."

**The Committee to Protect Journalists** saw a spike in donations after Meryl Streep gave them a very high-profile callout at the Golden Globe Awards. Streep used her acceptance speech for the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement to criticize Trump and highlight the importance of independent media. "We need the principled press to hold power to account, to call them on the carpet for every outrage," Streep said. "So I only ask the famously well-heeled Hollywood foreign press and all of us in our community to join me in supporting the Committee to Protect Jour-

nalists, because we're going to need them going forward, and they'll need us to safeguard the truth." The CPJ received about 500 online donations after the remarks aired, according to Poynter.org.

*The New York Times* will consolidate its space and begin subletting "at least eight floors" at its headquarters, according to Politico. "The current way we have configured our office makes us slower and less collaborative. It is also, frankly, too expensive," wrote *Times* publisher Arthur Sulzberger and president and CEO Mark Thompson in a note obtained by the news site. Sulzberger and Thompson added that their large offices would be eliminated in the new layout.

OPC member **Seymour Topping** celebrated his 95th birthday in Scarsdale in December with "children, grandchildren and great grandchildren plus so many to whom 'Top' gave a start in the business," according to Politico. Topping worked for 34 years at *The New York Times* as a foreign correspondent and top editor. He later spent nearly a decade as the administrator of the Pulitzer Prize at Columbia University, retiring in 2002.

**The Associated Press** is laying off two dozen employees in its global news operation, Politico reports. "Like so many media companies, especially in the news business, AP must reduce expenses in order to continue to provide its objective, indispensable news report around the world," the newswire said in a statement. At least two of the cuts targeted the statehouse bureau in Albany, NY.

OPC member **Cyma Rubin** has launched an exhibit of Korean War photos that languished for years in the photographer's basement. Former AP photojournalist Max Desfor called Rubin to offer her the images in 2013. She had the black-and-white negatives converted into a digital format. "When I put that

disc up on the computer, I couldn't believe what I saw," she told the *Columbus Dispatch*, adding that she was moved by the images' "humanity." The 36 photos recently made their US debut at the Ohio History Center.

ISIS's vaunted propaganda machine is stumbling, a reflection of the pressure the terror group is facing in Syria and Iraq, OPC member **Kathleen Caulderwood** writes for VICE News in a piece co-bylined by Nick Miriello. Researchers have found that the group's posts to its official channels dropped to just under 200 in August 2016, from 700 in August 2015. "Statehood is essential to the IS brand," said Mara Revkin, a resident fellow at Yale Law School's Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization, adding that it's uncertain how well the group can continue recruiting members and funders since it has "failed to live up to its slogan of 'remaining and expanding.'"

*New York Times* veteran **Ian Fisher** will be the paper's next Jerusalem bureau chief. His previous positions include East Africa bureau chief and Rome bureau chief. Reuters has named **Simon Robinson** as its regional editor for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Robinson has been with the wire agency since 2010. Meanwhile, The Associated Press has promoted veteran reporter and editor **Michael Weissenstein** from Cuba bureau chief to Caribbean news director.

**WASHINGTON, DC:** *The Washington Post* is adding "dozens of journalists" to its staff, publisher and CEO Fred Ryan told Politico in late December. Ryan declined to name an exact figure but the news site, citing unnamed sources, estimated it at more than 60. Ryan wrote in a memo to staffers that the paper would "finish this year as a profitable and growing company." He said digital ad revenue and subscrip-

tions were sharply up in 2016, and he singled out the *Post's* campaign coverage for praise.

Election-season hacking "was not something that was done casually, this was not something that was done by chance," NSA Director Adm. Michael Rogers told OPC member **Rebecca Blumenstein** at a *Wall Street Journal* election forum in mid-November. "This was a conscious effort by a nation state to attempt to achieve a specific effect." Rogers said the answer to cyberattacks must be an integrated approach by the public and private sectors, and he urged the public to get involved. Blumenstein has been deputy editor in chief of the *Journal* since 2013.

**PHILADELPHIA:** Liberian journalism is suffering a "brain drain" as NGOs lure talented journalists away with offers of better pay, OPC member **Prue Clarke** told the Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas in late October. "If anyone has a chance to earn a good wage in government or aid agency they will go there," she told the gathering. "In many cases we are getting hustlers, who see journalism as a way to get money before stepping into an aid or government job." Clarke said media organizations in many parts of Africa must pay journalists better in order to develop the profession. She is the co-founder and executive director of New Narratives, a project supporting independent media in Africa, and director of the International Reporting Program at CUNY.

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA:** Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist, has given the Poynter Institute a million dollars for a five-year program on fact-checking, accountability and ethics in journalism. "I want to stand up for trustworthy journalism, and I want to stand against deceptive and fake news," said Newmark in an announcement. The gift is the largest in Poynter's 41-year history.

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**SAN FRANCISCO:** Online publishing platform **Medium** has laid off 50 people, “mostly in sales, support, and other business functions,” according to a message from Ev Williams, its founder and CEO. Williams wrote that the company was trying to break away from an ad-driven system to “find a new model for writers and creators to be rewarded, based on the value they’re creating for people.”

**TORONTO:** Print is not dead, declared OPC member **John R. MacArthur** at a forum hosted by the Canadian Journalism Foundation in November. “We’re finding (through) our subscriber surveys, that the vast majority of our readers still prefer to read on paper,” the *Harper’s* president and publisher said, as quoted by the British media organization FIPP. “I want to dispute the premise that there is still gold in them there digital hills,” he added. “If we just figure out how to monetize it, or how to manipulate the digits ... I just don’t buy it.” *Harper’s* currently allows users to read one free article per month on its website but requires a print subscription to read more.

**DHAKA:** OPC member **Hasan Mahmud** was recently honored by the Srejon Laletocola Academy, a Dhaka-based arts and cultural organization. Mahmud has been a reporter for newspapers and TV in Bangladesh for over twenty years; his reporting has included the conflict in South Sudan, the World Trade Organization, and, in 2016, covering the U.N. from New York.

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Investigative reporter **Phillip Knightley** died on Dec. 7 at age 87 in London. Knightley, an Australian, began working at the *Sunday Times of London* in the 1960s, giving the newspaper a new investigative heft. He famously exposed the birth defects associated with the morning-sickness drug Thalidomide in the 1970s, and un-

covered previously secret facts about KGB mole Kim Philby. His book *The First Casualty*, about war correspondents’ struggles with government influence and their own biases, won the OPC Award for Best Book on Foreign Affairs in 1975.

**Iva Drapalova**, who covered Soviet-era Czechoslovakia for The Associated Press, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times* and other outlets, died at age 91 on Dec. 31. The AP hired Drapalova as a translator in 1968, the year the USSR invaded. After the agency’s correspondent left the country, she began filing copy herself. She worked under continuous surveillance during two decades of Soviet rule; in 1989, she obtained thousand-page file on her activities that had been amassed by the secret police.

Irish journalist **Austin Hunter**, who reported on Northern Ireland dur-

ing the height of its sectarian conflict, died in Bahrain on Dec. 3. He was 64. Austin was a television and radio reporter for 10 years at the BBC before moving over to lead the broadcaster’s public relations department in Belfast. Hunter was struck by a car in Bahrain while working for the nonprofit Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas.

**Clare Hollingworth**, the reporter who broke the story of the start of World War II, died in Hong Kong on Jan. 10. She was 105. Hollingworth had been a journalist for less than a week when she saw tanks massing on the German-Polish border and filed a story for the *Daily Telegraph* predicting imminent invasion. She went on to report from all over the world, including Vietnam, Algeria, India, Pakistan, China and Jerusalem. Hollingworth spent her last few decades in Hong Kong, where she was a regular at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sabra Ayres  
Freelance  
Belgrade, Serbia  
Active Overseas

Pak Ling Cheng  
Apple Daily  
Correspondent  
New York  
Active Resident – Young  
(29 or under)

Sima Diab  
Freelance  
Cairo  
Active Overseas

Mellissa Fung  
Freelance  
London  
Active Overseas

Emily Gogolak  
Freelance  
New York  
Active Resident – Young  
(29 or under)

Larissa Karr  
Asheville, NC  
Student

Henry Peck  
Freelance  
Beirut  
Active Overseas – Young  
(29 or under)

Theo Padnos  
Freelance  
Paris  
Active Overseas

Krithika Varagur  
Freelance  
Jakarta  
Active Overseas – Young  
(29 or under)



# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Due to Turkey's crackdown on journalism, the number of **journalists in prison** worldwide hit its highest level in 2016 since the Committee to Protect Journalists began detailed tracking in 1990. Turkey accounts for 81 of the 259 jailed journalists; the next-biggest offenders are China, Egypt, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Iran fell out of the top five since many arrested in a 2009 crackdown have served their terms and been released. The vast majority of journalists jailed worldwide work online and/or in print. Twenty of the 259 are female.

Longtime OPC member **Rod Nordland** was denied entry to Turkey on Jan. 17. The veteran *New York Times* reporter was detained on arrival at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, then forced to fly to London. The Turkish government has offered no explanation. *Times* executive editor Dean Baquet, also an OPC member, said in a statement that "The Turkish government's action is an affront to freedom of the press and an effort to keep the world from having access to independent reporting from Turkey."

**Journalist murders** were on track to end lower in 2016, according to the CPJ. The press freedom organization found that at least 48 journalists were killed in connection to their work between Jan. 1 and Dec. 15, 2016. It is probing at least 27 other deaths to determine whether they were connected to the victims' work. Combat and crossfire deaths ticked upward to 26. More than half of the killings were attributable to political groups, including Islamist militants. Photographer and camera operator were the most dangerous jobs, and nine out of 10 journalists killed were local. The International Press Institute found that at least 81 journalists worldwide were killed

in relation to their work, which was also a decline in comparison to previous years.

OPC member **John Daniszewski** posed a pointed question about press freedom in Azerbaijan to President Ilham Aliyev at the News Agencies World Congress in Baku on Nov. 17. Noting that there are several journalists behind bars there, Daniszewski asked Aliyev to outline "steps you might take to reassure the world about Azerbaijan and press freedom." According to a transcript on the president's official website, Aliyev replied that "freedom of press is wholly provided in Azerbaijan" and that there are many countries where "journalists commit crimes and then they are prosecuted." He then criticized the U.S. for its treatment of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. Daniszewski is vice president and editor at large for standards at The Associated Press. The CPJ ranked Azerbaijan 5th on its list of most censored countries in 2015.

**Pete Vernon**, the 2016 OPC Foundation Theo Wilson Scholar, feels journalists missed an opportunity to stand in solidarity at a January press conference where President-Elect Trump refused to take a question from CNN. In the heat of the moment, Vernon writes in the *Columbia Journalism Review*, "it's understandable that no one stopped to consider the implication of Trump's actions." But he wishes the rest of the news scrum had picked up the same line of questioning, or even refused to ask more questions until Trump acknowledged CNN. "As an industry, we must be prepared for more moments like today's, and we must be ready to respond accordingly," he concludes.



Vernon

Michael Dames

Vernon is currently a CJR Delacorte Fellow.

Peruvian journalist **Marco Antonio Ramón** may lose the vision in his left eye after being shot with rubber bullets while covering protests in Lima in early January. Ramón, 25, has traveled to the U.S. for treatment. He is a reporter for newspaper *Peru21*. According to the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, local news reported that police were firing in the faces of both protesters and journalists.

Reporter **Nazmul Huda** was arrested while covering a strike by garment workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh in late December. According to Reporters Without Borders, he was charged with reporting false information and encouraging the strike. Huda is said to be the only journalist to expose structural problems at Dhaka's Rana Plaza factory before it collapsed in 2013, killing more than a thousand workers. He works for *Bangla Daily* and Ekushey TV.

The offices of popular Tanzanian website Jamii Forum were raided in December, and its founder and two employees arrested. The press freedom organization Article 19 reports that founder and editor **Maxence Melo** was detained for refusing to disclose the names of several contributors who posted "controversial content." He has since been charged under the country's controversial cyber-crimes law. Jamii Forum is known for intense discussions of politics and corruption among its commenters.

Uzbek journalist **Muhammad Bekzhanov** is due to be released this month after 17 years in prison. But the CPJ reports he has been moved to solitary confinement, and his fam-

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

ily fears the state is preparing to extend his sentence yet again. Bekzhahnov was editing a pro-opposition newspaper in Ukraine when he was extradited in 1999 along with Yusuf Ruzimuradov, a reporter for the paper. The two were sentenced to 14 and 15 years, respectively, on charges including publishing a banned newspaper and attempting to overthrow the government. They have since had their sentences extended, and have been imprisoned longer than any journalists in the world, according to CPJ data.

## MURDERS

- Filipino newspaper editor **Larry Que** was shot to death in the Catanduanes province town of Virac on Dec. 19, according to the CPJ. Que was the publisher of *Catanduanes News Now*, a weekly community newspaper established less than a year ago. He also wrote a column for the paper, and owned a local insurance company. According to lo-

cal news reports, Que had recently written a column accusing officials of negligence in the case of an illegal methamphetamine laboratory in the province.

- Activists claim a sports journalist murdered in Riffa, Bahrain on Dec. 23 was killed by a member of the nation's royal family. A man shot **Eman Salehi**, 28, in the street while her six-year-old son watched from their car, according to *The Telegraph* (UK). He then immediately turned himself in to police. Members of Bahrain Watch, a human rights group, told the AP the killer was a member of the ruling al-Khalifa family. Salehi was a popular reporter on state-run television.

- Newspaper reporter **Ko Soe Moe Tun** was found dead in Monywa, northwestern Myanmar, on Dec. 13, with bruises and wounds to the head. His wife told the *Myanmar Times* she believed his killing was related to reporting he was doing

on illegal logging and timber smuggling. The 35-year-old had worked for Eleven Media News for two years.

- Radio journalist **Jesus Adrian Rodriguez Samaniego**, 41, was shot to death in his car outside his Chihuahua City home on the morning of Dec. 10. Rodriguez was a veteran journalist who reported on state and municipal government and politics for GRD Multimedia at Antena 102.5 FM in Chihuahua City, according to the *El Paso Times*. "He was born to be a reporter," his employer said in a statement.

- **Brajesh Kumar**, a journalist for a Hindi daily, was shot dead in Salakhni village in the state of Bihar, eastern India on Jan. 3. It was the third murder of a journalist in Bihar in nine months. *The Hindustan Times* reports people in an SUV opened fire on Kumar as he stood talking to laborers outside his house. He was 28 years old.

(*'Mentorship' Continued From Page 2*)

ten socially accepted behavior becomes accepted within the newsroom. Mentorship is critical to guide women on how to navigate a relatively changing environment."

Though increasing numbers of women are breaking into foreign reporting, women still receive proportionately less recognition for their work than men. In the last two decades, nearly three times more Pulitzers have gone to men than women for foreign reporting. Over the last ten years, the OPC's Robert Capa Gold Medal for photojournalism was awarded to nine men and one woman. Why are these numbers so low? Research published by the Women's Media Center and various other outlets show women journalists still lag behind male counterparts in terms of opportunity.

The coalition aims to understand why these numbers have not improved, what needs of women journalists are not getting addressed and how mentors can help sharpen goals and strengthen journalism.

Coalition members spoke to 120 women journalists, including editors and reporters, in twelve countries about their experience working in the field. We learned that women face sexual harassment and security threats from various sources in the course of their work, includ-

ing from male bosses and colleagues.

Many women journalists suffer from stress, PTSD, postpartum depression, anxiety and a number of other mental health issues that we found thorough our networks. In conversations with many of these women, we found that these symptoms stem from feelings of isolation, discontent and worthlessness.

Saba Eitizaz, a coalition mentor for the Pakistan chapter, said this stress negatively effects journalists' performance in the field.

Discrimination is often carried out unconsciously, and can be fought with knowledge and awareness. We are working with faculty at NYU, UMass Amherst and Harvard Kennedy School to learn more about the science of bias and other cultural and behavioral factors that foster gender discrimination within the industry.

We need your support and participation to better understand the needs of women journalists working abroad. If you have any suggestions or would like to offer or seek mentorship, email [kiran.nazish@gmail.com](mailto:kiran.nazish@gmail.com). We will be happy to assist with basic mentorship training for those who would like to learn more. Follow the coalition on twitter @CfWiJ for more updates.

*OPC member Kiran Nazish freelances for the Los Angeles Times and Al Jazeera.*



# Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Deborah Steinborn

By Trish Anderton

As an American journalist living in Hamburg, Germany, **Deborah Steinborn** covers economics, politics and society. She has interviewed heads of state from Europe to Asia and heads of corporations from Starbucks to Berkshire Hathaway. A Knight-Bagehot fellow in business journalism at Columbia University from 2001 to 2002, she has received a German Marshall Fund grant and a Dow Jones & Co. Award for Excellence in Journalism. Steinborn's work has been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes Magazine*, *Die Zeit*, *Financial Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Businessweek*, and other outlets. She is author of a book on women in the global economy.



Deborah Steinborn

**Hometown:** Queens, New York (just down the road from Donald Trump's childhood home).

**Education:** BA from Binghamton University, Masters degrees in Journalism and International Affairs from Columbia University.

**Languages:** English and German.

**First job in journalism:** Production assistant for the public radio and television broadcaster *Deutsche Welle* in Cologne, Germany. I was hooked on journalism my very first day there.

**Countries reported from:** Germany, the U.K., Iceland and pretty much all the continental European countries, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, South Africa...and of course the U.S.

**Year you joined the OPC:** 2001.

**What drew you to business reporting?** I minored in business and economics in college. At the time, I thought it was a little boring. But one of my first assignments as a reporter was to cover Polish car theft rings in Germany. I saw how it all fit together – economics, politics, the lives of ordinary people. A car thief told me all the jobs in his town had dried up after the Berlin Wall fell. The only hospital in that town had shut down as a result and no one could get proper medical care. So he and a group of friends in town, including a policeman, had set up this “business” of used, stolen cars in order to revive their town.

**Major challenge as a journalist:** Getting billionaires to talk. One of my regular freelance gigs is for the annual Forbes Billionaires List. I've been by turns

ignored, yelled at, bullied and threatened.

**Best journalism advice received:** Don't follow the pack (from a wise old professor at Columbia University).

**Worst experience as a journalist:** It's a toss-up between being shot at in the Cambodian countryside and a particularly grueling interview with a German billionaire.

**When traveling, you like to...** talk to locals, chat with people on the street. Go for a walk or a run to explore the neighborhood. Shop at a supermarket and talk to the deli counter folks.

**Journalism heroes:** Martha Gellhorn. Edward R. Murrow. I love to read Jane Kramer in *The New Yorker*.

**Advice for journalists who want to work overseas:** Pick a place you like. Do your research before moving. And beware: you might wind up staying longer than expected.

**Most over-the-top assignment:** Probably the weirdest reporting trip I ever took was to Iceland shortly after the global financial crisis of 2008. It's such a small country that everyone knows everyone else. A stranger even stopped me on the street one day, asked me if I was Deborah, then started gossiping about other people I was trying to track down. One of them was in jail, she told me, just across the street. She offered to take me there for a visit.

**Twitter handle:** @deborahsteinbor

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

# New Books

## CHINA

**W**HEN THE SONS OF LIBERTY famously dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor in December 1773, they were striking back at England – but the tea they upended into the chilly waters hailed from China. That’s just one of the factoids John Pomfret dangles in *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present* [Henry Holt and Co., November 2016] as he builds his case that America’s future has been bound up with China’s since birth. “Chinese and Americans

arouse deeply conflicting feelings in each other,” he writes. “Yet no other two nations’ mutual dependence is as vital to the fate of the world as the one between these two great powers.”

A former correspondent for the *Washington Post*, Pomfret shared the OPC’s Malcolm Forbes Award in 2000 with his colleagues there. In this thoroughgoing book, a hefty 700 pages long, he explores the vital

role of China in American development. He details how profits from trading with China fueled American industrialization, and Chinese labor built the American West. Today, Chinese-made goods fill every American home. Meanwhile, the U.S. has exported its culture, religions and ideas to China. A young Mao admired George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, and Xi Jinping sent his daughter to Harvard even while criticizing U.S. influence on his country.

“If the new leadership in Washington wishes to get a sense of the broad sweep of American history with China, I can think of few better places to start than this book,” writes Howard W. French in the *Wall Street Journal*. The *South China Morning Post* says Pomfret “does a masterful job of presenting the good, the bad and the ugly from generations of interactions.”

## FREELANCING

**“U**PROOTING YOUR LIFE and traveling across the world without the guarantee of a steady paycheck is not something to take lightly,” writes Steve Dorsey in *The Global Freelancer: Telling and Selling Foreign News* [Focal Press, July 2016]. “It can end relationships, plunge you into debt, and even *stall* your career. But if you’re successful, the move could re-energize your love of journalism, allow you to make the world your office, introduce you to characters and people who could

transform your global outlook, and push your limits.”

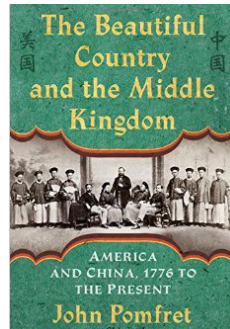
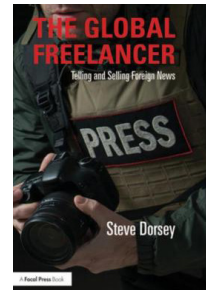
Dorsey is currently an Executive Editor/Correspondent for CBS News Radio. He previously freelanced out of Istanbul, Moscow and Brisbane. For those interested in following in his footsteps, he lays out a detailed path to deciding whether and where to launch a freelance career.

Early chapters deal with issues like choosing a destination, including factors like cost of living, competition for strings, safety, ease of reporting, and the quality of life you’re likely to have in your chosen destination. Dorsey outlines strategies for networking with colleagues in-country, as well as developing sources and finding news.

Later sections are devoted to managing money and producing stories, with a focus on new media and social media. The final chapter discusses how to weigh the risks of conflict zones, and how to prepare to report from them. The appendices are packed with practical reference materials, such as a sample invoice and a detailed checklist for assessing the riskiness of conflict zones. Dorsey draws on his own experiences, and those of other freelancers, to root the book in the contemporary freelance landscape.

In a review for SAGE Journals, Giovanna Dell’Orto calls *The Global Freelancer* a “practical book that every journalism student (or, really, anyone else) keen to cover foreign news should read.”

— **By Trish Anderton**



## Upcoming Events

**OPC Mixer  
at The Half King  
6:00 p.m. Jan. 25**

**Middle East Hands  
Reunion  
6:30 p.m. March 1**