



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

OPC Welcomes New and Reelected Governors

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

DURING THE OPC's Annual Meeting on Sept. 5, the OPC announced results of this year's election for Board of Governors, which included 10 newly elected or reelected Active board members and two Associate board members.

OPC President Deidre Depke applauded the success of this year's Annual Awards Dinner, which was well attended. She credited high interest in this year's dinner to the aftermath of President Donald Trump's election and attacks on news media.

"People felt the need to be active, activist maybe, on the basis of what's going on in Washington," she said. Keynote Jeff Zucker of CNN likely also drew numbers in the wake of criticism and attention over the election, she added.

Executive Director Patricia Kranz announced that with the Mandarin Oriental undergoing renovations over the last couple of years, the OPC has decided to



CHAD BOUCHARD

Kranz and Depke

move next year's Annual Awards Dinner to Cipriani at 25 Broadway, across from the Charging Bull sculpture in the Financial District.

In the works are plans for more reunions for correspondents who
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Introducing OPC Connect

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

ARE YOU an editor looking for a reporter in Thailand, or a photographer in Timbuktu? Or perhaps you are a freelance reporter in Egypt or Brazil who wants to pitch a story to staff editors. You can do all those

things and more on the OPC's new networking service called OPC Connect.

OPC Connect is a closed Facebook group open exclusively to OPC members. Our club includes assignment editors, photo editors and editors-in-chief of major news organizations, as well as freelance journalists of all stripes.

The OPC Board of Governors is committed to developing new services that support journalists as news organizations cut budgets and bureaus. Nearly 300 OPC members carry the free photo press ID cards the club introduced two years ago. OPC Connect is the newest endeavor.

Feel free to invite your OPC colleagues. Only OPC members will be admitted to this group. To join, click on the Join Group link in the top-right corner of the group's Facebook page. An administrator will approve OPC members' requests. If you have questions or need help joining, please contact chad@opcofamerica.org. ❖

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OPC Member Reflects on Friend and Club Colleague, Kim Wall

BY COLEEN JOSE

OPC member Coleen Jose writes about her friend and fellow club member Kim Wall, who was murdered while working on a story in Denmark. Jose shared the following personal remembrances exclusively for the OPC.

"BLACK SEABIRDS circle high above the giant concrete dome that rises from a tangle of green vines just a few paces from the lapping waves of the Pacific. Half buried in the sand, the vast structure looks like a downed UFO," Kim Wall wrote of the Runit Dome nuclear waste

site for the Guardian.

Kim was as prolific in her writing as she was talented, creative and empathetic. The topics she covered spanned generations, cultures and government agencies. She wrote of the tour buses traversing Sri Lanka's battlefields, Chinese feminists in the D.C.

Women's March, and Idi Amin's torture chambers in Uganda, humanizing these and many other stories for a global audience.

In 2015, Kim, Hendrik Hinzl and I traveled to the Marshall Islands. In the remote atoll of Enewetak, the site of US nuclear

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Panel Examines ‘Photojournalists in the Crossfire’

EVENT RECAP

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPERATING ON assignment in conflict zones requires deep research, extensive planning and trusted colleagues on the ground. Those were some of the key tips highlighted at a panel with two veteran photojournalists on Sept. 13, a program co-sponsored by the OPC, the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and the Professional Prizes department.

Meridith Kohut, an American based in Caracas, Venezuela since 2007, told the crowd of j-school students and OPC guests that minimizing risk requires rigorous preparation. “It’s always better to prevent than to have to respond to security problems,” she said.

In Latin America, those precautions might include getting permission from gangs or organized crime groups or “whoever’s in control of the territory we’re in. That’s a thing I’m very strict about, because I had problems when I was younger,” Kohut said.

Kohut won the OPC’s Feature Photography Award this spring for her work in *The New York Times* showing the plight of people inside state-run psychiatric hospitals in 2016.

The *Times* requires her to file detailed security plans and coordination with security experts on staff before she goes into a dangerous area, she said. While on assignment, editors keep track of her whereabouts constantly.

“Security is extremely serious, and you can’t take that lightly,” Kohut said. There’s a lot of freelancers who don’t have the luxury that I have to be able to work with *The New York Times*.”

“It’s like working for your parents,” joked Michael Robinson Chavez, a staff photographer for *The Washington Post*. Chavez has worked throughout Latin America, starting his career with The Associated Press and covering assignments in over 60 countries, most recently reporting ongoing violence in Mexico.

“Having a good network of local people” to work with is key, he said. “And that’s es-

pecially important for freelancers or people who are thinking of going to some of these places and don’t have a major institution to back them up. It’s good to invest time and not just parachute in.”

Chavez is a two-time winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Award for photojournalism and has covered global conflicts for the *Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe* and AP, including the Iraq War and the 2006 Israel-Lebanon War.

Moderating was Judith Matloff, a veteran foreign correspondent who now teaches conflict reporting at Columbia. She asked the panelists how they ensure the people they’re working with locally are trustworthy and take risks seriously.

Chavez said he works with veteran news photographers with proven track records, and spends enough time with fixers, translators or drivers beforehand to get a sense of their capabilities before they’re hired.

“If you’re on a really tight budget, the recommendation I’ll give you is go to the nearest university, any learning institution, and find an English language program, and usually you have a bilingual student there that would be willing to help you out,” he said.

Kohut underscored the need to be prepared for a range of problems, and to not limit your awareness of risk only to possibilities like kidnapping or a direct attack.

“You’re most at risk by not having a secure car,” she said. “Like your car breaking down in the middle of a highway and then not having enough water.” Kohut added that she brings enough supplies on a road trip to survive if the car breaks down on the side of the road for two days. Food, water filters, extra fuel and spare tires can be more important than a flak jacket and helmet, she said.

In connection with the program, photographs by Kohut and Chavez will be on display in the Columbia University School of Journalism throughout the fall semester. ♦



Left to right: Chavez, Kohut and Matloff.

CHAD BOUCHARD



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ

Michael Robinson Chavez took the above photo of a village “guard” recently in Mexico while covering crime in the state of Guerrero.



A photograph by Meridith Kohut, along with work from Michael Robinson Chavez, is displayed in a prominent corridor between lecture halls at the Columbia University School of Journalism.

On left, Margarita Silva, a paranoid schizophrenic patient, yells at nurses from her solitary confinement cell at the state-run psychiatric hospital, El Pampero, in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. Ms. Silva had been confined after attacking a fellow patient.



MERIDITH KOHUT

Panel to Discuss ‘America’s Longest War’ in Afghanistan

EVENT PREVIEW: OCT. 10

THE PENTAGON is once again pouring American troops into Afghanistan to prevent the Taliban from consolidating power. But the Americans have yet to fathom the murky and ever-shifting alliances among the Taliban, the Haqqani network, Al Qaeda and other non-state players. The challenge of establishing stability in Afghanistan, much less democracy, is further compounded by intervention from Pakistan and India, and more recently from Iran and Russia. What is the way forward?

All are welcome. But if you cover or have covered Afghanistan, please consider this event an

Also speaking will be David Rohde, the online news director for *The New Yorker*, a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a former reporter at Reuters and *The New York Times*. He was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2008, escaping after 7 months. He is the author, with Kristen Mulvihill, of *A Rope and a Prayer: A Kidnapping from Two Sides*.

Jere Van Dyk will also participate in the discussion. Van Dyk covered the Afghan-Soviet war for *The New York Times* in the early 1980s, living with what is today called the Haqqani network. In 2008 he was kidnapped and held for ransom for 45 days. His book, *Captive*, describes that ordeal. His new book, *THE TRADE: My Journey into the Labyrinth*



ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES

September 1996: Taliban soldiers fire a rocket at retreating forces of the Northern Alliance army controlled by Ahmed Shah Massoud north of Kabul. Kabul fell to the Taliban on September 27, 1996. The Kabul government’s military defense collapsed with little resistance as the Taliban soldiers approached the capital.

Click here to RSVP for the panel or share with colleagues.



ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES

May 1988: An Afghan soldier hands a flag in solidarity to a departing Soviet soldier in Kabul on the first day of the army’s withdrawal from Afghanistan. Over one million Afghans had been killed by the Soviet Army with six million refugees fleeing the country during their ten year occupation.

informal reunion. Visit the home page of the OPC website to find information that can be easily forwarded to colleagues and friends.

The panelists will include Kathy Gannon, senior correspondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan for The Associated Press who is based in Islamabad, Pakistan. She has covered the region since 1987 and was the only western journalist in Taliban- ruled Afghanistan during the U.S.-led invasion that followed the 9/11 attacks. She was attacked and wounded while covering an election in Afghanistan in 2014.

of *Political Kidnapping*, is being released the day of the event and will be available for purchase.

The moderator will be William J. Holstein, who covered the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late 1979 and was one of the American journalists placed under house arrest and deported for “interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation.” He has authored seven books and is president of the OPC Foundation. ❖

‘Annual Meeting’ Continued From Page 1

share regional experience such as popular “China Hands” or Russia reunions in the past, and a program on how to use technology to protect communication with sources, Kranz said.

The OPC Foundation’s executive director, Jane Reilly, said this year the foundation will offer 12 fellowships, including a new scholarship in the name of Sally Jacobsen, the AP’s first female international editor, who died in May this year at age 70.

Reilly added that the foundation has completed its first year as fiscal sponsor of the A Culture of Safety Alliance (ACOS) Alliance, which was supported by grants from the McArthur Foundation and the Open Society Foundation. The ACOS Alliance fosters better safety standards and provides security training and other resources

for freelance journalists around the world.

Newly elected to the OPC board are David Ariosto, Paula E. Dwyer, Linda Fasulo, Josh Fine, David Furst, Azmat Khan and Rod Nordland. Those who were reelected are Anjali Kamat, Mary Rajkumar and Vivienne Walt. The club also elected Associate board members Brian Byrd and Minky Worden. Board members still serving out their terms are listed in the masthead on the back page of the Bulletin. ❖

Big Media Companies Join Trend in Nonprofit Journalism

BY AMY RUSSO

AS NEWS organizations struggle for funding, the *Guardian* and *The New York Times* have announced they will both be pursuing philanthropic initiatives to support their reporting.

"This is one of the most compelling developments in our business," *Times* editors Dean Baquet and Joe Kahn said in a note to employees that was released to the public on Sept. 1. "Philanthropies across the country are providing money for big investigations, including our own 'Fractured Lands,' the magazine's epic examination of the post-Arab Spring Middle East, which was funded in part by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting."

The *Guardian* will also be engaging in investigative reporting initiatives through theguardian.org, its nonprofit arm that will support projects focusing on issues including human rights, social justice and climate change. However, philanthropic funds have accounted for less than two percent of the *Guardian's* revenue over the past year.

Unless the trickle of nonprofit money flowing to news organizations turns into a flood, the partnerships will not be enough to compensate for the billions of dollars flowing to Google and Facebook. As print revenues continue to decline, digital revenues are flowing primarily to the two digital giants rather than to news organizations. Brian Wieser, a senior analyst at Pivotal Research, calculated that Google and Facebook combined captured 77% of gross spending on digital ads in the US in 2016, according to *Business Insider*. More ominously, Wieser estimated that Facebook and Google accounted for 99% of revenue growth from digital advertising in the US last year.

For the nonprofits, funding may not be consistent from year to year, and cultivating a strong bank of donors requires great effort. "The funding stream in philanthropy can be unpredictable," said John Dunbar, CEO of the Center for Public Integrity, a longstanding nonprofit for investigative reporting. "There are good years and not so good years. The challenge going forward is to diversify the income stream so we're not so reliant on one type of revenue."

"That's where all the ethical dilemmas come in and kind of unspoken limits of the grants and they may say that you can do whatever you want but then when the grant comes up for renewal, if you transcended some kind of unspoken limits, then it won't get renewed," said Rodney Benson, Department Chair and Professor in New York University's Media Department.

But partnerships have helped nonprofits like CPI spread their work over a large audience. The Center worked with The Associated Press to produce "Politics of Pain," a 2016 joint program exploring the U.S. government's handling of the opioid crisis. Both organizations provided reporting and the AP was able to provide a significant platform for publication, creating a win-win

for each, Dunbar explained.

While time will tell whether *The Times* and *The Guardian* are engaging in sustainable initiatives, Benson underscored the importance of a diverse audience, remaining skeptical of the potential of foundations to bring about change.

"Though I think foundation support can help nonprofits do a lot of things, there are limits," he said. "So far, a lot of foundation funding has gone to support ventures that are doing quality reporting but that are mostly reaching elite audiences. We need to do more to figure out ways to support quality reporting that will reach non-elite audiences. It's not clear whether the new *Guardian* and *New York Times* non-profit projects will address this problem." ❖



Amy Russo

The OPC Welcomes Amy Russo

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

AMY RUSSO joined the OPC on July 31 as office manager. She is a quick study who has already mastered how to operate the OPC's digital accounting system and member database. Amy brings more than administrative skills to the club. She graduated from CUNY Hunter College this May in media studies, and already has published a story in *Foreign Affairs Magazine* online on Sweden's lone child refugees and asylum policies. Her reporting in Sweden was sponsored by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Amy also reports on breaking news for *Metro NY*, a free New York City daily newspaper. While a student, she wrote for *The Villager Newspaper* and worked as a press intern at the New York City Planning Department. She is fluent in French, can chitchat in Spanish, and understand some Arabic.

Amy will also write for the OPC *Bulletin*. She is responsible for the back of the book, including the People and Press Freedom sections, the member Q&A and the book reviews.

Please give Amy a big welcome when you call the OPC office or attend OPC programs. ❖

'Kim Wall' *Continued From Page 1*

testing grounds, and also the ancestral home of the Marshallese, we investigated the lingering effects of the nuclear testing era and consequences of climate change.

Kim was an artist and storyteller in every sense, piecing together memory from various elders, recorded and oral histories as well as the moments we observed in the atolls. Her work compelled action from the US government and at its core, exemplified the mission of journalism to shine light on the world's troubles as well as its beauty.

She was astute at communicating cultural and political nuance for a global audience. She did so with detail and care as she wrote of Marshallese ancestral land and how the nuclear testing era decimated traditions and livelihoods while also poisoning the islands for generations. From Beijing to Port-au-Prince, she imbued stories with detail and facts.

Kim was always observing and taking care to represent her sources and subjects as they would see themselves. While in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, she pursued a story of a German couple who have since retired on a private island.

"Susi and her husband Lutz, the mastermind behind the low-cost 'Volk-rocket' rocket launch system, spent 28 years in the Libyan desert and became the dictator's only western friends," Wall wrote in an article for *The Guardian* titled "Naked in an island idyll: eccentric couple recall a life of rockets and dictators."

"Growing up amid wartime bombings

in Third Reich Stuttgart, Lutz dreamed about going to space. He wrote a letter to Wernher von Braun, the architect of German and US aerospace programs, whose recommendations were pragmatic: astronauts have to be small, light and few, or bringing them to the moon would be too expensive."

Back in Williamsburg, we'd lay out chapters of stories to edit for our multimedia series. During her parties, she'd project palm trees and tropical creatures on the wall, next to her tchotchkes from North Korea. The world through Kim's eyes was a rare and special perspective. She didn't shy away from tough questions nor did she hesitate to dig deeper at mystery and nuance. In Arkansas, we documented the lives of the Marshallese diaspora. The issues that define US society and history today are interwoven in her words and reporting as she described the lack of access to health care, equal pay and affordable education in the community.

"On a boat, blonde girls in shorts turn their heads to look as they pass by the scene," Wall wrote in "Exodus." "Americans still don't understand who they are or what they're doing here, Michigo explains: they know nothing of the bombs, the exile, the monster babies, the fallout cloud Ferdinand's grandmother saw all the way in Majuro, or their disappearing, achingly beautiful islands."

Across geopolitical topics and complex histories, she told human stories. In the same way she lived her life, she told them with grace, dignity and joyous care for our shared experiences. Kim also knew how to have fun. I'll miss her humor, laughter and ability to connect



with every person she encountered.

Though her legacy will live on, our profession has lost an incredible journalist. We've lost a friend, a daughter, a sister and a light of compassion in the world.

The Columbia Journalism School is hosting a memorial service and reception on Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pulitzer Hall, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism at 116th St. and Broadway. RSVP to JSchoolRSVP@columbia.edu by October 9. Wall graduated from Columbia with a in 2013.

Kim's family, friends and network are in the process of honoring her life and impact in journalism with a grant. The grant will support young women journalists pursuing an interest in reporting on subcultures. If you are interested in supporting or learning more, please email: kimwallgrant@gmail.com.

Covering the 75th Anniversary of Guadalcanal

BY MOANA TREGASKIS

OPC member Moana Tregaskis is an author, photographer and anthropologist specializing in Asia and the Pacific. She is the widow of Richard Tregaskis, a journalist who served as war correspondent during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and is best known for his book, Guadalcanal Diary.

The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands was

an emotional and fast-paced journey of a lifetime. Over several days there were memorials held at the U.S. Monument, Skyline Ridge, a Japanese memorial site and Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers. A memorial was held for Coast Guardsman Munro, who was awarded the only Coast Guard Medal of Honor bestowed in WWII.

The Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, declared Bloody Ridge, the site of a fierce battle

in September 1942 when U.S. Marines repelled a two-day attack from Japanese soldiers, as the nation's first National Park.

A ceremony to commemorate the loss of HMAS Canberra, a cruiser that sunk in the Battle of Savo Island in 1942, was held aboard HMAS Success. Crosses with messages from Australian school children were left at the site.

Receptions and dinners were held,
Continued on Page 10

PEOPLE

By Amy Russo

OPC SCHOLARS

OPC scholar **Jad Sleiman**, who won the Schweisberg award in 2013, has joined Agence France Presse as a video journalist and is currently based in Cyprus. Jad spent a year with Stars & Stripes reporting on Iraq and Afghanistan before attending the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.



MICHAEL DAMES

Leah Finnegan, the Swinton winner in 2010, is now a senior editor at The Outline where she covers the media. She has also written for Gawker and *The New York Times*. While working in the Cairo bureau of The Associated Press, Finnegan was an OPC Foundation fellow.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: Masha Gessen, who won this year's OPC award for Best Commentary for her piece, "Trump, Russia and the Reality of Power" in *The New York Review of Books*, has been named a finalist in the 2017 National Book Awards in the nonfiction category for *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia* [Riverhead Books



LEE TOWNDROW

[Penguin Random House]. Gessen was also featured in *The New York Times* in September for her op-ed, "Immigrants Shouldn't Have to Be 'Talented' to Be Welcome." In response to President Trump's decision to roll back the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Gessen said it is wrong to lament Trump's revocation of DACA only because it will result in the deportation of dedicated workers. "The problem is that it's inhumane," wrote Gessen. "As long as politicians consider it necessary to qualify the victims as 'hardworking' or 'talented,' they fail to stand up to the administration's fundamentally hateful immigration agenda."

OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** was featured by Poynter's head media writer, James Warren, last month for her on-the-ground reporting on ISIS and Al Qaeda. Warren called Callimachi "one of the most astute reporters of perhaps the biggest story of the era." He recalled the start of her career as an intern at a local Illinois newspaper, a path that ultimately lead her to garner three Pulitzer nominations. He touted Callimachi's ability to go beyond traditional sources in her award-winning reporting on terrorist groups, including the search for evidence in trash cans and other sleuthing to reveal "that the movement leading to ISIS was far more nuanced than most reporters – indeed, most of the world – had assumed," Warren wrote. She delved into secret terrorist communication networks, managing to obtain invitations to encrypted apps and chat rooms, scoring an insider's look at jihadist activities. Warren cited "her ability to smartly capitalize on the endless space of the Internet" and her pursuit of a "laborious and even outright exhausting" mission to uncover terrorist operations.

Newly elected OPC Governor **Paula Dwyer** made the cover of the July 24 Asia edition of *Bloomberg Businessweek* with her piece, "Should America's Tech Giants Be Broken Up?" Dwyer's coverage explores whether Big Tech has become too

big, looking at companies that dominate markets with near monopolies. She notes that together, Google and Facebook have seized control over more than half of mobile ads, while Amazon is responsible for the majority of the e-book market and almost one third of U.S. e-commerce overall. "Economists have noticed these monopoly-size numbers and drawn even bigger conclusions: They see market concentration as the culprit behind some of the U.S. economy's most persistent ailments – the decline of workers' share of national income, the rise of inequality, the decrease in business startups, the dearth of job creation, and the fall in research and development spending," Dwyer wrote.

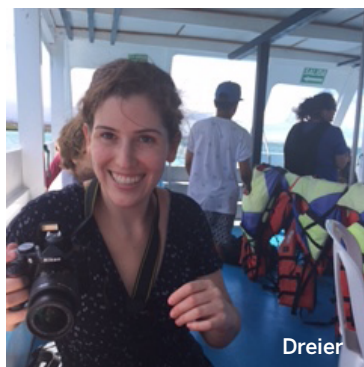
David Rohde has taken a job as Online News Director at *The New Yorker* magazine. Previously he was National Security Investigations Editor at Reuters. David won the 1995 Hal Boyle Award while at *The Christian Science Monitor* for a story on the Srebrenica Massacre and the 2015 Joe and Laure Dine Award for an investigation of Guantanamo Bay for Reuters.

BOSTON, MA: *The Harvard Business Review*, of which OPC member **Adi Ignatius** is editor-in-chief, had one of its most successful years ever, boosting circulation to an all-time high according to a report released by the Alliance for Audited Media. Talking New Media featured HBR in a recent article, citing its push to go digital, expanding online content for subscribers and cutting its print issues from 10 to 6 editions per year. The report said HBR has embraced the digital age by creating its own Slackbot, an online virtual assistant for office advice, in addition to hosting Facebook Live shows, management tips on Amazon's Alexa and launching HBR Ascend, a platform focused on India's young professionals. "Our goal is to publish ideas that improve how companies operate and how people manage their careers," Ignatius said. "Every day, we push ourselves to find ever greater ways to expand our impact, to make sure

these ideas have the greatest possible reach and influence.”

Raney Aronson-Rath and **Andrew Metz**, two of this year’s winners of the David. A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award, have launched *The FRONTLINE Dispatch*, a new podcast which first aired on Sept. 14. The program will focus on both domestic and international stories featuring narration from reporters around the globe. “At FRONTLINE, now and always, we are committed to in-depth, transparent journalism, and we care deeply about reaching audiences wherever they are, with stories that are vital and authentic,” said Aronson-Rath to WGBH. “Extending our storytelling into the podcast realm, in a native way that brings all the depth and quality our audience expects from FRONTLINE’s documentaries, is a natural next step.”

WASHINGTON, DC: **Hannah Dreier**, who was this year’s Hal Boyle award winner for her coverage of political turmoil in Venezuela, was featured as a guest last month by *The Global Politico* podcast with host Susan B. Glasser, who spoke with Dreier about her work abroad. Dreier may be the last U.S. journalist to be granted a work visa to stay in Venezuela. “I felt like I had walked across a bridge as it was burning behind me,” she told Glasser. Dreier entered Venezuela in 2014 when she realized it might be on the edge of collapse. “I had no idea that it was going to become the mess that it is today,” she said, adding that she was unsure whether she would have gone if she had been aware of the



Dreier

country’s ultimate decline. This was Dreier’s first experience reporting abroad. Her groundbreaking reporting included an early and intimate view of poverty, corruption and government oppression that has become part of ordinary life in Venezuela. Dreier worked as an Associated Press correspondent and has since joined ProPublica to cover immigration.

OPC Governor **Molly Bingham** has announced the launch of Orb Media’s investigative environmental report, “Invisibles: The plastic inside us.” Through a partnership with one of the field’s leading scientists, Orb used tap water tests from five continents to reveal a high level of contamination from micro plastics in a significant amount of the world’s fresh water resources. The report showed that more than 80 percent of the nearly 160 tests indicated plastic fibers were present in drinking water. The story made it to the Guardian’s front page, and was published in more than a dozen additional media organizations, with findings shared across 13 countries in 32 languages. “Our most important take away is that these findings are a call for national and/or international research bodies to conduct in-depth studies to establish the source, distribution, prevalence and potential human health effects of micro plastics in drinking water,” Bingham said.

DENVER, CO: Longtime OPC member **Michael Moran** has launched his own media production, analysis and risk firm, Transformative.io, based in Denver, Colorado. His current projects include work with the World Policy Institute, several political risk and blogging projects and a documentary on US-Russian relations funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Moran spent 23 years as a foreign affairs journalist for a variety of outlets, including the BBC, MSNBC and ultimately as executive editor of the Council on Foreign Relations website, CFR.org. He is a former OPC board member, a frequent judge of the OPC Awards, and in 2011 a two-time OPC Award honoree for his Crisis Guide documentaries on Iran and Pakistan.

HOUSTON, TX: OPC member **Ben Taub**, who joined *The New Yorker* as a staff writer last May, gave extensive coverage to Hurricane Harvey survivors in several articles for the publication. His piece, “The Matisse that Hurricane Harvey Spared,” followed the story of a Houston family packing up what was left of their flooding home, mulling over which items to keep and which to let go. Taub bears witness to the heartbreaking devastation brought to the area by the storm while also exposing the humorous and tough demeanor of the family fleeing. In a powerful moment, Mary, the mother, says being able to make light of such a disaster is a necessary coping mechanism. “Mother Nature doesn’t discriminate between economic classes. And she always wins,” she remarked. At one moment, both Taub and his cameraman fell under water while covering the story, showing the risks journalists have taken to cover Harvey’s impact. His other articles explore relief efforts and profile the storm’s victims who have suffered record flooding and damages that will likely require years of recovery.

LONDON: Only three years after receiving a Pulitzer Prize, **The Guardian** has established its own nonprofit to support reporting on critical issues including social justice, global development, women and the environment. Its new website, theguardian.org, will raise funds from sources such as think tanks, philanthropic organizations and corporate foundations. According to the nonprofit, its mission is to “advance and inform public discourse and citizen participation around the most pressing issues of our time through the support of independent journalism and journalistic projects at *The Guardian*.” President Rachel White said the organization will focus on overlooked topics. “There’s an awakening to this concern that some of the issues that they hold dear are not getting coverage or there’s not enough information in the public sphere,” she said to *The New York Times*. The *Times* estimates philanthropic

Ivan Flores
CUNY
New York
Student

Borzou Daragahi
Correspondent
BuzzFeed News
Istanbul
Active Overseas

Dan Dennison
Freelance
London
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

Alice Driver
Freelance
Mexico City
Active Overseas

Judith Matloff
Adjunct Professor
Columbia Graduate
School of Journalism
Associate Resident

Alexandra Petri
Writer
National Geographic
Active Non-Resident,
Young
(30-34)

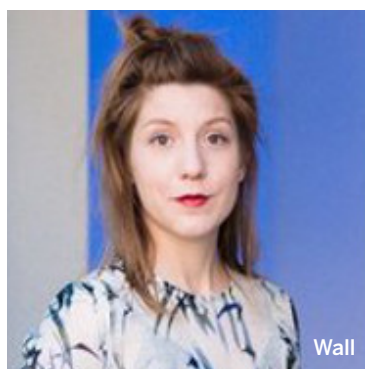
Shannon Sims
Freelance
Rio de Janeiro
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

PEOPLE

partnerships account for nearly \$5 million of *The Guardian's* revenues over the last fiscal year, which totaled about \$276 million.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Swedish journalist **Kim Wall**, an OPC member, was discovered dead last month after embarking on a submarine trip for an assignment to profile the vessel's Danish designer, Peter Madsen. Madsen has been charged with her murder. Madsen has been accused of mutilating Wall's body before scuttling the submarine in an apparent suicide attempt. Wall was an accomplished freelancer who'd written for publications including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harper's* and *TIME*. She reported on a broad range of topics during her career, including climate change, tourism in Haiti and torture in Uganda. Police say Madsen's accounts of events have been contradictory, and he remains under strong suspicion. He is slated to appear in court again on Oct. 3 and could serve up to life in prison if convicted.



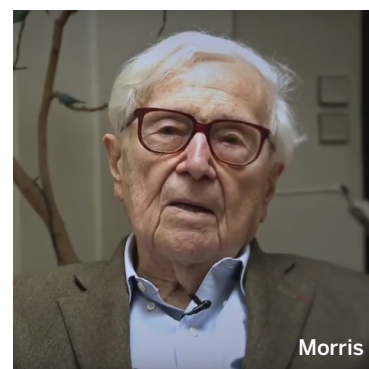
Wall

Longtime OPC member **Rachael Bail** died on Sunday, Aug. 27 at the age of 94. Bail began her journalism career at the *Tampa Daily Times*, then moved to New York City to cover the cosmetics industry for *Women's Wear Daily*. She married concert violinist Herbert Baumel and the couple moved to Caracas, Venezuela and then Rome, Italy, where she covered the country's film industry in Cinecittà. After divorce, she worked as reporter and editor for Gannett in White Plains, New York, the *Florida Times Union* in Jacksonville, Florida and the *St. Petersburg Times* before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1975 where she was Supreme Court correspondent and editor at Voice of America. In a message to the OPC, her daughter Susan Baumel described her mother as a woman with "unique and brilliant intellect, with elegance and beauty whose passion for travel, the arts and news led her around the world."

Renowned photo editor and longtime OPC member **John Morris** died at age 100 on Friday, July 27, at a hospital near his home in Paris. Mor-



Bail



Morris

ris had a storied career that began as photo editor for *Life* magazine in World War II, when he oversaw coverage of D-Day in 1944, editing the historic photographs of Robert Capa. He also served as picture editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, executive editor of Magnum Photos, assistant managing editor for graphics of *The Washington Post* and picture editor of *The New York Times*. He moved to Paris in 1983, as the European correspondent of *National Geographic*. He is survived by his partner, Patricia Trocmé; four sons from two marriages, John II, Chris, Kirk and Oliver; and four grandchildren. To learn more about Morris, browse the OPC website for an archival interview in 2014, and read about his 100th birthday celebrations in Paris earlier this year.

Click here to watch an archival interview with John Morris.

Eugene Risher, a former Saigon bureau chief and longtime White House correspondent for United Press International, died Aug. 30 at the age of 83. Risher served in the U.S. Army for two years and launched his journalism career as a reporter for the *Charleston Evening Post*. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

In August, OPC member **Alice Driver's** op-ed on the challenges faced by female journalists in the field was featured in *The New York Times'* Women in the World section. Looking back on the Wall's murder, Driver says women are constantly questioned when violence occurs. Instead of focusing the conversation on threats sometimes posed by men

while in the field, Driver explained that discussion usually surrounds women's actions, unfairly placing the blame on them and in effect excusing the perpetrator. "I would have gotten on the same submarine just as Wall had, and I know that my colleagues and I will continue to as that editors send us to report on some of the most dangerous regions in the world,

just as Wall did," she wrote. "The objective of masculine violence is to silence women, but to honor Wall's life, we must not be silent. We must make ourselves heard."

President Donald Trump's attacks on media have continued to escalate, recently including accusations against journalists being "damned dishon-

est” and “fake” during his rally in Phoenix in August. Trump accused journalists of fabricating stories and failing to report facts. In response to ongoing threats, the **Committee to Protect Journalists** has launched a **U.S. Press Freedom Tracker**, a website to document violations of press freedom across the country. The list includes an incident reported by a local CBS affiliate in Albany, New York, in which one of the organization’s photojournalists was assaulted by a protester. “Stories like these are vital to include in the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, because they illustrate the much bigger challenges to press freedom this country is facing right now,” remarked Alexandra Ellerbeck, the Tracker’s steering committee chair and CPJ’s North America program coordinator, CPJ reported.

A U.S. freelance journalist was killed in South Sudan last month amid fighting in Yei River state between the government and rebel forces, according to reports from both the military and rebels. **Christopher Allen** was working as a freelancer at the time of his death, reporting on violence that has plagued the country since 2013 between the armies of President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, a rebel leader. Allen, who had been wearing a press jacket, was one of 19 people killed on Aug. 26.

An Indian journalist was shot and killed in early September by unknown gunmen at her Bangalore home, police reported. **Gauri Lankesh**, 55, was a prominent editor at *Lankesh Patrike*, a weekly magazine. She was leaving her car on Sept. 5 when gunfire erupted from several attackers. She was struck in the head and chest. Lankesh was found guilty of defamation for her coverage of Hindu nationalists last year. Lankesh is remembered as a courageous journalist who was unafraid to express her views despite risking controversy.

A North Korean court sentenced two South Korean journalists and two media executives in absentia to death

in September for reporting on a British book about life under dictatorship. Journalists **Son Hyo-rim** and **Yang Ji-ho**, who work for South Korean newspapers *Dong-A Ilbo* and *Chosun Ilbo*, were sentenced to death along with two directors of the newspaper publishers, Kim Jae Ho and Pang Sang Hun. The two journalists were accused of “insulting the dignity of the country,” according to Reuters. The court said there would be no opportunity for appeal, and warned they could be executed at “any moment and at any place, without going through any additional procedures,” Reuters reported. The controversial book, *North Korea Confidential*, was written by James Pearson, a Reuters correspondent based in Seoul who used interviews with diplomats, traders and defectors from North Korea to report on the growing popularity of South Korean culture.

The Cambodia Daily ceased publishing on Sept. 5 after officials threatened to force its closure and accused the paper of tax evasion. The publication has faced backlash for its criticism of the government. The paper’s last headline declared the country was heading for “Descent into Outright Dictatorship” due to the arrest of Kem Sokha, a member of the opposition who was detained on allegations of treason. A statement from *The Cambodia Daily* says the government “destroyed...a special and singular part of Cambodia’s free press.” The country’s Finance Ministry claims the paper has racked up millions in unpaid taxes over the past ten years. The publication closed its doors after the Ministry of Information declined to renew its license in light of the controversy.

CPJ has demanded the release of a Bolivian journalist who is under house arrest after facing charges for destruction of property. **Agustín Aldo Mamani**, who reports for Mecapaca’s Radio del Valle station, was covering an Aug. 29 demonstration as residents marched to La Paz, calling for officials to pave the road leading to the capital. Protestors burned

two buses, prompting 40 arrests. Mamani was reportedly more than 500 yards from the scene of the fires, but had his video camera confiscated and was placed under arrest. “I told them I was a journalist, and they asked for my credentials. I didn’t have them with me, and they [the police] would not allow me to call my radio station,” Mamani told *Página Siete*, a La Paz daily. CPJ reported. “They handcuffed me, and treated me like a delinquent.” The case bears similarities to the July 2015 arrest of Juan Carlos Paco Veramendi, another radio reporter who was detained for five days after he was arrested covering protests in La Paz.

Two Salvadoran news websites are under fire with threats to their Twitter and Facebook accounts targeting journalists by name with their photos. The sites, **El Faro** and **Revista Factum**, are dedicated to investigative reporting. The threats followed an article in *Revista Factum* on Aug. 22 on an allegedly corrupt anti-crime unit accused of links with killings, extortion and sexual assault. The threats began the day the article was published, gradually escalating and warning journalists from both outlets that they could “end up like Christian Poveda,” a journalist murdered in 2009 by the Mara Salvatrucha gang.

A crime reporter was attacked in Colombia on the night of Aug. 25. The CPJ is calling for authorities to conduct an immediate investigation into the violence. **Mauricio Cardoso**, a journalist for *Extra Caquetá*, was driving home after studying at a local university when he was stopped by three unidentified knife-wielding motorcyclists in the neighborhood of Florencia where he was assaulted. The attackers also threatened Cardoso with death, calling him a “snitch,” according to the Foundation for Press Freedom, a Bogotá-based organization. Cardoso was treated in a nearby hospital and released, and Caquetá police have reportedly started investigating whether the attack was linked to his work. ❖

NEW BOOKS

AFRICA

IT'S A story of pure happenstance. A young, naive college student who had just finished his first year of studies at Cornell, Jeffery Gettleman had no idea he was about to fall in love – twice. In his memoir, *Love, Africa* [Harper/HarperCollins Publishers, May 2017], *The New York Times* East Africa bureau chief recounts his long journey to his journalism career and his wife, Courtenay. It all began when Gettleman joined a college group trip to East Africa where he and his friends would deliver supplies to refugees in the area.

The voyage, which included a 1,000-mile drive, was led by a dropout only one year older than Gettleman himself. Gettleman recalls the experience of entering a new world, bearing witness not only to the ravages of poverty but to the warm, welcoming spirit of local residents and their giving nature. Upon his return to the U.S., Gettleman knew he wanted to forge a career in East Africa, he just didn't know how to begin. First, he threw himself into volunteer work with Save the Children, only to find the experience draining and discouraging, disillusioned with the

reporting journey that led him back to Africa and to a position at *The New York Times*. Gettleman's story is a soul-bearing letter of appreciation to Africa that balances the stories of two romances, one with Courtenay and one with the continent itself. ❖

SOMALIA

IN A rags rags-to-riches story, Andrew Harding follows the transformation of the city of Mogadishu and the man who would come to lead it. His book, *The Mayor of Mogadishu: A Story of Chaos and Redemption in the Ruins of Somalia* [St. Martin's Press, Nov. 2016], tells the story of Mohamud Nur, also known as "Tarzan," who was responsible for helping to revive the struggling city in the wake of insurgency and violence.

Nur, born in a remote part of modern-day Ethiopia in 1954, was left destitute along with his mother and siblings after his father died during a drought. Without food or shelter, Nur became an orphan, living in state facilities and earning the name "Tarzan" when he was found in a tree nearly naked while dorms were being inspected.

He's described as a scrappy kid who picked fights, including one in which he lost part of an ear. No one expected he'd one day become a political leader. Years later, Nur fled Somalia in the early 1990s as the country fell into civil war. He went to live with his family in Saudi Arabia then in London, where he became a respected member of the Somali community.

Nur's path took a turn in 2010 when he decided to return home despite violence from the extremist militant movement al Shabaab. During this

time, he was appointed mayor of Mogadishu and fought to bring improvements to the city, from traffic cops to streetlights. Tracing Nur's rise to power and following his contributions as mayor, Harding paints a conflicted portrait of a man fighting against corruption even as some sources say the mayor was guilty off graft himself. ❖

'Guadalcanal' Continued From Page 5

one aboard the USS Barry attended by generals and ambassadors, including Gen. Robert Neller, Commandant, USMC, from Washington D.C. He mentioned to Hon. Keithie Saunders, US Consul, that if he knew I was attending he would have brought his copy of Richard Tregaskis' Guadalcanal Diary, which he has kept since age seven. I dedicated a new copy to him.

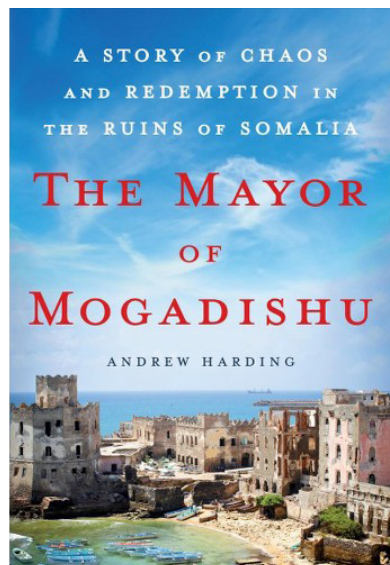
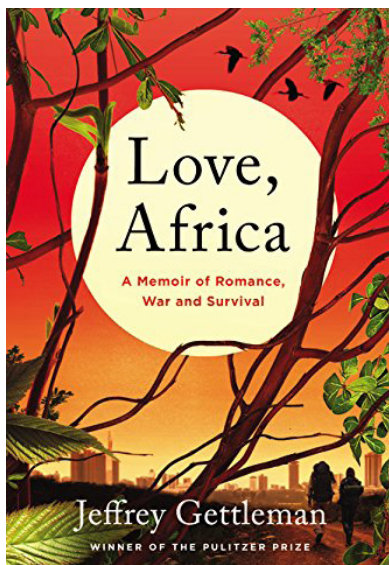
At the National Museum future construction of a Coastwatchers' Museum was announced. It will be an interactive project to provide younger generations knowledge the region's crucial role in history.

I participated in a panel discussion with people who had family members present in the Battle of Guadalcanal, discussing details of the Battle of Bloody Ridge and its far-reaching implications. It was an opportunity to hear Australian, U.S. and Solomon Islanders discuss family members experiences during the hardships of war.

It was an experience never forgotten. I made new friends, strengthened old friendships and experienced heart-wrenching moments.

It is fitting to recall U.S. Commander of the Pacific Admiral William "Bull" Halsey's words:

"The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific." ❖



organization's humanitarian efforts at the time, which seemed ineffective.

He later embarked on a journalism career, applying for many media jobs and landing a position on the staff of a small town Florida newspaper where he broke a story that led him to a job at the *Los Angeles Times*. By then, he'd already met Courtenay, with whom he would struggle through a long-distance relationship of love, fights and infidelity before their eventual marriage.

From Los Angeles, Gettleman went on to cover terrorism in the wake of 9/11 when journalists were desperately needed in some of the world's most dangerous areas. He describes his harrowing kidnapping in Iraq and the rough-and-tumble



Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Dalton Bennett*

BY AMY RUSSO

DALTON BENNETT is a video reporter for *The Washington Post*. He previously worked for The Associated Press in Dubai, Kyrgyzstan and Greece, and has reported from many other countries around the world. In 2017, he was awarded the Edward R. Murrow award for investigative reporting for his work on then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. Bennett has covered major stories including the 2016 Presidential election; Libyan civil war; the Eurozone Crisis; the Westgate Mall Attacks in Nairobi, Kenya; Typhoon Haiyan; the Gaza War; Unrest in Ukraine; the Russian invasion of Crimea; and the fall of Mosul.

Hometown: Stafford, Virginia.

Education: I studied political science at the College of William and Mary. I never intended to be a reporter.

Languages you speak: I'm conversational in Russian and rusty in Spanish.

First job in journalism: I was a photo and video stringer for The Associated Press in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I got my big break in early 2011 with the Arab Spring when the AP sent me to Benghazi after the rebels prevented a Moscow-based crew from entering the country, with few options and a rapidly developing story. I was basically the last man

standing. I cut my teeth in Libya spending over six months with rebel fighters.

Countries reported from: Iraq, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Egypt, Ukraine, Russia, Kenya, UAE, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Macedonia, Germany, Turkmenistan, and at least a dozen other places across Europe and Asia.

Year you joined the OPC: 2015

How did you become interested in Berlin? Berlin is a fascinating and dynamic city and I had the opportunity while with the AP to work out of the bureau. After being on the road, returning to Germany was a great way to find inspiration for your next story.

Major challenge as a journalist: Telling a story that truly connects with an audience is both the greatest challenge and reward of the profession. The nature of our profession requires us to stay ahead of evolving storytelling tools which can make or break a story. Finally finding inspiration, stoking one's curiosity is a constant battle.

Best journalism advice received: Work harder.

Worst experience as a journalist: I've lost a few friends on the job. This is an unfortunately reality of covering conflict that many others in the profession have also had to cope with.

Hardest story: In February 2015, I walked 120 miles with a group of 45 migrants from the border of Greece to Serbia, a journey that would foreshadow the massive numbers we'd see arriving later in the year. While at the AP, we documented the migrants journey from Thessaloniki to France and Germany. At that time the flow of migrants was still a trickle and if caught, the Macedonian police would deport the weary travelers back to Evzoni where they would inevitably repeat their journey. Sleeping in the rough in both rain and snow was physically and mentally taxing. Avoiding detection by locals during the day and marching all night was physically and psychologically exhausting. After being caught by authorities and forced back to the Greek border, the same group, including two toddlers, managed to cross into Macedonia a second time only to be hit by a train as they fought off bandits.

Journalism heroes: C.J. Chivers, Jeremy Bowen, Darren Conway and the all the reporters, field producers, and photographers who took me under their wing during my time at the AP. The list is long but includes Sergey Pomonorev, David Guttenfelder, Edmund Brown, Tomislav Skaro, and at least a dozen others. Finally I'd include the fixers I've worked with over the years in conflict zones. They're the unsung heroes of reporting.

Most over-the-top assignment: In between assignments I once shot a feature on a dog Bar Mitzvah service in New Jersey with a red Pomeranian named Nicky.

Country you most want to return to: Greece. In Athens I covered the financial crisis and years later the migration crisis. Despite the turmoil, I fell in love with the country and the people. A uniquely complicated place at the cross roads of history, I have yet to work in another place as captivating, curious, and complex as Greece.

Twitter handle: @ddaltonbennett ❖

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Afghanistan: America's Longest War

Club Quarters

Reception at 6:00 p.m.

Program at 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 13



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