



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

Jeff Glor Tells OPC Foundation Scholars to 'Stay Focused' Amid Threats to News Biz

EVENT RECAP

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

CBS EVENING News anchor Jeff Glor told a packed room at the OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon that journalists at the start of their careers should remember that this is not the first time that the industry has faced challenges.

"This is not a completely unique moment in our history," he said during a keynote address at the Feb. 23 event at the Yale Club. "If the reporting is extraordinary, people will find it."

The Emmy-award winner called for optimism despite obstacles such



Jeff Glor

as shrinking overseas bureaus and faltering public trust in news. "Good journalists make other journalists better. We can and must inspire each other. Stay focused," Glor said.

The list of recipients included 16 graduate and undergraduate students aspiring to become foreign correspondents, with six scholars from Columbia University, two from City University of New York, one from New York University, two from Brown University, and one each from the University of Missouri, DePauw University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin and Yale.

Each of the scholars spoke about their own paths to journalism, many sharing anecdotes from the field.

Among them was Jack Brook, the David R Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship winner, who opened the

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PEN America to Share Report on Censorship in China

EVENT PREVIEW: MARCH 13

THE OPC and PEN America are co-sponsoring a program to discuss PEN's new report on social media censorship within China. The report will help demonstrate how, under the tenure of President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government's control over the social media space in the country has both tightened and expanded. The Chinese government is wielding its ability to surveil and censor as a way to control civic discussion online, to prevent dissatisfaction and dissent, and to protect the reputations of its highest members while ensuring that influential social media users

are cut down to size.

PEN America's report includes an examination of how such censorship impacts the lives of Chinese writers and artists, for whom social media is often a creative and financial lifeline. For writers and other creatives, the censorship of their social media presence is an erasure not just of their opinions, but of their work and their creative expression.

At a time when the line between a writer's official work and his or her social media presence is increasingly blurred, censorship and surveillance of social media means that there is no safe outlet for uncensored expression.

The report includes comprehen-

sive interviews with writers, poets, artists, and others whose lives have personally been impacted by this system of censorship, as well as interviews with anonymous employees at Chinese social media companies.

The panel will include: Kaiser Kuo, co-founder of Sinica podcast, a current affairs podcast in Beijing, and former director of communications at Baidu.com – prior to that he was a journalist with Red Herring and China Now; Clay Shirky, faculty in Interactive Media Arts at NYU Shanghai and author of two books on social media: *Here Comes Everybody* and

Cognitive Surplus; James Tager, senior manager of free expression programs at PEN America; and Edward Wong, an international correspondent for *The New York Times* and a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Wong served as Beijing Bureau Chief and China correspondent from 2008 to 2017. The moderator will be Minky

Worden, director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch.

The program will begin at 6:30 in the Priestly Room at Club Quarters. Visit the OPC website to read more, or click on the gold button to RSVP.

Click here
to RSVP for the
panel.

Steve Coll to Discuss Book on Covert U.S. Wars

EVENT PREVIEW: MARCH 22

STEVE COLL, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ghost Wars* and the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, will talk to OPC members about his new book, *Directorate S: The C. I. A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001-2016*. His book explains how America came to be so badly ensnared in an elaborate, factional, and seemingly interminable conflict in South Asia.

As Coll makes clear, the war in Afghanistan was doomed because of the failure of the

United States to apprehend the motivations and intentions of the Pakistan intelligence agency's "Directorate S." This highly secretive organization had its own views on the Taliban and Afghanistan's place in a wider competition for influence between Pakistan, India and China, and which assumed that the U.S. and its allies would soon be leaving.

Coll is also a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and previously worked for twenty years at *The Washington Post*, where he received a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 1990.

The moderator will be Robert Nickelsberg, author of the prize-winning book, *Afghanistan – A Distant War*. He has worked as a contract photographer for *TIME* magazine for over 25 years. His new book of photographs, *Afghanistan's Heritage: Restoring Spirit and Stone*, done in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State, will be published in May, 2018.

The program will get underway at 7:00 p.m. in the Priestly Room at Club Quarters. Click on the gold button to make a reservation. ❖

Click here
to RSVP for the
book night.

'Scholars' Continued From Page 1

acceptance speeches with a story about his first assignment covering protests in Chile last summer while working for the *Santiago Times*, showing up in jeans and a tee shirt amid riot police in armored vehicles and protesters wearing gas masks.

"And that's how I ended my first day in Santiago, soaking wet from water cannons, my face stinging from tear gas, alone in a metropolis where I knew no one," he said, adding that the while the adventure of such experiences is exciting, he cares more about "holding conversations with people quite different than myself and listening deeply to those stories and engaging their perspectives without judgement." Brook plans to work as a freelancer in Hong Kong this summer.

Other comments from scholars included those of Harper's Magazine Scholarship winner Adriana Carranca Corrêa, a Brazilian multimedia journalist with several years of foreign reporting experience. She said at the beginning of her career many editors warned her that the profession of journalism was unstable and dying.

"I refused to believe that. I think it's a great time to be a journalist. It has become even more relevant, and the good news is that people are realizing that." As evidence of the profession's importance, she recalled recently that her copy of *The New York Times* was stolen from her doorstep in the Bronx. "We are back in the game!" she joked, since it means someone still thinks the news is valuable enough to steal. Corrêa will serve as an OPC Foundation fellow with Reuters in Brussels.

The Stan Swinton Scholarship went to Isabel DeBré, who talked about her experi-

ence pitching big political stories in Beirut only to have editors reject them one by one. She recalled nearly falling into a big hole in the street one day, and pitched road conditions as a story. "That actually turned into my first feature on how unsafe walking conditions in Beirut were quite literally killing people." She also wrote about anti-sectarian university clubs and chased down a sexual health hotline number she found on a restroom wall at a club. She said those kinds of stories "taught me a value that I will always strive to carry with me: Fresh eyes. Not necessarily those of a young foreign naïve reporter, but those of someone who takes notice and takes every conversation experience as an opportunity to indulge curiosity and follow it." DeBré will head to Jerusalem on an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press.

This year marked the launch of the Sally Jacobsen Fellowship, named after the veteran Associated Press correspondent based in Mexico City and Brussels who died suddenly last May. Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation president, said Jacobsen was the AP's first female international editor who "smashed the glass ceiling."

The first recipient was Hiba Dlewti, who talked about her experience reporting on the U.S. coalition defeat of ISIS forces in June 2015 near the Syria-Turkey border, where thousands of people were displaced from the fighting. She said she discovered many different and conflicting perspectives among survivors. "We are living in increasingly polarized times, and it's easy to just hear what you want to hear," she said. "One of the most humbling and eye opening lessons journalism has taught me is that there are many truths to any story." ❖

MANY THANKS

The OPC Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2018 Scholar Awards Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of the foundation's scholarship/fellowship program.

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The Wall Street Journal

Marshall Loeb: Journalism is God's Work

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

THE WIT, wisdom and extraordinary work ethic of past OPC President Marshall Loeb were remembered by his family and friends during a memorial service at Temple Emanu-El on Fifth Avenue in midtown Manhattan on Jan. 18.

His children, Michael and Margaret Loeb, described what it was like to grow up with a father who lived and breathed journalism. They called him Marshall, not father. Dinner time was devoted to discussions of news of the day, so much so that their friends declined invitations to the Loeb home to avoid "being interrogated." No summer vacations at the beach for the Loeb: They went with their father on working trips to the Soviet Union or to Cuba on the eve of the revolution.

Marshall loved working for *TIME*, Fortune and Money magazine, retiring from Time Inc. only because the company had mandatory retirement at 65, said Michael. After that, Marshall edited *The Columbia Journalism Review*, aired financial advice on CBS Radio and served a short stint as host of the PBS television program "Wall Street Week." "He believed that at the highest levels, journalism is God's work," said Michael.

Tyler Mathisen, who was hired by Loeb at *Money*, said he never knew anyone who worked harder than Marshall. "He engaged. He was full of enterprise.



He innovated. He had bandwidth before bandwidth was even a word. He was the first, and the ultimate, multi-platform journalist."

Mathisen drew chuckles from the crowd when he said he was grateful he worked for Marshall before there were cellphones. "The idea of working for Marshall, weaponized, with a hand-held device that he could use to reach me, or text me, any time of the day or night, anywhere in the world he was or I was, sends shivers through my body."

Marshall's outlook never changed. "When asked at the end of his life what advice he would give an aspiring journalist," his daughter Margaret said, "he said, 'Never give up, never give up.'"

Representing the OPC at the service were Michael Serrill and Allan Dodds Frank, past OPC presidents; Patricia Kranz, OPC executive director; Sonya Fry, retired OPC executive director; and members David Fondiller and Jeremy Main. ❖

April Symposium to Explore Peace, Conflict and The Media

EVENT PREVIEW: APRIL 11

THE GROUP War Stories Peace Stories is inviting journalists, peacebuilders and NGO community members to participate in a one-day symposium on peace, conflict and the media at The Times Center, 242 West 41st Street. The event organizers write that good reporting "can change hearts and minds. They can spark astonishing responses to crises. We've seen it happen – stories can end wars, bring about peace and save lives. A good story can change the world. Let's discuss."

Check the event website for a list of speakers. Regularly priced tickets are \$225 and include lunch and a reception, but WSPS is offering a special discount for up to 20 OPC members to purchase a ticket for \$99 using the promo code: FP-WSPS. ❖

Click here to read more about the symposium.

FCCJ in Tokyo Faces Possible Demise

BY WILLIAM J HOLSTEIN

THE FOREIGN Correspondents Club of Japan, where OPC members enjoy reciprocal relations, is facing a deep crisis and possibly a threat to its continued existence. President Khaldon Azhari, in an email to members, said a 2015 decision to move into a new building in Tokyo in October 2018 had placed the club in a difficult situation. If the FCCJ decides not to move in order to save money, the new landlord, Mitsubishi Estate, will impose steep penalties because that would violate a pre-lease agreement the club signed with it. If the club goes ahead and makes the move to the Fuji Building, it will face an annual rate increase of about \$2 million, which the club cannot afford.

"Many members have asked whether we can avoid moving if it will cause us so much financial distress," Azhari wrote. "The simple answer is that cancelling the pre-lease agreement that the current Board inherited would have resulted, as of Nov. 30, 2017, in substantial claims from Mitsubishi Estate for damages in respect of work already done by that date to prepare the 5th and 6th floors of the Fuji Building for use by

the FCCJ." He estimated that those penalties would cost the club about \$2.6 million. "Even if we could have negotiated this amount down by one half, it would still have resulted in the immediate insolvency of the Club," Azhari said.

Azhari called on members for help in figuring out how to generate more revenue. "We are carefully watching our expenses but there is only so much that we can do to save money – and most certainly not enough to cover the increase in rental cost that the pre-lease agreement authorized by the General Manager and signed by then then Board of Directors in 2015 commits us to," he said.

The FCCJ, conveniently located in the Yurakacho Denki Building, has been devastated in recent years by the decisions of major Western news organizations to shift correspondents from Tokyo to Hong Kong or mainland China because China was considered a bigger story. As a result, tables at the club reserved for Western correspondents, which used to be packed with scribes imbibing their favorite beverages, are often empty while tables used by business members of the club are filled. ❖



MICHAEL DAMES

Left to right: Isabel DeBré, Elizabeth Whitman, Adriana Carranca Corrêa, Congcong Daphne Zhang, Cecilie Kallestrup, Madison Dudley, Yifan Yu, Scott Squires, Olivia Carville, Micah Danney, Claire Molloy, Amelia Nierenberg, Suman Naishadham, Hiba Dlewti, JoeBill Muñoz and Jack Brook.

2018 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners

Following is a list of the sixteen 2018 scholarship and fellowship recipients, their affiliations, the prize they won, the presenter, and a brief description of their winning applications.

JACK BROOK

Brown University

David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family; presented by David's brother, Matthew Schweisberg

Only a college junior, Jack has already worked for the *Santiago Times* and the *Jerusalem Post*. In his essay, he wrote about how a dispute over the construction of Latin America's largest dam split the residents of the Chilean village of Caimanes. Some opted for a cash settlement from a major copper mining company while others held out for the promise of clean water. Proficient in Spanish, Jack is a senior staff writer for the *Brown Daily Herald*.

CECILIE KALLESTRUP

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Reuters Fellowship

Sponsored by Reuters and funded by the Scripps Howard Foundation; presented by Mike Williams, Global Enterprise Editor, Reuters

Before arriving in the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar, Cecilie worked in radio, TV, web and print in her native Denmark and elsewhere.

Having covered the Arab Spring for *Gulf News* in the United Arab Emirates, she is fascinated by the infinite diversity of Muslim culture, as typified by the female matriarchy of the Minangkabau of the West Sumantran highlands of Indonesia, the subject of her essay. Cecilie has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Nairobi.

ADRIANA CARRANCA CORRÊA

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone

Endowed by John R. MacArthur and the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust; presented by Rick MacArthur, publisher, Harper's Magazine

Having already reported from more than a dozen countries on four continents in three languages, Adriana, a native of Brazil, is now acquiring multimedia skills. In her essay, she wrote about the complications posed by the reintegration of former boy soldiers kidnapped as children by the LGA in Uganda. Fluent in English, Portuguese and Spanish, she has a master's degree from the London School of Economics and an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters bureau in Brussels.

ELIZABETH WHITMAN

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship

Endowed by the Scripps Howard Foundation; presented by Jack-Howard Potter of the Pamela Howard Family Foundation

As a reporter for nearly two years in Jordan, Elizabeth witnessed increasing levels of sexual harassment as women there gained more access to public spaces, the subject of her essay. With a B.A. in Middle East history from Columbia, she intends to return to the region with a greater expertise in science, health and environment. Proficient in Arabic and spoken Mandarin, she is also a classical violist. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project in Jerusalem.

SUMAN NAISHADHAM

University of Missouri

H.L. Stevenson Fellowship

Funded by the Gamsin family and sponsored by family and friends; presented by OPC Foundation treasurer Steve Swanson, NY Botanical Garden

Having spent a year as a freelancer and staff reporter in India, Suman is fascinated by the differences in local and foreign coverage and how that plays out in the digital

age. An NYU grad, she wrote about Chikur Balaji, the so-called visa temple, where young Indians pray for H-1B visa approval, the program that allows highly skilled foreign professionals to work in the U.S. Bilingual in Spanish and English with some proficiency in Urdu and Italian, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Mexico City.

ISABEL DEBRÉ

Brown University

Stan Swinton Fellowship

Endowed by the Swinton Family; presented by John Daniszewski, VP and Editor at Large for Standards, The Associated Press

Isabel described how the president of the influential Secular Club at the American University of Beirut made the group a formidable political force in Lebanon, a country grappling with the uncomfortable reality that governing by sectarian quotas split among 11 of the 18 official sects has been a failure.

A senior at Brown University, she also studied Arabic in Jordan and now has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Jerusalem.

SCOTT SQUIRES

University of Texas at Austin

Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship

Endowed by family; presented by Alix Freedman, Manny's daughter and Ethics Editor, Reuters

Born in Cyprus and raised in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia, Scott renewed his interest in Mexico where he once worked at the *Oaxaca Times*. In his essay, he wrote about the changing migration patterns in Mexico for Central American migrants trying to reach the U.S. border. With a B.A. in photojournalism from UT, he is now pursuing a double masters in global policy and journalism. Fluent in Spanish, he has an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Buenos Aires.

MICAH DANNEY

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

Theo Wilson Scholarship

Sponsored by donations from family and friends; presented by Allen Alter, OPC Foundation

A multimedia journalist, Micah's main focus is the Middle East. A journalism major and graduate of Stonybrook University, he spent last summer at the *Times of Israel* where he met Issa Amro, the subject of his essay. A controversial figure in the city of Hebron, Amro preaches a non-violent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is still threatened by legal challenges from both sides. Micah has an OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project in Jerusalem.

OLIVIA CARVILLE

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Roy Rowan Scholarship

Endowed by family, friends and admirers; presented by Roy's son, Marc Rowan

A New Zealand native, Olivia was a junior reporter when the Christchurch earthquake struck in 2011. As part of the follow-up to her award-winning coverage, she went to China to interview the Chinese parents who lost their only children that day, the subject of her essay. Now focused on business and economic reporting, she is a graduate of the University of Canterbury and has a diploma in journalism from the Auckland University of Technology.

AMELIA NIERENBERG

Yale University

Flora Lewis Fellowship

Endowed by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust; presented by Jackie Albert-Simon, Flora's friend

Although Amelia has experience as a reporter in Israel and Lebanon, she chose to write about a domestic topic - a support group for mothers of opioid addicts in

rural Pennsylvania, a story she covered for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Graduating this year with both a B.A. and M.A. in modern history, she is the opinion editor of the *Yale Daily News*. She is fluent in French and has an OPC Foundation fellowship at the Associated Press bureau in Dakar.

MADISON DUDLEY

DePauw University

S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting

Endowed by S&P Global; presented by David Guarino, Head of External Communications, S&P Global

Madison is the editor-in-chief of *The DePauw*, the university's student-run newspaper. A college senior, she traveled to Jerusalem last summer to intern at *The Media Line*, an independent Middle East news organization. In her essay, she wrote about Hanna Bohman, a former Canadian model who joined the Kurdish Women's Defense Unit that was fighting ISIS in northern Syria. She also covered homicides in the nation's capital as an intern for *DC Witness*.

YIFAN YU

New York University

Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting

Endowed by family and friends; presented by Kate McLeod, Jerry's wife and Joe Flint, his son

Yifan had already traveled to or worked in 20 different countries before entering the business and economic reporting program at NYU to pursue her goal of covering international business. In her essay, she described how Chinese start-ups claim to be engaged in the sharing economy for the sole purpose of attracting new capital. A Chinese national, she has a degree in journalism from Nanjing University. Yifan's next stop is Debtwire where she will cover lending.

JOEBILL MUÑOZ

UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

The Walter & Betsy Cronkite Scholarship

Funded by Daimler and Supported by CBS News and friends; presented by Jeff Glor, Anchor, CBS Evening News with Jeff Glor

As an undergrad at Texas A&M, JoeBill directed live sports broadcasts, a path that led him to documentary filmmaking. Named for the two men credited with securing his family's U.S. citizenship (his father's first employer and Bill Clinton), JoeBill wrote about migrants who perished crossing the Yuma Desert and the physical and imaginary borders that harsh environments pose. Fluent in Spanish, he has an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Mexico City.

CLAIRE MOLLOY

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship

Endowed by the Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation; presented by Steve Sadicario, United Talent Agency

A video journalist, Claire began her career in the film industry learning all aspects of production before moving on to create, whenever possible, her own documentaries. Her focus now is Southeast Asia, where she interned last summer in Jakarta for VICE Indonesia. While there she met Bahadori, the subject of her essay and one of 14,000 refugees waiting for resettlement somewhere else in the world. Claire is a graduate of Skidmore College.

CONGCONG DAPHNE ZHANG

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

The Fritz Beebe Fellowship

Endowed by Anne and Larry Martz; presented by Anne and Larry Martz

Having already worked for *The Washington Post* and Reuters in China, CongCong now has an OPC Foundation fellowship with *The Wall Street Journal* in London. A graduate of the University of Washington, she told the story of Li Wei, one of a hundred thousand or more Chinese children who had gone missing in the previous four decades, and his unlikely 20-year reunion with his mother who never gave up searching for her son.

HIBA DLEWATI

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

Sally Jacobsen Fellowship

Endowed by family and friends; presented by Sally's husband, Patrick Oster

Born in Michigan but raised in Syria, Hiba had her medical education in Damascus cut short by the Syrian war and finished her B.A. degree at the University of Michigan in Flint. As a fixer and reporter in the Middle East, she focused most often on the Syrian diaspora and wrote in her essay about shady brokers who booked refugees on rickety ships for travel from Turkey to Greece. A dual Syrian-American citizen, she has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Beirut. ❖

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lenora Chu

Freelance
Shanghai
Active Overseas

Jim Huylebroek

Freelance
Kabul
Active Overseas, Young
(29 and under)

Anne-Elisabeth Moutet

Columnist
The Telegraph
Paris
Active Overseas

Lois Parshley

Freelance
Ann Arbor, MI
Active Non-Resident, Young
(29 and under)

Minerva O. Salles

Columbia University
Student

Madeleine Schwartz

Freelance
Berlin
Active Overseas, Young
(29 and under)

Nicole Tung

Freelance
Istanbul
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

Ceylan Yeginsu

UK Correspondent
The New York Times
London
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

PEOPLE

By Chad Bouchard

OPC SCHOLARS

2015 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner **Ben Taub** of *The New Yorker* won the George Polk Award for Magazine Reporting for his report on the humanitarian devastation caused by the shrinkage of Lake Chad in Africa and linking the ecological disaster to famine and armed conflict. Among the other recipients was Iona Craig of *The Intercept*, who won the Foreign Reporting Award for documenting the destruction and civilian casualties of a covert U.S. Navy SEAL raid on a remote village in Yemen.

Michael Miller, the 2009 Stan Swinton Fellowship winner, and his colleagues Justin Jouvenal and Dan Morse at *The Washington Post* have won the National Press Foundation's 2017 Feddie Reporting Award for their reporting on MS-13. The NPF judges said that the Post reporters "revealed lapses in the federal refugee resettlement program that allowed MS-13 gang members to slip through the cracks and regroup in the United States. In the Washington area alone, more than 40 young immigrants have been involved in MS-13 violence including murder. In a deeply reported and beautifully presented project, the Post reporters illuminated the resurgence of gang violence, which later became a central issue in the Virginia governor's race." Michael had an OPC Foundation fellowship at the AP bureau in Mexico City.

Caelainn Hogan, winner of the 2014 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship, has continued deep coverage of war-devastated Syria with two stories in *National Geographic*. An earlier story about Syrians risking their lives to visit a children's hospital on the front lines appeared on the cover of *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*. In an email to the OPC Foundation, she said she was "ever grateful for the support of the OPC over the years."

WINNERS

New York Times journalist **Chris Chivers** is one of three recipients of this year's James W. Foley American Hostage Freedom Awards. Chivers



is currently a longform writer and investigative reporter for the *Times*, and has reported extensively in conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq. In a release, James' mother Diane Foley said that Chivers "has risked his life many times to bring us authentic stories from conflict zones," adding that he had often helped fellow journalists in harm's way abroad. Following the murder of her son in Syria in 2014, Diane Foley launched the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation the same year. The other two recipients this year are former National Security Council counterterrorism official Jennifer Easterly and Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate.

UPDATES

OPC President **Deidre Depke** will serve as Marketplace's next managing editor. Depke joined the American Public Media program three years ago, first as a freelance editor for digital, then as New York bureau chief. In a welcome email, Marketplace's executive editor, Evelyn Larrubia, said she "couldn't ask for a better partner than Deidre to help strengthen our journalism and beef up beat reporting." Depke started her journalism career at *BusinessWeek*, serving as reporter and senior editor for a total of 12 years. She later worked at *Newsweek*, *The Week.com* and *The Daily Beast* before joining Marketplace. Her first day at the new post will be March 19.

CNN President **Jeff Zucker** is calling for U.S. regulators to investigate whether Google and Facebook have become digital monopolies over



digital ad revenue. Zucker made his comments during a keynote address at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. He said control and monetization of digital content is the "biggest issue facing the growth of journalism in the years ahead" and that doing nothing could mean "good journalism will

go away, and that will be bad for the United States, and that will be bad for those that are trying to tell the world about what is happening in Syria today." Business research firm eMarketer shows that Google and Facebook account for 63.1 percent of digital media ad spending in the U.S. this year

Digital media company **Vox Media** is laying off about 50 employees, according to a memo *Variety* magazine obtained, as the company cuts back online video operations and other programs including Racked, Curbed and SB Nation. The layoffs represent about 5 percent of the company's workforce. Other digital media outlets have struggled recently, with BuzzFeed, Mashable and Refinery29 all making significant cuts late last year.

The **International Reporting Project** has announced it will close up shop after supporting journalism projects and fellowships around the world for two decades. The IRP was founded in 1998 to fill a gap in international coverage as mainstream media began to close overseas bureaus and shrink foreign desks. The organization says it supported 651 writers in more than 115 countries during its years of operation. In a note obtained by the *Columbia Journalism Review*, John Schidlovsky, IRP's founder and director, told alumni that "after 20 years, the year-to-year battle to raise sufficient operating funds finally caught up with us."

Vanity Fair reported in February that **CNN** is preparing to reduce staff by as many as 50 positions as par-

ent company Time Warner looks for cuts. CNN's vice president of communications, Matt Dornic, told *USA Today* that the organization had added 200 jobs over the last 18 months and that "not every new project has paid off." The network has been expanding digital programs. AT&T bid \$85.4 billion to acquire Time Warner in October 2016, a merger the US Justice Department sued to block. A federal court is slated to hear AT&T's case in March.

Upheaval at **Newsweek** has led to a spate of layoffs of veteran journalists, top sales executive Ed Hannigan, editor-in-chief Bob Roe and executive editor Ken Li. The firings come as the publisher of *Newsweek* and *The International Business Times* grapples with accusations that the company bought and manipulated traffic from pirated video sites and engaged in ad fraud. The company, Newsweek Media Group, has denied the fraud allegations. The Manhattan district attorney's office raided the company and has launched an investigation. Adding to the list of troubles, in late February the company narrowly avoided eviction due to a long running legal dispute with Guardian Life Insurance over a sublease.

Meanwhile, OPC Governor **Christopher Dickey** voiced concern about the fate of *Newsweek's* archives if the current owners collapse. He said the archives "contain more than a quarter century of my stories: hundreds of thousands of words, some of which I risked my life to write, and many of which I poured blood into on the keyboard."

Joining an apparent wave of newsroom unionizations, a majority of **Slate** employees in late January voted to join the Writers Guild of America East. More than 1,000 digital news staff members have joined the union over the last two and a half years at media companies including Vice, HuffPost, The Intercept, Gizmodo Media, ThinkProgress, MTV News, Thrillist and Salon.

NEW YORK: OPC member and CBS News executive **Ingrid Cipriani-Matthews** has been promoted

People Remembered: George Bookman

BY CHARLES BOOKMAN

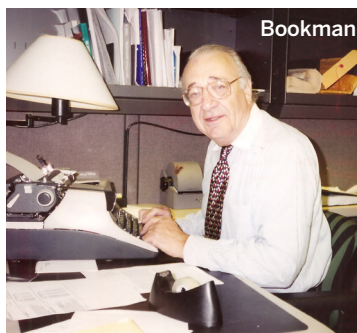
GEORGE B. Bookman, one of the OPC's most senior members, passed away recently in Seattle, Washington the age of 103. A noted journalist, he covered the White House for *The Washington Post* during Franklin Roosevelt's Presidency. He broadcast in French over shortwave radio in the Second World War from Brazzaville, Congo, which flew the free French flag. Later, he was responsible

for news and propaganda in Cairo, Baghdad, Italy and Austria.

He reported national business and economic news for *TIME* magazine and *Fortune* during the 1950s. He covered Presidential campaigns from Adlai Stevenson to Nelson Rockefeller. At the dawn of television news, he served as a panelist on "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation." He earned the respect of financial reporters as director of public affairs for the New York Stock Exchange. When he directed public affairs for the New York Botanical Garden, he delivered weekly on-air gardening broadcasts on CBS News Radio. Born without a green thumb, the "Garden World" broadcasts got him into trouble occasionally, when well-meaning gardeners would ask him for advice.

Bookman chaired the OPC's admissions committee for over a decade. He remained active in club affairs until 2014. When asked once why he devoted so much time to club affairs, he replied, "I guess I like the company of journalists."

Charles Bookman wrote this remembrance of his father for the OPC. You can read more about George Bookman's life in his memoir, titled Headlines, Deadlines and Lifelines, which was published in 2009. ♦



to executive vice president. She will continue to oversee daily operations and work directly with CBS News president David Rhodes. Cipriani-Matthews has worked for the network for 25 years, serving in a range of posts including foreign editor, senior producer and vice president of news. She started her television career at CNN's New York bureau, where she served for 9 years.

OPC member **Louise Boyle** made waves when she broke the story of domestic abuse allegations against key U.S. presidential aide Rob Porter for *The Daily Mail* on Feb. 6. The story included an interview with Jennifer Willoughby, Porter's second wife, who spoke on record about alleged abuses. A reporter at The Intercept, Ryan Grim, added details a day later, spurring other media to follow. Concerns about Porter failing to gain

security clearance due to the abuse allegations raised questions about White House handling of classified material. A *Washington Post* article tracked the development of the story in a piece called "How Two Publications Broke the Rob Porter Scandal."

Ian Williams, a longtime OPC member, has released his book *UNTold: The Real Story of the UN*. Williams draws on his personal experience covering the UN since 1989 and serving as president of the UN Correspondents Association. The book, published by Just World Books, includes illustrations from cartoonist Krishna, who has won two Emmy awards for his writing on Sesame Street. A book launch was held at the Taszo restaurant in Washington Heights. Williams is an associate professor at Bard Center for Global-

Continued on Page 8

PEOPLE

Continued From Page 7

ization and International Affairs.

BENTIU, SOUTH SUDAN: OPC member **Cassandra Vinograd** wrote about survivors of mass rape in South Sudan for the *Pacific Standard*, a piece that garnered mentions on the Pulitzer Center website and in the *New York Times* “What We’re Reading” column that curates excellent journalism. Vinograd reported from one of the areas hit hardest by conflict, Bentiu, where sexual violence is so common that stigma and silence of previous generations has slowly started to lift.

BEIJING: OPC member **Jaime Florcruz** has been named one of 10 elected vice chairs of the Peking University Alumni Association. He will serve a four-year term along with board chairman Lin Jinhua, who also serves as the university’s president. Florcruz posted on Facebook that he was particularly honored “because I just learned that I am the first ever overseas alumnus elected to such top position.” Florcruz worked for four decades covering China for *TIME* magazine and CNN. He stepped

down as CNN’s Beijing bureau chief in December 2014 and was the network’s longest serving correspondent in China.

KABUL: OPC members **Ruchi Kumar** and **Ivan Flores** teamed up for a piece on Vox Media’s style and news website Racked in February about how barber shops are flourishing in Afghanistan as men who lived under strict Taliban rules for grooming explore hair styles as an expression of freedom. Kumar wrote the story, and Flores provided photos.

PARIS: **Anna Pujol-Mazzini** in January wrote a piece for the Thompson Reuters Foundation about the rise of homelessness in Paris since the financial crisis in 2007, and the proliferation of anti-homeless devices such as cold water sprayers and spikes to repel sleepers from sheltered spots. She also tracked the rise of laws that push homeless people out of public view. Pujol-Mazzini is a freelance journalist based in Gambia and covers West Africa for Reuters, Agence France-Presse and *The Times of London*, among others.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Former Associated Press photographer **Max Desfor** died on Feb. 19 at the age of 104. Desfor covered the World War II and the Korean War from the front lines and took one of the most iconic photographs of the 20th Century when he climbed a damaged bridge and captured an image of hundreds of refugees crawling across an icy river to safety in 1950. Desfor was born in the Bronx in 1913 and graduated from Brooklyn College. He worked as staff photographer for the AP in Baltimore and Washington, DC before covering World War II and working from the Philippines and India. He retired from the AP in 1978 and later joined *U.S. News & World Report* as photo director.

Elizabeth Hawley, a reporter who closely followed expeditions to Himalayan peaks in Nepal, died on Jan. 26 at the age of 94. The U.S.-born journalist lived in Nepal since 1960 and became a fixture in the climbing community. Hawley began reporting for Reuters in 1962, nine years after the seminal expedition by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to climb the summit of Mount Everest. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

By Farwa Zaidi

A Turkish court condemned four journalists to life in prison without parole on Feb. 16 for charges connected to their reporting. **Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan, Nazli Ilıcak** and **Fevzi Yazıcı** received the most severe sentences possible on charges that include “trying to overthrow constitutional order,” with no possibility of a pardon. All four have been in jail since 2016 as part of a spate of arrests following a failed coup in July that year. Separately, a Turkey correspondent for the German newspaper *Die Welt*, Deniz Yücel, was released after a year in jail while awaiting the conclusion of an investigation and indicted on charges of “propagandizing for a terrorist organization” and “provoking

the people to hatred and animosity,” which could carry a combined sentence of up to 18 years.

Chadian police have threatened and attacked **Djimet Wiche**, the publisher of the *Alwihda Info* news website in Chad several times on late January and early February, according to Reporters Without Borders. Wiche was arrested and detained for several hours while covering a peaceful protest organized by civil society groups on Feb. 8. Wiche told local media that police confiscated his camera and mobile phone and told him that if he posted any pictures of the protest, they would “know it was you and we’ll come looking for you.” On Jan. 25, Wiche

was covering an anti-government demonstration when police grabbed him, punched him, and dragged him a few hundred feet. He has filed a complaint against the country’s National Security Agency and local police with support from national media unions.

A criminal court in Saudi Arabia sentenced a journalist to five years in prison in early February for criticizing the government and “insulting the royal court.” **Saleh al-Shehi**, a columnist for Arabic-language daily *Al Watan*, was arrested on Jan. 3 for comments made in articles and during several broadcast media appearances, in which he alleged that the royal court was corrupt in the way it

grants special permits for strategically located real estate that is otherwise not publicly available. In an appearance on the talk show *Yahalla*, he said much of the country's corruption stems from the royal court. The CPJ reports that at least seven journalists have been jailed in Saudi Arabia since the beginning of 2012.

A radio journalist in Burundi, **Jean-Claude Nshimirimana**, received threats from a provincial governor in early February to stop reporting on local affairs or face one year in prison on a charge of disturbing public order. Nshimirimana, who works for the privately-owned radio station *Insanganiro*, was summoned to appear by the governor a day after he reported on a story about teachers and local school officials objecting to recently imposed taxes to help fund general elections in 2020. Nshimirimana says the governor and head of the National Intelligence Service also asked him for the names of the teachers who opposed paying the tax. In response to other journalists about the threats, the governor accused Nshimirimana of lying and attempting to "destabilize the country."

Several journalists were arrested in Sudan in January while covering protests after the government's decision to devalue its currency. Police with the country's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) arrested journalists from local and international news outlets including AFP, Reuters, and BBC. NISS arrested seven journalists in Jan. 16 while covering protests in Khartoum state, including freelance journalist Amal Habbani who was held for at least 17 days without explanation. Another reporter working for the local newspaper *al-Jarida* paper, Ahmed Jadein, was arrested while reporting on protests and has been in custody without charge. Police also confiscated print copies of six local newspapers after they published critical reports on rising food costs.

Attackers shot at the home of a Guinean website editor days after he received death threats. **Abdoul Latif Diallo**, the editor of *Depeche*

Guinean news website, said about ten bullets penetrated his living room in a northern suburb of Conakry on Jan. 31. He told Reporters Without Borders that the shots were in retaliation for recent coverage of allegations that heads of the national police were involved in the murder of the country's treasury department in 2012. He said a senior official recently contacted him to "negotiate," but he refused the offer.

A Guatemalan lawmaker with the country's ruling party was arrested on Jan. 16 and charged for plotting the murders of two journalists in 2015. Julio Juarez Ramirez faces murder and conspiracy charges for his role in the shooting deaths of **Danilo Lopez** and **Federico Salazar**. In March 2015, two unidentified gunmen shot and killed the two while they were walking in a park in the city of Mazatenango. Investigators suspect Lopez, a reporter for the Guatemala City newspaper *Prensa Libre*, was targeted for his investigation into government corruption during the time Juarez served as mayor in Santo Tomás La Unión. Salazar reported for *Radio Nuevo Mundo*, also in Guatemala City. In December 2017, Juarez was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for his alleged involvement in the crime. He has maintained his innocence.

MURDERS

The body of Slovak investigative reporter **Jan Kuciak** was found with multiple gunshot wounds along with the body of his partner in Vel'ka Maca over the weekend of Feb. 23. Kuciak's reporting focused on large scale tax fraud for the news website *Aktuality.sk*. His last article focused on the activities of Marian Kocner, a Slovak businessman with controversial links to several politicians.

Pamika Montenegro, a Mexican journalist, satirist, and social media commentator, was shot and killed on Feb. 5 by two unidentified men who stormed the restaurant she owned in Acapulco. Montenegro had been receiving threats for months before her murder. She ran her own satirical

YouTube page, was active on social media sites, and was responsible for a print and online news magazine called *El Sillon*. She was also the editor of *La Nana Pelucas*.

Two Guatemalan journalists were found dead in a sugar field on Feb. 1. Local farmers discovered the bodies of **Laurent Castillo** and **Luis Alfredo de Leon** with hands tied and gunshot wounds in their heads. Both were reporters based in Coatepeque; Castillo was a reporter for the newspaper *Nuestro Diario*, and De Leon worked for *Radio Coatepeque*. According to Castillo's family, he had recently changed his telephone number due to numerous calls attempting to extort money. At least 7 journalists have been killed over the last decade in Suchitepequez, where the bodies were found, and the Association of Journalists of Guatemala reports a total of 36 across the country have been killed since 2000.

Two Brazilian journalists were killed over a two-day period in mid-January. Reporter **Ueliton Bayer Brizon** was shot and killed by an unidentified attacker on Jan. 16 while riding his motorcycle with his wife. His wife fell off the vehicle but survived her injuries. Brizon owned and worked as the sole reporter for *Jornal de Rondônia*, a website that focused on political corruption in Cacoal, a city of around 80,000 people. On Jan. 17, masked gunmen broke into the home of radio show host Jefferson **Puerza Lopes** and shot and killed him. Lopes was critical of local politicians and faced threats more than a year before the attack. The station where his show was recorded, Beira Rio FM, was the target of an arson attack in November 2017. Reporters Without Borders reports that at least 26 Brazilian journalists have been killed in connection with their work since 2010. ❖

NEW BOOKS

By Farwa Zaidi

MIDDLE EAST

AFTER COVERING the Middle East for decades and winning a Pulitzer Prize for his book on the CIA's role in Afghanistan, veteran journalist Steve Coll has returned to the subject for a kind of sequel, titled *Directorate S: The CIA and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, [Penguin Press, 2018]. In the book, Coll attempts to make sense of why America's war in Afghanistan failed to stamp out Al-Qaeda for good.

Coll won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction for his book *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*. *Directorate S* is a followup to that book.

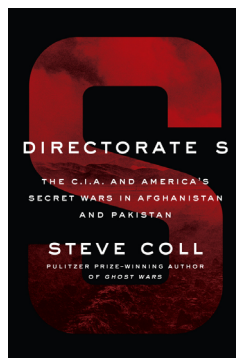
In 1989, he moved to Delhi to become the South Asia news correspondent for *The Washington Post*, during which he traveled frequently between India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Coll covered the Afghan War from both sides of the front. He broke stories about the CIA's program to arm rebels and how the CIA and ISI, the Pakistani Intelligence Agency, had contributed to the defeat of the Soviets occupation, and how ISI empowered radicals during the rebellion.

The ISI, Coll writes, was home to a covert wing of the agency called Directorate S, which was responsible for training and arming the Taliban at the same time the United States was attempting to stifle the same extremists. ISI's intention was to legitimize the Taliban and broaden Pakistan's global influence. After 9/11, fifty-nine different countries, led by the United States, deployed troops and aid to Afghanistan in an effort to eradicate the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

In the book, Coll proposes that while there are numerous reasons that the war in Afghanistan was a failure, the US failure to thwart the operations of Directorate S was a major factor that prolonged the conflict for more than a decade, plagued two American presidencies, and entangled some of the country's most prominent military and political figures.

Coll now serves as dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

Publisher's Weekly called *Directorate S* "the most comprehensive work to date on the U.S. war in Afghanistan. Coll's vital work provides a factual and analytical foundation for all future work on the Afghan War and U.S. policy in Central Asia." ♦

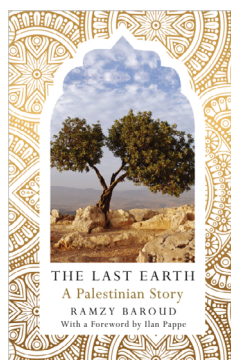


PALESTINE

RAMZY BAROUD's new book, *The Last Earth* [Pluto Press, 2018] takes readers through generations of war and survival in a collection of interviews from Palestine. The journalist, media consultant and author, has been writing about the Middle East for more than two decades and has a PhD in Palestine studies from the University of Exeter.

Baroud draws on dozens of interviews to paint a portrait of people's lives across several decades as they struggle for independence and security.

Baroud, who serves as editor of the daily newspaper *The Palestine Chronicle*, challenges



popular and academic perceptions of history, and finds common threads in the stories Palestinians share despite a population fractured by political division, geographic borders, physical walls, occupation and exile. Baroud explores these complexities with empathy, using firsthand accounts and depicting

the vivid memories of his subjects.

Baroud's book challenges the outsider's monolithic view of the region, gives voice to the people of Palestine and explores new angles through personal narratives. Palestinians have many things in common, including a long history of struggle, but this does not mean all Palestinians are exactly the same. Baroud takes a deep look at how individuals deal with love, heartbreak, exile, and loss in different ways. *The Last Earth* seeks to reclaim Palestinians' story after decades of being erased by outsiders.

Baronesse Jenny Tonge wrote that the book "provides a unique way of tackling the problem of writing history. Reading it is like walking around a gallery of old master paintings, each telling its own harrowing and often beautiful story about the same episode in human history." Receiving unanimously great reviews, *The Palestine Chronicle* says that the book "predicates compelling moral action to end the monstrous injustice."

Baroud is also author of the book *My Father was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story*, published in 2009. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

**PEN America Report
on Social Media in China**

Club Quarters, Priestly Room

6:30 p.m.

March 13

**Book Night:
'Directorate S'**

Club Quarters, Priestly Room

7:00 p.m.

March 22

**OPC Annual
Awards Dinner**

Cipriani 25 Broadway

6:00 p.m.

April 26



Christopher Dickey

PETER TURNLEY

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Christopher Dickey*

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

CHRISTOPHER DICKEY is the Paris-based world news editor for *The Daily Beast*. He has worked as a foreign correspondent since 1980, with postings in the Middle East and Central America for *The Washington Post* and Egypt and France for *Newsweek*. He is also the author of seven books and has written for *Foreign Affairs*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *Wired*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review* and *The New Republic*, among others. In 1983 he won the OPC's Mary Hemingway Award, and was part of a *Newsweek* team that won the 2001 Ed Cunningham Award for reporting connected to 9/11.

Hometown: Paris, France / New York City / Pawleys Island, S.C.

Education: Loudoun County High School, University of Virginia (BA), Boston University (MS, Documentary Film); Hamilton College, Honorary PhD.

Languages you speak: English, Spanish, French.

First job in journalism: Working in 1974 as a researcher and writer on *The Washington Post Guide to Washington D.C.* Subsequently an assistant editor at *Washington Post Book World*, managing editor of *The Washington Post Magazine*, and then switched to hard news, reporting on immigration from Washington D.C. Became a foreign correspondent, based in Mexico City, in 1980, and apart from a year at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York,

have been overseas ever since.

Countries reported from: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Zaire (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Vietnam, Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo.

When and why did you join the OPC?
I've been a member so long, I honestly don't remember when I joined. I originally thought of it as a way to keep track of some of my far-flung colleagues, not least through the newsletter, and a place to get together with them when we were in New York.

How did you become interested in the Middle East?

The Washington Post had planned to send me to Nairobi after Mexico City, but I had a fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations and then had to finish writing my first book in the States. The next assignment that came up was Cairo. And, at first, it was just an assignment. I had covered terrorism and the wars in Central America for four years, so I was sent to cover the wars in the Middle East, and certainly for the first year I was there, 1985, that is what I did. There seemed to be a terrorist incident every day: airplane hijackings, airplane bombings, a cruise ship hijacking, and many more minor events. Coming from Central America to the Middle

East was like going from high school to graduate school.

Major challenge as a journalist:

To understand causes and effects – independent of ideology, prejudice, disinformation and the desire for approbation.

Best journalism advice received:

For a foreign correspondent covering wars and disasters, basic priorities: get to the story, make sure you have a way to get the story out, and then be sure you know how to get yourself out.

Hardest story: Covering the deaths of children.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Learn languages, but, more importantly, learn cultures. The two are inseparable.

Favorite quote: Ezra Pound – “Literature is news that stays news.”

Most common mistake you've seen:

Believing exaggerated accounts of atrocities. Horrible things happen in this world, and we should spare no effort to report them, but partisans of various causes often think that even real atrocities are not enough; that they need to be further dramatized, or that important relevant facts, like the presence of combatants in the midst of civilians, can or should be overlooked. In the end, the exaggerations and the presence of combatants are exposed and exploited by the authors of the atrocities, discrediting the true story as well as the false.

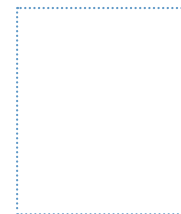
Twitter handle: @csdickey

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



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