



# Overseas Press Club of America

## BULLETIN

### OPC Awards Celebrate Importance and Impact of Free Press

#### EVENT RECAP

BY TRISH ANDERTON

**I**N A year marked by attacks on both journalists and journalism itself, foreign correspondents gathered April 27 to celebrate their work and honor the sacrifices many have made in order to report the news.

"At no time in our country's history have all of us in this room had a greater collective mission," keynote speaker Jeff Zucker, president of CNN Worldwide, told a packed room at the OPC Annual Awards Dinner at the Mandarin Oriental. "There are more and more places in the world where many news organizations have stopped going because of the inherent dangers. There are repressive govern-

ments around the world targeting journalists, and social media platforms allowing violent non-state actors to put out misinformation, putting the onus on us to put more boots on the ground to do credible reporting for our audiences.

"Covering the world has never been more dangerous, more complex, and more important," Zucker concluded.

With more than 430 entries, this year's 22 award categories were highly competitive. They reflected a large, diverse and troubled world – from the resource-starved mental hospitals of Venezuela to the long-suffering cities and towns of Syria.

Meridith Kohut claimed the Feature Photography Award for her gripping photos of mental



Lydia Polgreen, presenter

STEVE MOORE

patients in Venezuela. As Kohut documented in *The New York Times*, more than 85 percent of the psychiatric medicines these institutions need are unavailable or extremely difficult to obtain. The patients are ravaged by mental illness and physical deprivation.

"There isn't enough food and most patients are underweight," Kohut said. "There's running water for only a few hours a day,

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### OPC to Screen Sneak Preview of 'Letters From Baghdad'

#### EVENT PREVIEW: MAY 17

**D**OCUMENTARY MAKERS Sabine Krayenbuhl and Zeva Oelbaum will discuss their new film *Letters from Baghdad* following a sneak preview for OPC members and guests at International House on May 17.

Also joining the panel will be Lamia Al Gailani Werr, a British-

Iraqi archaeologist and expert in the establishment of the Iraq Museum; and Lisa Anderson, a specialist on politics in the Middle East and North Africa who was president of The American University of Cairo from 2011 to 2016. Previously, Anderson was dean of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and director of the university's

Middle East Institute.

The film, which is voiced by Academy Award winning actor Tilda Swinton, debuts June 2. *Letters from Baghdad* is the story of Gertrude Bell, a British spy, explorer and political powerhouse. Bell traveled widely in Arabia before being recruited by British military intelligence during WWI to help draw the borders of Iraq and as a

result helped shape the modern Middle East. Many of the ancient sites she visited and photographed have been destroyed by ISIL. The preview begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m. at International House, 500 Riverside Drive, and the screening gets underway at 6:30 p.m. ❖

Click here  
to RSVP for the  
screening

# Filmmakers Junger and Quested to Screen 'Hell on Earth'

**EVENT PREVIEW: MAY 24**

**T**HE OPC is hosting a special screening and discussion of the documentary *Hell on Earth: The Fall of Syria and the Rise of ISIS*, with filmmakers Sebastian Junger and Nick Quested.

The film places in historical-context the atrocities of this brutal paramilitary group, tracing the roots of ISIS to the rebel movement against Bashar al-Assad in Syria as well as U.S. mishandling of the aftermath of the Iraq War. *Hell on Earth* was cut from 1,000 hours of footage that includes that of a family living under ISIS control that finally fled to Turkey, Kurdish fighters in Sinjar and Shia militias in Iraq as well as al-Qaida-affiliated fighters in and around Aleppo and Raqqa.

The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 in the Priestly Room at Club Quarters at 40 West 45th Street. ❖

Click here  
to RSVP for the  
screening

## 'Annual Awards Dinner' Continued From Page 1

and no funds for any other supplies. There's no soap, no shampoo, no toothpaste and no toilet paper. All of this in the country with the largest known oil reserves in the world."

Photographer Daniel Berehulak of *The New York Times* received the Olivier Rebbot Award for his chilling report on extrajudicial killings in Manila.

"Over the course of 35 days in the Philippines I watched how the anti-drug campaign of the country's president, Rodrigo Duterte, became an assembly line of state-sanctioned murder," Berehulak said. "I saw bodies stacked like firewood in a morgue, on sidewalks, near train tracks, and 7-Elevens, and McDonalds, across bedroom mattresses and living room sofas.

"In Duterte's war you don't need to be guilty to be marked. Most of the victims I saw were killed by police, assassins and vigilantes with utter impunity."

Several awards recognized excellence in reporting on Syria and ISIS. Among them were Bryan Denton and Sergey Ponomarev of *The New York Times*, who won the Robert Capa Award for "What ISIS Wrought." The David Kaplan Award went to CNN's Clarissa Ward for her coverage of the Syrian war.

After six years of "horrific atrocities," she said, it's a challenge to keep reporting on the conflict: "We all know what's happening. The world knows what's happening. The bloodshed continues, and so we must continue. And it's really that simple. It's our duty."

Some stories had happier endings. The GroundTruth Project and PBS POV shared the Edward R. Murrow Award. Their video focused on an all-girls school in a village north of Kabul. The school offered young women in the area their first chance at an education.

"One of the things that I love

about working on documentary films is we're able to build impact campaigns around them," Beth Murphy of GroundTruth explained. "The impact campaign for this film was to build a college in the same village – a girls' college. And I'm very happy to say that the college opened just three weeks ago."

A new prize made its debut this year. The Peter Jennings award honors the best TV program, video or documentary about international affairs one hour or longer. The late anchor's family has made a long term commitment to supporting the award. His widow, Kaycee Freed Jennings, presented it to HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel for "The Lords of the Rings," which exposed the corruption and exploitation at the heart of the Olympic Games.

"The Lords of the Rings" represents what Peter believed in – what he admired, and what, as an anchor with muscles to flex, he supported," she said; "Smart, gutsy reporting, the kind that takes on the powerful and the powerfully corrupt."

Many of the award winners pointed out that their work was not theirs alone. They heaped praise on their editors, colleagues, fixers, translators, and sources. Anand Gopal of *The Atlantic* won the Ed Cunningham Award after spending months with a Sunni family fleeing ISIS jihadists in Iraq.

"Great journalism is not possible without great sources, incredible sources. I was incredibly blessed to meet this family who over the course of a year allowed me into their lives – allowed me to glimpse their most intimate moments. And they did so at great risk to themselves," said Gopal.

OPC President Deirdre Depke launched the evening by giving the President's Award to the 108 journalists who have died covering the war in Syria.

"With this award we honor

their courage and the sacrifice they made to report on one of the 21st century's ongoing atrocities," said Depke.

She then invited Abdülhamit Bilici, former editor in chief of Turkey's *Zaman* daily newspaper, to light the Candle of Concern for journalists imprisoned around the world. More than 80 newsmen are behind bars in Turkey alone, following this year's media crackdown by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

It's been a troubling year for press freedom in the U.S. as well. President Trump has stubbornly touted falsehoods while attacking the fact-based reporting of respected news organizations. Depke pointed out that Trump was expected to skip the White House Correspondents' Dinner this year in order to hold a rally in Pennsylvania.

"Tonight it is our turn to be vocal – not loud, but vocal – to forcefully assert that the robust and free press envisioned by America's founders will not be shouted down by pandering politician or diminished by tweets in the night," said Depke to a round of applause.

An emotional highlight of the evening was the tribute to former OPC president Roy Rowan. The legendary foreign correspondent and former OPC president died in September.

Award-winning tenor James Valenti sang a short piece in Rowan's honor, and Overseas Press Club Foundation President Bill Holstein shared his memories of the man.

"We lost a hero this past year," said "Roy Rowan did it all and did it in style."

Holstein went on to recount tales of Rowan's exploits in China in the late 1940s, at the beginning of his long and storied career.

"He taught me a personal lesson," said Holstein: "to never give up on the things you believe in; to race right up to the edge of death at full speed." ❖



Samantha Bee

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES, COURTESY OF TBS

## The First Woman on Late Night TV Celebrates the First Amendment

### EVENT RECAP

BY BRIAN BYRD

**T**HE WHITE House Correspondents Dinner, now 103 years old, is long considered to be a high point of Washington's spring gala season. For more than 100 years, this has been the ultimate insider's event, where an invitation is the equivalent of securing Willy Wonka's golden ticket. But there is a new kid in town, one who while extolling the virtues of journalism, was not shy in taking the media to task. And that new kid is Samantha Bee and her Not the White House Correspondents Dinner.

Ms. Bee, a former "correspondent" for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, now has her own weekly TV show, *Full Frontal*. Like the Daily Show, *Full Frontal* delivers insightful and biting commentary on current events, often highlighting the hypocrisy of politicians, public figures and the media. It is the perfect blend of insight, honesty and ironic humor, publically voicing what many of us say in private.

Held at the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Constitution Hall, roughly two miles from the location of the actual White House Correspondents' Dinner, nearly 2,600 people attended the "alternative" dinner, making it one of "Washington's hottest tickets."

The audience was an interesting mix of fans, journalists and celebrities; of Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials, all of whom generated a high level of energy throughout the venue. Just as in her TV show, videotaped segments featuring Allison Janney (reprising her role from TV's *The West Wing*), Steve Buscemi, Norman Lear, Patton Oswalt, Kumail Nanjiani, Carl Reiner, and Billy Eichner. There were also fake "excerpts" from previous White House Correspondents Dinner roasts, all featuring Samantha Bee dressed in clothing reflective of the decades. During the short breaks between filming segments, large monitors displayed "Great Moments for the Press and the Presidency." My favorite described the time FDR admonished a reporter by giving him a dunce

hat and instructing him to stand in the corner. Borrowing from *The Man in the High Castle*, there was a segment in which Ms. Bee receives an illegal video that shows an alternative reality after Hillary Clinton wins the election. It was both provocative and poignant.

One special guest, whose identity was kept secret until he walked out on stage, was Will Ferrell, reviving his George W. Bush impersonation. "How do you like me now?" he began, after extinguishing a cigarette. "History's proven to be kinder to me than many of you thought ... I was considered the worst president of all time. That has changed. And it only took 100 days."

The after party at the W Hotel rooftop space, was another mixture of fans, celebrities and journalists. There were three specialty drinks on hand: *The Bad Hombre*, *The Nasty Woman*, and the *Orange Russian*. By my count, the first one was most popular. Arguably, the highlight was a concert by Elvis Costello and the Imposters.

All in all, this was a celebration of good journalism and free speech, which raised more than \$200,000 for the *Committee to Protect Journalists*.

But, by boiling down complicated issues into digestible and entertaining segments, it also served as a cautionary intervention. "Your job has never been harder," said Bee in her opening monologue. "POTUS has convinced 88 percent of his fans that you are the enemy of the people." ❖

## OPC to Host Panel on 'Mentoring the Next Generation in Fact-Based News'

### EVENT PREVIEW: JUNE 13

**O**N TUESDAY, June 13, the OPC and The Media Line, an American news agency covering the Middle East, are co-sponsoring a forum to discuss the Press and Student Policy Program.

This event is for OPC members and other invitees only.

The Media Line's Press and Policy Student Program connects students studying journalism, public policy or international relations

with news bureaus in the Middle East for semester-long mentorship with veteran journalists. Selected students can earn academic credit or pursue independent study.

The forum will feature presentations by Felice Friedson, president and CEO of The Media Line and founder of the Press and Policy Student Program, and Marvin Kalb, Edward R. Murrow professor at Harvard and senior fellow at the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

The panel begins at Club Quarters at 6:15 p.m. ❖

Click here to RSVP for the panel



When is the next OPC Mixer at The Half King, you ask? Stop by from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30 for food, drink and fun. Members and non-members – all are welcome to attend. No RSVP is needed. Click on the image above to visit the mixer's Facebook page.

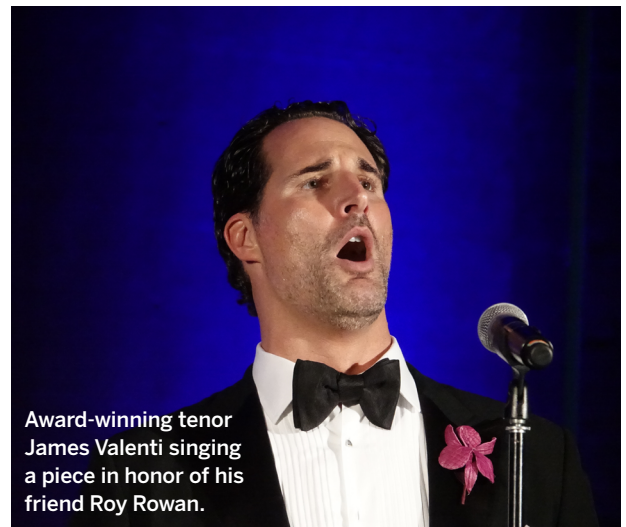


# OPC Awards Dinner

PHOTOS: STEVE MOORE



Jeff Zucker, president of CNN Worldwide, gives keynote remarks.



Award-winning tenor James Valenti singing a piece in honor of his friend Roy Rowan.



Current OPC President Deldre Depke, center, flanked by former OPC presidents Allan Dodds Frank, left, and Marcus Mabry.



Left to right: OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz, Andrew Lluberes and Mary Frances Benko.



Sarah Lubman, chair of the dinner committee.



Former OPC President Michael Serrilli, left, and former OPC President Larry Smith.



Left to right: Deborah Rayner, Clarissa Ward, Mina Chang and Tommy Evans.

Michael Serrilli, left, with Linda Fasulo.



Left to right: Rod Nordland, Santiago Lyon, Jon Lee Anderson, Emma Daly and Michael Kamber.



Abdülhamit Bilici, former editor in chief of Turkey's Zaman daily newspaper, lights the Candle of Concern for journalists imprisoned around the world.



STEVE MOORE

## 2016 AWARDS AND WINNERS

### THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad

**Hannah Dreier**  
**The Associated Press**  
"Venezuela Undone"

#### CITATION

Ben Hubbard, Mark Mazzetti, Carlotta Gall, Scott Shane and Nicholas Kulish  
*The New York Times*  
"Secrets of the Kingdom"

### THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital coverage of international affairs

**Simon Denyer, Emily Rauhala and Elizabeth Dwoskin**  
**The Washington Post**  
"Behind the Firewall"

#### CITATION

Tom Burgis, Pilita Clark, Michael Peel, Charlie Bibby and Kari-Ruth Pedersen  
*Financial Times*  
"Great Land Rush"

### THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

**Bryan Denton and Sergey Ponomarev**  
**The New York Times**  
"What ISIS Wrought"

#### CITATION

Goran Tomasevic, Zohra Bensemra, Mohammed Salem and Ahmed Jadallah  
Reuters  
"Battle for Mosul"

### THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic news reporting from abroad in any medium

**Daniel Berehulak**  
**The New York Times**  
"They Are Slaughtering Us Like Animals"

#### CITATION

Aris Messinis  
Agence France Presse  
"Desperate Journey".

### THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

**Meridith Kohut**  
**The New York Times**  
"Inside Venezuela's Crumbling Mental Hospitals"

#### CITATION

Tomas Munita  
*The New York Times*  
"Cuba on the Edge of Change"

### THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio, audio, or podcast news or interpretation of international affairs

**Emily Harris, Gabe O'Connor, Barry Gorder, Michael May and Larry Kaplow**  
**NPR**  
"Moments of Change for Palestinians and Israelis"

#### CITATION

Jasmine Garsd  
PRI's The World  
"Women of Colombia's War"

### THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad

**Clarissa Ward and team**  
**CNN**  
"Undercover in Syria"

### THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs less than one hour

**Beth Murphy, Charles Sennott, Justine Nagan, Chris White, Sally Jo Fifer**  
**PBS POV/GroundTruth**  
"What Tomorrow Brings"

#### CITATION

Morgan Till, Jane Ferguson, Jane Arraf, Jon Gerberg and Sara Just  
PBS News Hour/Pulitzer Center  
"The Fight for Iraq."

### THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD

Best TV, video or documentary about international affairs one hour or longer

**The Real Sports Team**  
**HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel**  
"The Lords of the Rings"

### THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting in print or digital on an international story

**Anand Gopal**  
**The Atlantic**  
"The Hell After ISIS"

#### CITATION

Scott Anderson  
*The New York Times Magazine*  
"Fractured Lands"

### THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs  
**Steve Sack**  
**Minneapolis Star Tribune**

#### CITATION

Adam Zyglis  
*Buffalo News*



#### THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best magazine international business news reporting in print or digital

**Matthew Campbell and Kit Chellel**  
*Bloomberg Businessweek*  
“Hot Mess: How Goldman Sachs Lost \$1.2 Billion of Libya’s Money”

#### CITATION

Jordan Robertson, Michael Riley and Andrew Willis  
*Bloomberg Businessweek*  
“How to Hack an Election”

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#### THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Best international business news reporting in newspapers, news services or digital

**International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy, The Miami Herald and more than 100 other media partners**  
“The Panama Papers: Politicians, Criminals and the Rogue Industry That Hides Their Cash”

#### CITATION

Rob Barry, Christopher S. Stewart, Mark Maremont, Margaret Coker and Benoit Faucon  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
“Accounting For Terror”

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#### THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs

**Arkady Ostrovsky**  
Viking/Penguin Random House  
*The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev’s Freedom to Putin’s War*

#### CITATION

Robert F. Worth  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux  
*A Rage for Order: The Middle East in Turmoil, from Tahrir Square to ISIS*

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#### THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition

**Robyn Dixon**  
*Los Angeles Times*  
“South Sudan Slips Back Toward Chaos”

#### CITATION

Kathy Gannon  
The Associated Press  
“Honor Bound”

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#### THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN AND PAMELA TITLE AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition

**Marcel Mettelsiefen, Dan Edge, Andrew Metz and Raney Aronson**  
PBS Frontline  
“Children of Syria”

#### CITATION

James Blumeil, Dan Edge, Andrew Metz and Raney Aronson  
PBS Frontline  
“Exodus”

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#### THE JOE AND LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights

**The Associated Press Staff**  
“Islamic State: A Savage Legacy”

#### CITATION

Ben Hubbard, Mark Mazzetti, Carlotta Gall, Scott Shane and Nicholas Kulish  
*The New York Times*  
“Secrets of the Kingdom”

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#### THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

**Elliott D. Woods**  
*Virginia Quarterly Review/Pulitzer Center*  
“The Fight for Chinko”

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#### THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

**Nadja Drost, Bruno Federico, Morgan Till, Patti Parson and Sara Just**  
PBS NewsHour  
“Fight for Peace”

#### CITATION

Jon Lee Anderson  
*The New Yorker*  
“The Distant Shore”

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#### BEST DIGITAL REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

**Malia Politzer and Emily Kassie**  
The Huffington Post/Pulitzer Center  
“The 21st Century Gold Rush”

#### CITATION

Evan Ratliff  
*The Atavist Magazine*  
“The Mastermind”

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#### BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story

**Ben Taub**  
*The New Yorker*  
“War Crimes in Syria”

#### CITATION

Chris Hamby  
BuzzFeed News  
“Secrets of a Global Super Court”

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#### BEST COMMENTARY

Best commentary in any medium on international news

**Masha Gessen**  
*The New York Review of Books*  
“Trump, Russia and the Reality of Power”

#### CITATION

Trudy Rubin  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*  
“Columns from hot spots and home on US foreign policy challenges of the new era” ❖

# PEOPLE

By Trish Anderton

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Charlotte Alfred

Managing Editor  
Refugees Deeply  
Beirut  
Active Overseas  
(29 or under)

### Sofia Barbarani

Freelance  
Campello sul Clitunno,  
Italy  
Active Overseas  
(29 or under)

### Kathleen L. Campion

Freelance  
New York  
Retired

### Mina Chang

Chief Executive Officer  
Fellow New America Media  
Dallas, Texas  
Associate Non-Resident  
(30-34)

### Sara Just

Executive Producer/  
Senior Vice President  
PBS NewsHour/WETA  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Active Non-Resident

### Tony Lin

Freelance  
New York  
Active Resident  
(29 or under)

(CONTINUED ON PG. 9)

## OPC SCHOLARS

Two Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winners saw their work recognized at the OPC Annual Awards Dinner this year. The Panama Papers project, overseen by 2005 winner **Marina Walker Guevara** of the International of the Consortium of Investigative Journalism, claimed the Malcolm Forbes Award. The project also snagged the Pulitzer for Explanatory Reporting. **Ben Taub**, who was a scholar just two years ago in 2015, was honored by the OPC with the Best Investigative Reporting Award for detailing evidence of war crimes by the Syrian government based on more than 600,000 pages of leaked documents. **Ben Hubbard**, who won the Stan Swinton Scholarship in 2007, shared a Hal Boyle Award citation with colleagues from *The New York Times*.

**Emily Steel**, who won the David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship in 2005, co-wrote the *New York Times* story that led to the ouster of longtime Fox News host Bill O'Reilly. It wasn't the media reporter's first clash with the iconic broadcaster; two years ago, after she investigated his exaggerated claims about his Falklands War coverage, he told Steel, "I am coming after you with everything I have." Nevertheless, she persisted in detailing multiple allegations of sexual harassment against O'Reilly in a story that landed in early April. Fox forced him out soon after.

The 2016 Fritz Beebe Fellow, **Dake Kang**, is joining The Associated Press in Cleveland. Kang will spend eight months covering Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. He spent his fellowship period with the AP in Bangkok, where he reported on human rights issues and illegal fishing, among other issues.

**Russell Midori**, who won the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2016, just joined CBS News as an associate producer. He will be

based in the documentary unit, field producing mostly international pieces. His previous positions include metro news stringer for *The New York Times*, production assistant for the HBO news documentary series VICE and spokesman for the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Mark Anderson**, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2014, has moved from business editor to Nairobi bureau chief at *The Africa Report*. He will coordinate the magazine's coverage of East Africa and the Horn of Africa. Anderson has previously covered global development for the Guardian in London and written for Africa Confidential.

## AWARD WINNERS

OPC member **Martin Smith** and FRONTLINE have won a Peabody Award for *Confronting ISIS*, which traveled to five countries to examine the difficulties the U.S. faces in its effort to eradicate the Islamist organization. "Veteran correspondent Martin Smith's deliberate reporting provides context to America's ongoing war against Islamist extremists in this essential primer on the origins and timeline of the conflict," said the judges. FRONTLINE won a second Peabody for *Exodus*, a film about the refugee crisis.

Former OPC Governor and multiple OPC Award winner **Harry Benson** received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Center of Photography's Infinity Awards on April 24. The ICP notes that Benson "marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement; photographed the Watts Riots; was embedded in the Gulf War; was next to Robert Kennedy when he was assassinated; and has photographed the last 12 U.S. presidents from President Eisenhower" to President Trump.

**Daniel Berehulak's** chilling reportage of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, which won the OPC's Olivier Rebbot Award in April, has also been honored with the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography. In addition, Berehulak

recently received the McGill Medal for Journalistic Courage for his lifetime body of work. A freelancer and regular contributor to *The New York Times*, Berehulak lives in Mexico City.

**Everyday Mumbai**, the Instagram account launched in 2014 by OPC member Chirag Wakaskar, has won a 2017 Social Media for Empowerment Award. The prize in the Citizen Media & Journalism category recognized Everyday Mumbai for creating a crowdsourced photography community that aims to be a "democratic and collective voice of the photographers who document the city, its issues, its life and its people." Everyday Mumbai has over a million followers on the photo-driven social media platform.

## UPDATES

**NEW YORK:** OPC member and broadcaster **Dan Rather** is making a splash in a new medium: Facebook. As *Politico's* Michael Kruse wrote in a profile recently, Rather has two million Facebook fans and his multimedia production company, News and Guts, has another million. "On average, 'News and Guts' gets more likes, comments and shares per post than BuzzFeed, *USA Today* or CNN," writes Kruse, who goes on to dub Rather one of "the leading voices of the Trump resistance."

**Time Inc.** is no longer for sale. After evaluating expressions of interest from potential buyers, the company announced in late April that it would pursue its own strategic plan instead. According to *The New York Times*, chief executive Rich Battista is "eager to continue transforming Time Inc. from a print publisher to a multimedia company." Time Inc. publishes more than 100 magazines, including *TIME*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Food & Wine*, *Fortune* and *People*.

For the first time, the **International Olympic Committee** has added human rights principles to its Host City Contract – a move Human Rights Watch and other groups have long pushed for. "Time after



Kang



time, Olympic hosts have gotten away with abusing workers building stadiums, and with crushing critics and media who try to report about abuses,” OPC Governor **Minky Worden**, HRW’s director of global initiatives, said in a statement “The right to host the Olympics needs to come with the responsibility not to abuse basic human rights.” The language will first take effect for the 2024 Summer Olympics.

**PHILADELPHIA:** ISIS is losing ground, but it is not demoralized, OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** told Terry Gross of NPR’s *Fresh Air* in March. “I don’t see any evidence of ISIS backing down,” Callimachi said. “They’re fighting tooth and nail for this territory. And they’re doing it through numerous innovations,” including a highly developed network of tunnels and the use of drones to identify enemy positions and drop explosives. Callimachi had just returned from the front line in Mosul, where she was embedded with Iraqi troops.

**WASHINGTON, DC:** Foreign correspondents should always defer to local knowledge when reporting on events abroad, OPC Governor **Hannah Allam** told students at a panel discussion on “Women in Conflict” co-hosted by American



Allam

University’s School of Communication and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. “Their word must be the final word,” said Allam, adding that freelancers must credit local journalists for their work. Allam is a former Baghdad and Cairo bureau chief for McClatchy Newspapers. She now covers Muslim life in the U.S. at BuzzFeed.

**LONDON:** *The Atlantic* is establishing its first overseas bureau, sending veteran correspondent James Fallows to London to “bring *Atlantic*-quality journalism to a global audience in a very deliberate way,” according to editor in chief Jeffrey Goldberg. The 10-person office will include writers and editors as well as sales, marketing, events and communications staff. The magazine says it increased its newsstand sales by 19 percent in 2016 and has seen total revenues grow at a double-digit pace for the last three years.

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**Rupert Cornwell**, who spent more than four decades as a foreign correspondent in Europe, the Soviet Union and the U.S., died at age 71 on March 31 in Washington, DC. Cornwell joined the London-based *Independent* when it launched in 1986. Before that, he spent 14 years with the *Financial Times*. “Rupert was as humble as he was brilliant, his peerless range extending far beyond the politics of Moscow or Washington, to boxing, ballet and baseball,” said *Independent* editor Christian Broughton, as quoted by the paper. Cornwell published his final story just 11 days before his death, despite undergoing treatment for cancer.

Lifelong Associated Press correspondent, editor and columnist **George Bria** died on March 18 in New York City. He was 101. In his early years, reporting from Europe, Bria covered the execution of Mussolini, the German surrender in Italy and the Nuremberg war crimes trials. Later he became a senior editor on the foreign desk in New York. “George was a great editor,” recalled Victor L. Simpson, who served as AP bureau chief in Rome for more than three decades. “He taught me to read my copy out loud.” Bria retired in 1981 but went on to write gardening columns for the wire service for more than a decade.

# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

“Media freedom has never been so threatened,” **Reporters Without Borders** warns in its 2017 World Press Freedom Index. The organization warns of a “tipping point” in free speech protections, adding that “Democracies began falling in the Index in preceding years and now, more than ever, nothing seems to be checking that fall.” Norway, Sweden and Denmark ranked highest for media freedom in this year’s index; Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea occupied the bottom three spots. The U.S. and U.K. both fell two spots, to 43rd and 40th respectively, after a year of bruising political campaigns marked by press-bashing.

**Freedom House**, meanwhile, found that global press freedom had “declined to its lowest point in 13 years” and that “Only 13 percent of the world’s population enjoys a Free press.” Among the countries that fell the most were Poland, Turkey, Burundi, Hungary, Bolivia, Serbia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Those with the biggest gains were Sri Lanka, Togo, Fiji, Belarus and Côte d’Ivoire.

An Ethiopian journalist and blogger who has been in jail since 2011 has been named the International Press Institute’s 69th World Press Freedom Hero. **Eskinder Nega** writes for the

monthly magazine *Change* and the U.S.-based news forum EthioMedia, which are banned in Ethiopia. He was arrested after publishing a column critical of the nation’s anti-terror laws. The IPI gave its Free Media Pioneer Award to the **Afghan Journalists Safety Committee** for its work to prevent, combat and monitor attacks on journalists.

Press freedom organizations are cooperating on a new effort to track the state of the First Amendment. The **U.S. Press Freedom Tracker** will be supported by the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Index on *Continued on Page 10*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 8)

### Amy Mackinnon

Freelance  
Tbilisi, Georgia  
Active Overseas  
29 or under

### John Naughton

Photojournalist  
New York  
Active Resident

### Mark Rivett-Carnac

Freelance  
Bamako, Mali  
Active Overseas  
(29 or under)

### David Rohde

National Security  
Investigations Editor  
Reuters  
New York  
Active Resident

### Kenneth R. Rosen

Staff  
The Atavist  
New York  
Active Resident  
(29 or under)

### Jon Sawyer

Executive Director  
Pulitzer Center  
Washington, D.C.  
Active Non-Resident

### Scott Sayare

Freelance  
Paris  
Active Overseas  
(30-34)

### Ali Shihabi

Executive Director  
Arabia Foundation  
Washington, DC  
Active Non-Resident

### Terrell Starr

Senior Reporter  
Gizmodo Media Group  
Active Resident

# NEW BOOKS

## Press Freedom Update Continued From Page 9

Censorship, the Freedom of the Press Foundation and others. It will gather data on incidents such as journalist arrests, border stops, searches and seizures, leak prosecutions and subpoenas.

### MURDERS

- Political blogger **Yameen Rasheed** was found with multiple stab wounds in the hallway of his apartment building Malé, the capital of the Maldives, on April 23. He later died in hospital. Al Jazeera reports Rasheed wrote satirically about the nation's leaders on his blog, *The Daily Panic*. The 29-year-old had allegedly reported receiving death threats.

- A Russian journalist critical of President Vladimir Putin died on April 19, six weeks after being beaten by unknown attackers in St. Petersburg. **Nikolai Andrushchenko**, 73, was the co-founder of the *Novy Peterburg* newspaper. He frequently wrote about human rights and criminal justice.

- Reporter **Maximino Rodriguez Palacios** was shot dead on April 14 in La Paz, on the coast of Baja California Sur. He was the fourth journalist killed in Mexico in six weeks, according to the *L.A. Times*. Rodriguez wrote for a news organization called the Pericu Collective. He covered crime in the local area, including killings that may have been related to the drug trade; he had also recently written about corruption. He was 72.

- Journalist **Miroslava Breach Velducea**, 54, was shot to death on March 23 in Chihuahua City, Mexico. The Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas reports that Breach wrote about politics and security issues for *La Jornada* and *El Diario de Chihuahua*. She was also editorial director for *Norte* in Ciudad Juárez and was reportedly planning to launch her own news agency.

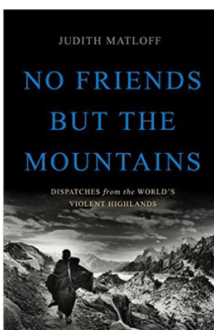
- **Ricardo Monlui Cabrera**, a journalist, was shot to death April 19 while leaving a restaurant in Yanga, Veracruz with his wife and son. He was 57. According to the CPI, Monlui was the editorial director *El Político* newspaper in Córdoba and wrote a column that appeared in the newspapers *El Sol de Córdoba* and *Diario de Xalapa*. Monlui often wrote about regional politics and the sugarcane industry. ❖

## MOUNTAINS

**JUDITH MATLOFF** had spent years covering conflicts around the world – struggling to breathe in the thin, tear-gas laced air of Kashmir, reaching out to rebels in the highlands of Chechnya, and battling altitude sickness as a coup unfolded in La Paz. But it wasn't until a night of board games with her husband and 11-year-old son that she made the connection between geography and warfare.

During a round of Risk, the game of global domination, her son asked her to point out some of the places where she'd covered actual wars.

"On a globe that showed elevations, Anton traced the uneven surface with his finger and made notes on a pad, so absorbed that he failed to notice his father rampaging through the Himalayas to take China," she writes. "'Kosovo, Georgia, Nepal, Chiapas,' Anton recited, among others, checking the altitude key for each. 'Most occur in mountains. Why?'"



In *No Friends But the Mountains: Dispatches from the World's Violent Highlands* [Basic Books, March 2017] Matloff explores why conflicts take place in mountain regions and what factors fuel them, including the independence of mountain cultures, the availability of hiding places, and the presence of valuable resources such as poppies and uranium.

Matloff, who presented her work at an OPC book night in March, teaches conflict reporting at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Economist*, and *Christian Science Monitor*.

The book explores the Dinaric Alps of northern Albania – a land of little kingdoms divided by mountain ridges, where blood

feuds between families rage so hot that teenagers stay home from school in fear for their lives. Matloff visits Marquetalia, Colombia, where peasant farmers driven by the government into the Andes became the FARC. And she visits Afghanistan, where U.S. soldiers collapsed from elevation sickness, to explore the difficulties of defeating mountain movements in combat.

*Publisher's Weekly* writes that "Matloff's investigation is a worthy read for foreign affairs and anthropology buffs alike, and her conclusion provides insight into current global affairs." ❖

## CHINA

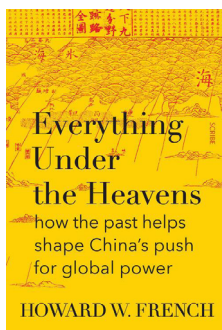
"THERE WAS once a country at the very center of the world, whose position was recognized as such by peoples both far and wide," Howard W. French writes in the introduction to his new book. "Today, we call that country China."

If that tone is reminiscent of a fairy tale, it's perhaps deliberate. In *Everything Under the Heavens: How the Past Helps Shape China's Push for Global Power* [Knopf, March 2017] French argues that China's self-perception is shaped by its history as a dominant regional power – much as the foundational stories of our childhood shape our thought processes in adulthood.

"From at least the Tang dynasty (618-907) nearly to the chaotic end of dynastic rule in China in 1912," writes the former *New York Times* Asia correspondent, the peoples of East Asia "often found ways to defer to China, acknowledging its centrality and loosely following its lead." Then the nation entered a period of waning power – first humbled by Europe and Japan, and then suffering through the Cultural Revolution.

Now China is on the rise, and its belief in its natural role as regional leader is amplified by economic pressures – an aging population and flagging GDP growth – that are pressing it to expand its influence. As it does so, it clashes with its neighbors and the U.S., both in trade disputes and in its contested claim to control over much of the South China Sea.

Publishers Weekly calls *Everything Under the Heavens* "a nuanced look at a rival superpower," while Kirkus Reviews terms it a "lucid if stolid overview of regional history, useful for students of Pacific affairs in playing out scenarios of what might happen next." ❖







Valerie Komor

## Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Valerie Komor

BY TRISH ANDERTON

**V**ALERIE KOMOR is the founding Director of the Associated Press Corporate Archives. Before joining AP in 2003, she held positions at the Oberlin College Archives, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art and the New York Historical Society. She holds an M.A. in Medieval Studies from Yale University and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Texas at Austin. As a Fulbright scholar in Naples, Italy, she studied the writings of Matilde Serao, co-founder of *Il Mattino*, Naples' daily paper.

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA.

**Education:** B.A., University of California, Davis; M.A., Yale University; M.L.I.S., University of Texas at Austin.

**Languages Spoken:** Latin, French, Italian.

**What drew you to this line of work?** I love “the stuff.” Even in the digital era, archival work requires working with personal papers, including letters, diaries, land deeds, wills, contracts, unpublished writings, photographs, keys, or calcified wedding cake. At AP, we preserve the personal papers of journalists

as well as institutional records: charters and bylaws, minutes of the Board of Directors, legal and financial records, bureau records, administrative records, audio and video collections, artifacts, photographs and original wire copy.

**First job as an archivist:** Project Archivist, Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, OH.

**How did you come to work at the AP?** In 2003, AP Vice President and Director of Corporate Communications, Kelly Tunney, asked me to establish AP's first corporate archives. This offer was a great challenge, as it involved creating a new department and promoting a new idea within the company: the systematic documentation of AP itself.

**Favorite item in the AP Archives:** The Hudson Broadside: a very fancy “sympathy card” made in March 1866 for Frederick Hudson (1819-75), managing editor of *The Herald* newspaper and a member of the Executive Committee of the Associated Press. It is a large oval work on paper (40 in. high), hand-decorated in iron-gall ink with engraved vignettes and bordered by 18 salted paper portraits of the Committee members placed beneath their mastheads. Three portraits are by Mathew Brady.

**Why is it important to have an archivist at a news organization?** First, the AP Corporate Archives exists to document the organization for legal and business reasons. Second, the line between journalism and history is very fine. Archivists can ensure that when journalism becomes history, it is preserved. For example, on Nov. 22, 1963, every journalist knew they were witnessing and writing history of a transcendent order. AP journalists saved this copy and bound it, writing on the covers, “PRESERVE!” But journalists write history every day, and AP journalists may be said to write something preliminary to history: a factual accounting of events. When I came to AP, I sensed that the staff did not fully grasp the great scope and content of AP's history. Journalists had been telling stories since 1846, but no one had told *their* story. I believe that archives make history real, and we do that here through research, exhibits, oral history, publications and special events.

**Major challenge in your current job:** The preservation of the digital record in all of its formats, so that in 100 years, there will be a record of AP in the early 21st century. Unlike paper documents, which are readable by the naked eye, the contents of our laptops need our laptops to be legible. Thus, the preservation of 0s and 1s requires more resources than the preservation of paper. Left to itself, under good conditions, paper will last centuries.

**Year you joined the OPC:** 2014.

**When traveling, you like to ...** Walk a lot, see the art and architecture, and eat.  
**Favorite quote:** From Wallace Stevens' “Esthetique du Mal”: “The greatest poverty is not to live in a physical world.”

**Place you're most eager to visit:** Thomas Hardy's home at Max Gate in Swin-don, England.

**Place I would like to re-turn to:** Capri.

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

[Click here to browse the AP Corporate Archives webpage.](#) ❖

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sneak Preview:  
LETTERS FROM  
BAGHDAD**  
6:00 p.m.  
May 17

**Film Screening:  
HELL ON EARTH**  
6:00 p.m.  
May 24

**Mixer at  
THE HALF KING**  
7:00 p.m.  
May 30

**Forum:  
MENTORING  
THE NEXT GENERATION  
IN FACT-BASED NEWS**  
7:00 p.m.  
June 13



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