



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

OPC Awards Dinner Honors Women and Exceptional International Journalism

EVENT RECAP

BY DONNA M. AIROLDI

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS gathered on April 26 to celebrate their profession and honor those who have persevered in uncovering the truth despite the increasing challenges journalists face when doing their jobs.

"There is unfortunately no sign that reporting abroad is becoming any safer or any easier. There were at least 50 documented deaths of journalists last year, one of the worst years on record. Several hundred more have been jailed to stop their reporting," said keynote speaker Joseph Kahn, managing editor of *The New York Times*. "We need the OPC now more than ever to keep our attention focused on the risks our colleagues are taking and to celebrate their best work."

One of those journalists killed in 2017 was OPC member Kim Wall. The day before the awards,

her killer was sentenced to life in prison. Her parents, Ingrid and Joachim Wall, lit the Candle of Remembrance for journalists who have been imprisoned, killed or harassed while doing their jobs.

"We wish that we could sit over at our table as proud parents and see our daughter receive an award for her stories," said Ingrid Wall. "We wish that every journalist in the world could do very important work without risking their lives. And we wish for the next year that there won't be any need for a remembrance candle."

Another of the evening's themes focused on women on the frontlines. But as OPC President Deidre Depke noted, women have long been reporting from conflict zones as correspondents, photographers and producers, "and aside from the recognition they're just getting now, we have all known that for decades they've been the backbone of great reporting."

Kathy Gannon, senior cor-



STEVE MOORE

José Díaz-Balart, presenter.

respondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan for The Associated Press, received the prestigious President's Award "for courage under fire and a deep commitment to bringing light to dark places." She was attacked on April 4, 2014 by a gunman while reporting in eastern Afghanistan. AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus, who was with her, was killed. Gannon has endured several surgeries since then,

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video clips from
the Annual Awards
Dinner.

Steve Coll Examines US in South Asia in 'Directorate S'

EVENT RECAP

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

HUBRIS AND a shallow depth of cultural understanding have marred U.S. foreign policy in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India over decades of history, journalist and author Steve Coll explained during an

OPC book night at Club Quarters on March 22.

Coll's book, *Directorate S: The C. I. A. And America's Secret Wars In Afghanistan And Pakistan, 2001-2016*, focuses on the covert action arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI, a shadowy group that was both ally with and opposition to the CIA.

Coll, who serves as dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, said Directorate S (a name given to the group by U.S. intelligence) had cells that supported Islamist militias and was covertly training and trying to legitimize

the Taliban while Pakistan was also a supposed ally in conflicts against extremists.

"[Directorate S] was well known to the Americans on September 11th, because in the 1980s the U.S. collaborated with ISI to provide guns and ammunition to the

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Click here
to see video clips
from the
book night.

OPC Annual Awards Dinner



PHOTOS: STEVE MOORE

OPC President Deidre Depke, left, with Ingrid and Joachim Wall, center, and OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz during the ceremonial lighting of the Candle of Remembrance.



Joseph Kahn, managing editor of The New York Times, gives keynote remarks.



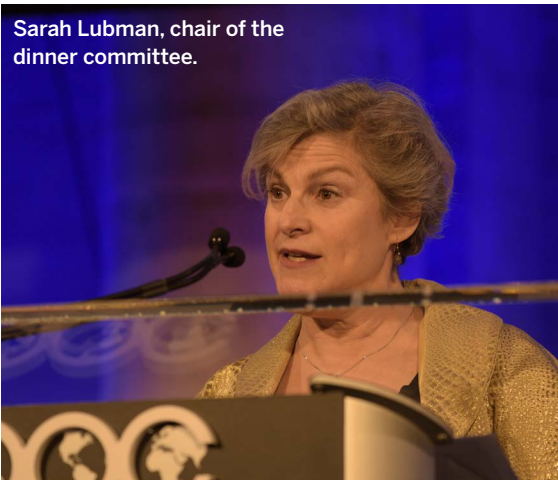
Kathy Gannon, senior correspondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan for the AP, accepts this year's OPC President's Award.



Left to right: Jay Davies, Leon Neal and Pancho Bernasconi.



Deidre Depke, left, and Patricia Kranz.



Sarah Lubman, chair of the dinner committee.



Steve Kroft, left, with Matt Lev.



Deborah Amos

Left to right: Jonathan Ade, Ed Ou, Elise Cocker and Aurora Almendral.



Past OPC Presidents: Allan Dodds Frank, David Andelman, Michael Ser-rill, Deidre Depke (current), Marcus Mabry and William J. Holstein.



Azmat Khan, left, and Basim Razzo.

'Awards Dinner'
Continued From Page 1

and Depke noted that she was in town this week for her sixteenth. The crowd gave her a roaring standing ovation.

Gannon thanked OPC and noted her inspiration from a new generation of journalists. "I listened as one person spoke of his gratitude to those who share their stories, and truly my heart skipped a beat, because for me that's the essence of who we are and what we do," she said. "That is why I love this job. Because it allows me to give a voice to those who struggle to be heard."

Along with others who cited attacks on the press around the world, and at home from our own president, Gannon noted the insults targeted toward the media "by the powerful, but I feel we have risen to the occasion," she said.

"I feel it has inspired us to dig deeper, look closer and reconnect to the real reasons why we chose this profession. Whether it's the suffering by the Rohingya Muslims driven from their homes, Yemenis tortured in secret prisons, or women killed in the name of honor, and those who would kill them, and of women assaulted by powerful men who thought that power alone entitled them and would guarantee their silence. But what we do when we tell these stories is we reveal awe-inspiring courage of those who choose to speak out."

This year's 22 awards were selected from 430 entries and reviewed by more than 90 judges. Three awards each were given for stories on defeating ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and on coverage detailing the consequences war has on civilians. Additional regions and conflicts represented included the Rohingya exodus from Myanmar, the drug war in the Philippines, a housing crisis in Mexico, and more.

Host José Díaz-Balart, news anchor for Noticias Telemundo and NBC News, presented the awards.

The Associated Press and Reuters led all media outlets with three OPC awards each. AP won the prestigious Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper or news service reporting from abroad as its team chronicled the human rights violations against the Rohingya people in Myanmar.

Reuters journalists Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato and their team won the first-ever Roy Rowan Award for best investigative reporting with an exposé on the murderous drug crackdown conducted by the Philippine police. Rowan, a former OPC president, passed away in 2016 after a legendary 70-year journalism career.

"My colleagues spent 18 months investigating Duterte's War," said Baldwin. "We knew which neighborhoods the killers frequented. We knew the GPS coordinates of their kills. We knew they mostly came at night and killed with close range head shots. We also knew most of the killers were Philippine national police. But knowing it and proving it are two very different things."

Baldwin said that combining street reporting with data reporting helped to name the killers. "What was great for us and galling for the police was the data we used to name the killers was their own," she said.

Another new honor, the Kim Wall Award, for best digital storytelling, went to William Booth, Sufian Taha and Linda Davidson from *The Washington Post* for their piece "Occupied," which detailed the military occupation story from three Palestinians. Wall's parents presented the award.

"For our project, there was one question we wanted to ask," said Taha. "What does it feel like for a Palestinian to be occupied?"

Carol Guzy of Zuma Press won the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for her intimate and sensitive photographs in the "Scars of Mosul, the Legacy of ISIS."



Left to right: Doug Jehl, John Daniszewski and Patricia Kranz.

"My goal was to evoke viewers to feel empathy for those in exile. They're not simply collateral damage. They're individuals with shattered hopes and dreams still choosing life. And I wanted people to really see them," said Guzy. "It is with deep humility that I stand here in tribute to the people in Mosul and all other innocents caught in conflicts, and [who are] emerging from those atrocities with resilience and even grace. That is the purest definition of courage."

Ed Ou and Aurora Almendral won the David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award for best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition for "The Kill List: The Brutal Drug War in the Philippines."

"Ed and I wanted to create a portrait of how [President] Duterte has built complex narratives of denial and justification, and to show how citizens of a country are willing to compromise their morals for what they have been convinced is for their greater good," Almendral said.

She added that they could not have done their work without the undertaker, "who believed the killings needed to be documented, and allowed us to do our work," and the family of the dead man, who understood we were documenting what was happening. "The killings are going on to this day. Duterte may be getting away with it now, but the victims' families told me they believe justice will come for him later, and that work like ours will stand for what really is happening in the Philippines."

The evening also included a fundraiser for the OPC's Freelancer Fund, which supports those reporting around the world who often cannot get their reporting costs met, or who need assistance with OPC membership. Attendees contributed more than \$22,000.

Bringing a bit of levity to the event was Clay Bennett, cartoonist for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, and winner of the Thomas Nast Award for best cartoons on international affairs. Images of his work – focused mainly on President Trump – brought giggles to the crowd while they were displayed on the screen behind him as he thanked journalists "who cover the most dangerous beats in our business."

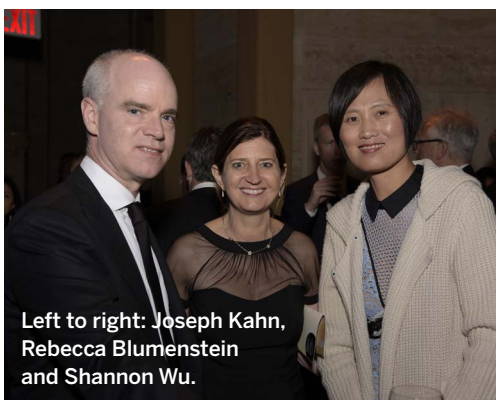
"You report objectively, and I interpret it subjectively," he said. "If the mission of a journalist is to hold up a mirror to society, the one an editorial cartoonist uses is like of those you find in a carnival funhouse. I couldn't do that job if not for the noble and downright dangerous work that you do. Without you there would be no me. So, you're to blame." ❖



Han Tjan, left,
and Maria Jannace.



Left to right:
Bronwyn Staff, Brian Byrd
and Marcus Mabry.



Left to right: Joseph Kahn,
Rebecca Blumenstein
and Shannon Wu.



Left to right: Suzanne Barlyn,
Nadia Damouni and
Sarah Lubman.



Linda Fasulo



Left to right: Kayce Freed Jennings,
Andrew Metz, Raney Aronson-Rath
and Jordan Kronick.



STEVE MOORE

2017 AWARDS AND WINNERS

THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad

Associated Press Staff
"Rohingya Exodus"

CITATION

Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall,
Manuel Mogato and Reuters team
Reuters
"Duterte's War"

THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper, news service or digital interpretation of international affairs

New York Times Staff
"North Korea, and the Unthinkable"

CITATION

Borzou Daragahi
Buzzfeed
"Iran and the US at a Crossroads"

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

Carol Guzy
Zuma Press
"Scars of Mosul, the Legacy of ISIS"

CITATION

Ivor Prickett
The New York Times
"What ISIS Left Behind"

THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic news reporting from abroad in any medium

Carlos Garcia Rawlins and Carlos Barria
Reuters
"Venezuela Marred by Violence"

CITATION

Mohammad Ponir Hossain, Danish Siddiqui,
Hannah McKay, Damir Sagolj
and Cathal McNaughton
Reuters
"Rohingya Flee Violence in Myanmar"

THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

Kevin Frayer
Getty Images
"The Harrowing Exodus of Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh"

CITATION

Meridith Kohut
The New York Times
"As Venezuela Collapses, Children are Dying of Hunger"

THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

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

Gregory Warner, Laura Heaton, Marianne McCune, Michael May and Jess Jiang
NPR
"The Congo We Listen To," an episode of the Rough Translation podcast"

CITATION

Marlon Bishop, Maria Hinojosa, Nadia Reiman
and Stephanie Lebow
Latino USA
"A Border Drawn in Blood"

THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad

Nick Paton Walsh and Arwa Damon
CNN
"Fall of ISIS"

CITATION

Ian Pannell, Matt McGarry, Rym Momtaz,
Nicky DeBlois and Jenna Millman
ABC News
"The War Against ISIS"

THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

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

Raney Aronson-Rath, James Jones, Olivier Sarbil, Dan Edge and Andrew Metz
FRONTLINE PBS in association with Channel 4
"Mosul"

CITATION

Steve Kroft, Draggan Mihailovich, Laura Dodd and Matthew Lev
CBS 60 Minutes
"Isle of Eigg"

THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD

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

Evgeny Afineevsky, Den Tolmor and Aaron I. Butler
HBO
"Cries from Syria"

CITATION

Michael Kirk, Mike Wiser, Jim Gilmore, Philip Bennett, David E. Hoffman
and Raney Aronson-Rath
PBS FRONTLINE
"Putin's Revenge"

THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting in print or digital on an international story

Azmat Khan and Anand Gopal
The New York Times Magazine
"The Uncounted"

CITATION

Ben Mauk, Laura Kasinof, George Butler
and Diàna Markosian
Virginia Quarterly Review and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
"Paths to Refuge"

THE THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs

Clay Bennett

Chattanooga Times Free Press

CITATION

Kevin Kallaugh
The Economist

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best magazine international business news reporting in print or digital

Monte Reel

Bloomberg Businessweek

"How to Rebuild Puerto Rico"

THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

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

Paritosh Bansal, Tom Lasseter, Aditya

Kalra, Duff Wilson and team

Reuters

"The Philip Morris Files"

CITATION

Lauren Etter, Benjamin Elgin, Sarah Frier and Michael Riley
Bloomberg News
"Facebook and the Assault on Democracy"

THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs

Suzy Hansen

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Notes on a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post-American World

CITATION

Joshua Kurlantzick
Simon & Schuster
A Great Place to Have a War: America in Laos and the Birth of a Military CIA

THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

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

Associated Press Staff

"Collapse of the Caliphate: Triumph and Tragedy in Mosul"

CITATION

Cynthia Gorney, Amy Toensing and Kathryn Carlson
National Geographic
"Life After Loss"

THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN AND PAMELA TITLE AWARD

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

Ed Ou and Aurora Almendral

NBC Left Field

"The Kill List: The Brutal Drug War in the Philippines"

CITATION

Jordan Kronick, David Scott, Fernando Villegas and Daniel Litke
HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel
"The Strongman – Ramzan Kadyrov"

THE JOE AND LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in any medium dealing with human rights

Maggie Michael

The Associated Press

"In Yemen, Human Rights a Casualty of War"

CITATION

Dionne Searcey and Sarah Topol
The New York Times
"Hell's Children"

THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

Sam Evans-Brown and Hannah McCarthy

Powerline, New Hampshire Public Radio

"Outside/In" podcast

CITATION

Douglas Fox, Laurent Ballesta and Camille Seaman
National Geographic
"Crisis on the Ice" and "Under Antarctica"

THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

Richard Marosi

Los Angeles Times

"Mexico's Housing Debacle: A Failed Vision"

CITATION

Almudena Toral, Maye Primera, Oscar Martinez and Carlos Martinez
Univision News Digital and El Faro
"From Migrants to Refugees: The New Plight of Central Americans"

THE KIM WALL AWARD

Best story or series of stories on international affairs using digital storytelling techniques

William Booth, Sufian Taha and Linda

Davidson

The Washington Post

"Occupied"

CITATION

Aryn Baker, Lynsey Addario and Francesca Trianni
TIME magazine, supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and Merck for Mothers
"Finding Home"

THE ROY ROWAN AWARD

Best investigative reporting in any medium on an international story

Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall,

Manuel Mogato and Reuters team

"Duterte's War"

CITATION

Iona Craig
The Intercept
"Death in Al Ghayil: Women and Children in Yemeni Village Recall Horror of Trump's 'Highly Successful' SEAL Raid"

BEST COMMENTARY

Best commentary in any medium on international news

Gideon Rachman

Financial Times ♦

PEN America Releases Report on Social Media Crackdown in China

EVENT RECAP

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

JUST DAYS after Chinese President Xi Jinping lifted term limits to become “president for life,” PEN America, an advocacy group devoted to freedom of expression around the world, released a damning report about tightening restrictions on free expression and social media. On March 13, the OPC and PEN America hosted a panel to discuss the report and the state of social media expression.

Moderating the panel was OPC Associate Governor Minky Worden, director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch. She said there are more than 770 million internet users in China, accounting for over half of the country’s population, and while social media is tightly controlled, it is also thriving.

“Due to constraints on what Chinese citizens can see and read, the censorship that is pervasive is also invisible. That is, you can’t look for something you don’t know is missing.”

The government restricts dissent with laws, technology and ideology – all efforts that Xi has intensified over the last couple of years.

James Tager, senior manager of free expression programs at PEN America, presenting key findings.

He said hopes that the internet would become an ungovernable space for free in China have not come to pass. Likewise, the rise of social media over the last decade has failed to pry open those doors.

He said China has enlisted Western social media companies, “outsourcing” censorship and tightened restrictions by making closed-door deals.

The government uses a potent combination of restrictions on social media companies themselves, along with technological controls.

He said the report outlines “serious significant concerns that any company trying to enter this space will enable and facilitate censorship of Chinese users.”

He added that China sees itself as a caretaker of cyber security and information and uses this “Cyber sovereignty” to justify censorship. Authors of the report worry that the global discussion of “fake news” will be used as a poison pill to justify more restrictions.

Kaiser Kuo, co-founder of Sinica podcast, a current affairs podcast in Beijing, said a once-commonly held notion that China is incapable of innovation because of its restrictions has turned on its head in 2016.



Left to right: Clay Shirky, Alexa Olesen, Kaiser Kuo, Edward Wong, James Tager and Minky Worden.

“It’s a strange moment to be in right now, where we’re very concerned about Chinese internet companies now actually out innovating American ones.”

Alexa Olesen, a Brooklyn-based writer who focuses mainly on China, said Chinese internet users used to have a lot of latitude about what they could post online and on social media.

“Who would have thought that the Hu Jintao era would be, in retrospect, a high water mark for free expression in China?”

She said new laws over the last few years have criminalized online content that subverts

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‘Steve Coll’ Continued From Page 1

Mujahideen to fight against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.”

The book picks up at the end of Coll’s first book on the topic, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ghost Wars*, which covers the period leading up to the 9-11 attacks.

To illustrate the fickle nature of the U.S. relationship with ISA and Pakistan, Coll recounted an anecdote that followed the Bush administration’s declared that nations must be “either with us or against us” in the war on terrorism. As Pakistan declared its solidarity with the U.S., the leader of Directorate S, Colonel Imam, was flying on a plane to Islamabad from Afghanistan, where he had been aiding the Taliban, along with the CIA station chief.

He reassured the station chief that Pakistan was fully on board to help the Americans. As soon as he gets off the plane and visits the Taliban’s ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, and “bursts into tears when greeting him at the door and, saying ‘I can’t believe the treachery of us flipping to the American side.’”

“That encapsulated in one day the ISI, they were capable of manipulating the CIA and the Taliban simultaneously. That was their craft,” he said.

During the 1980s, Coll said, ISI was built into a state within the Pakistani state because of the scale of American and Saudi subsidies, which were way out of line with anything the Pakistani defense budget could have accommodated before.

“It was a swollen institution that had a certain hubris about itself, and after the Americans left in the early 90s, ISI decided to apply the methodologies that it had piloted with the CIA against the Soviets to the Kashmiri war,” he said. ISI collaborated with al-Qaeda to go after Kashmiri militants on the border of Afghanistan, and then looked to a long term asymmetric strategy against India that included Islamist groups

Coll outlined several phases of what he called the Americans’ “failure to understand ISI.” He said the only members of the Bush administration’s cabinet who had personal experience in Afghanistan or Pakistan were Colin Powell and Richard Armitage at the State Department, and their vision of the region was “distorted by their sense that the Pakistan army was the most important potential partner,” he said, and by the desire to believe that Pervez Musharraf was sincere in flipping sides and abandoning the Taliban.

The second phase was one of distraction, caused by the Iraq War, when the administration turned security in Afghanistan over to NATO partners as a way to concentrate their forces and attention in Iraq.

Pakistan and ISI saw the U.S. choosing India as its strategic partner for the 21st century, and its relations with Pakistan as transactional, he said. Finally, by the time Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice started to get a grasp of the situation around 2006, Coll said, the Situation Room was so tied up in Iraq that it was not receptive to warnings about Afghanistan.

“There was a blindness. Some of it willful, some of it incidental to the Iraq distraction. By 2008, the US system had some to understand that

PEOPLE

By Chad Bouchard and Farwa Zaidi

OPC SCHOLARS

Ed Ou, winner of the 2007 Dan Eldon Scholarship, won the Canadian Screen Award for cinematography with colleague Kitra Cahana for the documentary “Dancing Toward the Light” for CBC News. Ou is now a video journalist at NBC News. The documentary showed how young people use dance for healing and preventing depression in the isolated northern community of Nunavut, where suicide is alarmingly common. Ou also won this year’s David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award along with his colleague, Aurora Al-mendral, for a program about President Duterte’s brutal drug war in the Philippines.

Tom Finn, the H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2013, is back with Reuters, now covering FX in London. Tom previously worked for Reuters in the Qatar bureau. He was an OPC Foundation fellow in the Reuters bureau in Cairo and had previously worked for the *Yemen Times*.

Pete Vernon, the 2016 Theo Wilson Scholar, wrote an extensive profile of CNN’s Brian Stelter. Stelter hosts the media news show *Reliable Sources* and serves as the network’s senior media correspondent. Vernon wrote about Stelter’s sense of urgency and near-obsession about covering media in an era marked by constant media-bashing from President Trump. He quoted Stelter as saying the “coordinated campaign against journalism” did not start with the Trump administration, but “dates back decades. He just poured a huge amount of gasoline on the already burning fire.” Vernon is currently a CJR Delacorte Fellow.

Sam McNeil, Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship winner in 2014, is changing positions within The Associated Press from Tunisia to the Beijing bureau. He worked in Beijing last summer and met 2017 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner Yiling Liu, who was there on an OPC Foundation fellowship. McNeil, will now work with Dake Kang, 2016 Fritz Beebe winner, who started in the bureau earlier this year. McNeil had an OPC Foundation fellowship



Ou



Finn

with AP in the Cairo bureau.

After **Sara Dadouch’s** OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Istanbul, the 2016 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner secured a full-time position with the news wire. She is now a correspondent in the Reuters bureau in Riyadh, alongside 2013 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner Stephen Kalin, who is the senior correspondent there.

2005 David Schweisberg winner **Emily Steel** and her colleagues at *The New York Times* won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The *Times* shared the award this year with *The New Yorker*. Steel and her reporting partner Michael Schmidt wrote stories that brought down Fox News star Bill O’Reilly and exposed sexual harassment at Vice Media as part of a series that won the award. Steel told Recode that the power of the reporting on Fox News “wasn’t just a person who was accused of bad behavior at the top who was getting away with it, but it was this entire system and this entire culture that was really corrupt.”

2010 David Schweisberg winner **Jenny Gross** has been named a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in economics and business journalism for the 2018-2019 academic year at Columbia’s Graduate School of Journalism. Jenny is currently the U.K. politics correspondent for the Wall Street Journal in London, where she covers Brexit and national security. She previously freelanced from Johannesburg for the Associated Press and the WSJ.

The Foundation’s 2005 Emanuel

Freedman winner, **Marina Walker Guevara**, and her colleagues Frederik Obermaier and Spencer Woodman from The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists won the Polk Awards’ Financial Reporting Award for “The Paradise Papers,” which centers on a massive leak of financial docu-

ments that shed light on the shady realm of offshore finance.

WINNERS

OPC Governor **David Furst**, international photo editor for *The New York Times*, was named Newspaper Visual Editor of the Year in the 75th Annual Pictures of the Year International Competition. He also won second place in the Online News and Issue Story Editing category, and third place in Print Newspaper Visual Editing, as well as an “Award of Excellence” mention for Online Feature Story Editing. Adam Ferguson of the *Times* was named Photographer of the Year. The award for Newspaper Photographer of the Year went to Magnus Wennman of the Swedish paper *Aftonbladet*.

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** has won an award for international reporting from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. Walt’s piece, “Welcome to Tomorrow Land,” examines Estonia’s transformation into a high-tech vision of the future, with buzzing delivery drones, government services going online and access to the Internet declared as a basic human right. She wrote the piece for *FORTUNE* in April last year. The judges lauded the story’s contrasts “between showing how far Estonia has come from Soviet-era backwater with magnificent medieval architecture to rocketing straight into the future with specific, solid examples.”

Clare Baldwin, **Andrew R.C. Marshall** and **Manuel Mogato** of Reuters have won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in International reporting for

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Phoebe Leila Barghouty
Freelance
Brooklyn
Active Resident, Young
(29 and under)

Livia Hengel
Freelance
Rome
Active Overseas, Young
(29 and under)

Sudarsan Raghavan
The Washington Post
Cairo Bureau Chief
Cairo
Active Overseas

Marcus Rowan
President
Berkshire Interests, Inc.
Dallas, TX
Associate Non-Resident

Emily Schultheis
Freelance
Berlin
Active Overseas, Young
(29 and under)

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reportage that exposed the brutal killing campaign behind Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs. The same reporting garnered the Reuters team this year's inaugural Roy Rowan Award for best investigative work on an international story. Reuters also won the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Photography for images of Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar.

UPDATES

OPC member **David Ariosto** has taken the helm as managing editor of the France-based digital media outlet Brut. Ariosto describes Brut as a "social-only international news company, akin to AJ+ or NowThis." It currently has about 350 million viewers per month. In an article for Medium, the outlet credited its popularity to the use of engagement metrics to zero in on what its readers respond to most.

The **Reuters** news operation has received a \$10 billion shot in the arm in the wake of Blackstone's takeover of the Thompson Reuters financial terminal business. Part of the deal requires Blackstone to pay Reuters News \$325 million a year for 30 years. The company's lucrative terminal business has long been a financial stabilizer the Reuters News operation, which employs about 3,000 journalists in 200 locations around the world. But the deal raises questions about what will happen once the terminal business comes under Blackstone leadership. Thomson Reuters board members were divided about the deal, with chairman David Thomson pushing for a higher price. Felix Salmon of Recode wrote that Reuters News should use the money to "embark on a reinvention which will allow it to maintain its size and scope when the money runs out in 2048."

A&E Networks president and CEO **Nancy Dubuc** will step down to take a post as Vice Media's next CEO. Dubuc will replace Vice co-founder Shane Smith, who is taking a new position as Executive Chairman to focus on strategic deals and content development. Dubuc said in a statement that "anyone who knows me well knows I am an entrepreneur, creator, rebel and disruptor at heart." Dubuc takes the helm at a time when Vice is under fire following a spate of sexual harassment scandals, with a *New York Times* investigation in December turning

up dozens of misconduct complaints from women. Vice president Andrew Creighton has been on leave while the board looks into a \$135,000 settlement involving a former employee's sexual harassment allegations. Its chief digital officer, Mike Germano, was sacked in January following sexual harassment allegations against him. Dubuc is slated to leave A&E on April 16.

NEW YORK: PBS NewsHour has named **Judy Woodruff** as sole anchor of its nightly newscast. The announcement comes nearly 18 months after her co-anchor, Gwen Ifill, died. Woodruff has anchored the show since 2011, joining forces with Ifill as co-anchor and managing editors in 2013. She previously worked as anchor for NBC and CNN.

OPC member and Foundation board member **Nick Schiffrin** is joining the expanding PBS NewsHour team as full-time foreign affairs and defense correspondent this spring. For the last two years, he has been a PBS NewsHour special correspondent, creating weeklong series from Russia, Eastern Europe, Kenya, Nigeria, and other countries. Since last summer, he has reported on foreign affairs from Washington, D.C., with a focus on Russia, North Korea and the Middle East. Prior to working at NewsHour, Schiffrin was Al Jazeera America's Middle East correspondent, based in Jerusalem. Before that, he was a correspondent for ABC News. He was the network's Afghanistan-Pakistan correspondent from 2008 to 2012. In 2011, he was one of the first journalists to arrive in Abbottabad, Pakistan after Osama bin Laden's death and delivered one of the year's biggest exclusives: the first video from inside bin Laden's compound. **Amna Nawaz**, formerly a reporter for NBC and a digital anchor for ABC, will also join PBS NewsHour as correspondent and fill-in anchor.

OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** is slated to host a *New York Times* miniseries podcast focused on the rise of the Islamic State, the fall of Mosul and the ongoing efforts to fight the organization. "Caliphate" will follow the format of Serial and S-Town, with a limited run of episodes. The podcast was announced at the SXSW Interactive Conference in Austin, Texas on March 10. The Times plans to experiment with giving subscribers early access to episodes. This marks the Times' first foray into narrative documentary storytelling.

OPC member **Kim Murphy** has joined the national desk at *The New York Times*. Murphy, who served as a head judge in this year's OPC awards, will serve as deputy national enterprise editor at the *Times*. She previously worked as a senior editor at the *Los Angeles Times*, as assistant managing editor, foreign and national news, overseeing all the paper's foreign coverage. Murphy won a Pulitzer for international reporting in 2005 for her coverage of Russia.

The New York Times has announced that OPC Secretary **Liam Stack** will serve as part of the new politics reporting team for 2018. A Times release about the move described Stack as "an imaginative reporter who covers social and political issues on Express and spent years covering the Arab Spring and the Middle East." He is among a total of 13 reporters and three editors named as part of this year's politics team. Stack joined the *Times* as a Cairo-based reporter in 2011.

OPC Treasurer **Abigail Pesta** has announced in April that she is writing a book about the young gymnasts who teamed up to take down serial predator Larry Nassar, the Olympic doctor who got away with sexually abusing hundreds of girls over decades. *The Team* is slated for publication by Hachette (Seal Press) in 2019. Pesta covered the story for Cosmopolitan. She told Publishers Weekly that she had been one of the first journalists to write about the subject for a national publication.

At an Online News Association gathering on May 11, OPC member and former Governor **Daniel Sieberg** delivered the closing keynote on business models based on blockchain technology as a road to sustainable journalism. Blockchain powers cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, and also systems like Ethereum for monetizing news content. Sieberg is co-founder of a platform called Civil that uses blockchain technology.

OPC members **Mort Rosenblum**, **Alexis Okeowo** and **Jon Sawyer** participated in a day-long symposium on peace, conflict and the media in New York on April 11. The organization War Stories Peace Stories hosted the program, which included panels on a range of topics. Rosenblum, a reporter and professor at the University of Arizona, Tucson, moderated a panel on how reporting frames our understanding of violent conflict. Okeowo recently released her debut book,

A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism In Africa. She discussed the book with Robert J. Rosenthal, a journalist and executive producer at The Center for Investigative Reporting. Sawyer, who works for the Pulitzer Center, joined four other panelists to discuss how their organizations are re-thinking conflict reporting and seeking new ways to cover crises.

OPC member **Cassandra Vinograd** was one of three winners of the “Pitching for Peace” grant competition, for her project on grassroots peacemakers in Africa’s Great Lakes region. She and the other winners were invited to present their projects at April’s “War Stories, Peace Stories Symposium.” Vinograd also was a panelist at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, discussing gender and foreign correspondents.

Separately, **Mort Rosenblum** was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Arizona’s journalism school for his work as a foreign correspondent, author and teacher that “exemplifies the highest of professional achievements in journalism.” He embarked on his first assignment as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press in 1967, and over a career spanning 40 years covered 200 countries, including stints as bureau chief in the Congo, Nigeria, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Buenos Aires and Paris.

OPC Governor **Anjali Kamat** has received coverage and plaudits for her year-long investigation into President Trump’s business deals in India. Her story, titled “Political Corruption and the Art of the Deal,” was published as a cover story in the New Republic and aired in two parts on the podcast “Trump, Inc.,” a coproduction of WNYC and ProPublica. Her reporting was supported by The Investigative Fund. The report delved into five active projects that the Trump organization has in India that are worth an estimated \$1.5 billion. She found that the organization’s India partners faced a long list of lawsuits, police inquiries and government investigations, with evidence of fraud, intimidation, money laundering, tax evasion and illegal land acquisition. The report also outlined a list of conflicts of interest, including Donald Trump Jr.’s repeated trips India to promote real estate projects during his father’s presidency and offer access to the president’s son. Terry Gross interviewed Kamat on NPR’s Fresh Air along with the podcast cohost co-hosted

by Andrea Bernstein. She also talked about the project on Democracy Now with Amy Goodman.

OPC Governor **Lara Setrakian** spoke at the formal launch of a new initiative devoted to changing newsroom culture surrounding sexual harassment on March 13. Setrakian is co-founder of Press Forward, which announced its advisory board at the event. She is one of the women who accused political journalist Mark Halperin of sexual harassment. Setrakian called the organization a network for women who have endured “creepy and abusive behavior” in the news industry. The board includes Jake Tapper and Alisyn Camerota of CNN, Judy Woodruff of PBS and former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel. Setrakian is the chief executive officer, co-founder and executive editor of the digital media company News Deeply.

John Moore, OPC member and multiple winner of OPC photography awards, was work featured in a *New York Times* piece The retrospective on March 25. The piece, titled “Where Fear and Hope Collide: Images From Mexican Border, and Beyond,” looked back at a decade of his coverage of the Mexican border and included 17 photographs that illuminated many angles of the issue. Azam Ahmed, the *Times* bureau chief for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, wrote that Moore captures “intimate portraits of both migrants and border officers who square off on either side,” and that his images provide depth and context. “For Mr. Moore, immigration begins and ends well beyond the physical border — a line where fear and hope collide to shape American politics.” Moore won the OPC John Faber Award in 1997 for images of refugees from Zaire for The Associated Press, and won the 2007 Robert Capa Award for images of the assassination of then-Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

OPC Governor **Azmat Khan** spoke on a panel hosted by ELLE.com with female journalists working to champion women’s rights. Khan, an investigative reporter with New America, talked about a bygone era when unions demanded that companies make salary databases available, which she once used to negotiate pay that was on par with a male colleague. “With a decline in unions, this history of salary transparency has really gone down the drain,” she said. The conversation covered a range of professional topics, from the #metoo movement

and sexual harassment to the future of the women’s movement. Also speaking on the panel was **Emily Steel**, business reporter at the *New York Times* who won the OPC Foundation’s David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship in 2005, and co-wrote the *New York Times* story that led to the ouster of longtime Fox News host Bill O’Reilly, and Brooke Baldwin, CNN anchor and creator of CNN’s American Woman series.

OPC member **Ceylan Yeginsu** wrote a story for *The New York Times* in May covering a firestorm sparked by a single tweet from the country’s national account: Swedish meatballs originally came from Turkey. “Swedish meatballs are actually based on a recipe King Charles XII brought home from Turkey in the early 18th century,” the tweet said. “Let’s stick to the facts!” The confession caused some sparring between Turks and Swedes over social media. Yeginsu asked what this revelation might mean for Ikea, which serves two million meatballs daily around the world.

PRINCETON, NJ: OPC Governor **Christopher Dickey** spoke at Salon on Stockton: A Little Literary Festival in Princeton on April 13. The Paris-based foreign editor for The Daily Beast will talk about his book, *Our Man in Charleston: Britain’s Secret Agent in the Civil War South*, which follows the story of UK diplomat and spy Robert Bunch, who lived a double life during the run up to the America Civil War, and warned the UK against supporting the Confederacy on fears it would lead to a massive increase in slaves Africa.

SYRIA: OPC Governor **Rod Nordland** wrote a dispatch about his travels to Ain-issa in remote northern Syria in February to report on the war for *The New York Times*. He discussed challenges familiar to many foreign correspondents -- navigating bureaucracies and sheaves of paperwork under the Syrian Democratic Forces. “As anyone who has worked in Syria knows, paperwork is an obsession here,” Nordland wrote, adding that the obsession was apparently inherited from the time when Bashir al-Assad’s regime still ruled the region. Nordland wrote several pieces on the war in Syria and conflict with Turkey and ISIS from Kurdish-controlled areas. He is international correspondent at large and Kabul bureau chief at the *Times*.

BEIJING: Author and OPC member

Continued on Page 8

PEOPLE

Continued From Page 11

Lenora Chu spoke at events during the 2018 Bookworm Literary Festival in Beijing in early March. Chu served on a panel about gender issues in China and the impact of global movements such as #metoo and calls for pay equality. At a separate event she discussed her book, *Little Soldiers*, which investigates China's state-run school system, institutionalized bribery, a deep urban-rural divide and its roots in ancient Confucianism and Communist dogma. Harper Collins published the book in September last year. The Bookworm Literary Festival included panels, talks and events from March 8 to March 25.

KABUL: OPC member and freelance photojournalist **Jim Huylebroek** had several photographs taken in Kabul featured in a *New York Times* piece on March 19. The photos accompanied a piece titled "The Story of an Afghan Baby Named Donald Trump" by Mujib Mashal and Fahim Abed, which profiles a rural Afghan family who named their son after then-candidate Trump in admiration for the tycoon and in hopes it would bring fortune to their son. But the family was kicked out of their village and had to move to Kabul because of their choice to use a non-Muslim name.

WASHINGTON, DC: Orb Media, a non-profit journalism organization based in Washington, D.C. that is helmed by OPC Governor **Molly Bingham**, released a multimedia report in mid-March about micro plastic particles found in global bottled water brands. The project, titled "Plus Plastic," showed that a single bottle can hold dozens or possibly even thousands of microscopic plastic particles. Tests of more than 250 bottles from 11 brands revealed a global average of more than 10 particles per liter that could be confirmed as plastic, and more than 300 smaller particles that researchers said was "likely plastic." The online project includes text, audio and data visualization components. The Orb Media Network is slated to publish five more projects this year.

OPC member **Neeta Satam** wrote a provocative piece for the online publishing platform Medium on the challenges of

combatting colonialism and sensationalism in photojournalism. Satam, a documentary photographer and student at the University of Missouri, wrote about a Kashmiri documentarian's frustration with foreign correspondents who parachute into conflict zones to capture dramatic scenes of war without deeper cultural and historical perspective. She also wrote about a controversy last year surrounding award-winning photographer Souvid Datta, who garnered a prestigious College Photographer of the Year award but later admitted to plagiarism and manipulating images. Satam wondered if Datta "consciously manipulate[d] his stories so that they would conform to a Eurocentric perspective to gain validation in the Western world?" She calls for discussions about ethics in photojournalism to focus more on problematic issues of representation.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Former *Washington Post* reporter and author **William Prochnau** died on March 28 at the age of 80. Prochnau was a contributing editor for *Vanity Fair*, where his article "Adventures in the Ransom Trade" became the basis of the movie *Proof of Life* in 2000. Prochnau had stated that he was most proud of his reporting from Vietnam for *The Seattle Times* in the mid-60s. In the 1980's, Prochnau left reporting to focus on working as a full-time author. His last article for *Vanity Fair* took 15 years to write and was published in this year's February issue. In addition to his wife, Ms. Parker, he is survived by his wife, Laura Parker, a staff writer for National Geographic magazine, as well as two daughters from his first marriage, Monica Bradley and Jennifer McMaster; his brother John; three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. A daughter from his first marriage, Anna, died in 2015.

Joan Konner, former dean of Columbia Journalism School and award-winning broadcaster, passed away on April 18 in Manhattan at the age of 87 after a long battle with leukemia. Konner graduated from Columbia's journalism school in 1961, later producing documentaries at NBC ten becoming executive producer for New York's public broadcasting station WNET/Thirteen, where she also served

as executive producer of "Bill Moyers Journal," and then as president and executive producer of Moyers' production company, Public Affairs Television. Konner was the first woman to helm Columbia's journalism graduate school when she became dean in 1988. She stepped down in 1997, and continued as publisher of the Columbia Journalism Review until 2000. Longtime OPC member Yvonne Dunleavy recalled that Konner and her husband, Al Perlmutter - and "their adored dog Bliss" - had been summer tenants of theirs on multiple occasions.

Following news of the death of **Anna Chennault**, a war correspondent and Chinese-born Republican fund-raiser and anti-Communist lobbyist, longtime OPC member **Jonathan Kapstein** remembered that Chennault was often seen at the OPC when the club was at the brownstone on Bryant Park South. Chennault died on March 30 at her home at the Watergate complex in Washington, DC at age 94. She was a high-profile presence in Washington circles and served as an unofficial diplomat under the presidency Ronald Reagan. Her husband, Claire L. Chennault, was the leader of the Flying Tigers in China during World War II. Her memoir photos show Chennault posing alongside Presidents John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford; as well as J. Edgar Hoover, and General William C. Westmoreland. Kapstein remembered that Chennault was a "good conversationalist but an impatient one. Always on the lookout for a political opening." ♦

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

By Farwa Zaidi

The **Committee to Protect Journalists**, **Reporters Without Borders**, the **ACOS Alliance** and **Press Freedom Tracker** are documenting challenges that journalists face entering or exiting the United States. So far, the groups have recorded at least 19 cases of journalists being stopped at the border since 2008. On April 2, the OPC put out a call for its members to report any cases where a journalist's device was searched at the US border, or if they had been stopped for extra screening. Journalists experiencing such issues should contact Alex Ellerbeck at CPJ (aellerbeck@cpj.org) or Margaux Ewen at RSF (mewen@rsf.org) to report incidents or seek advice. Reports can remain anonymous.

A coalition of press freedom groups including **CPJ**, **RSF**, **IFEX**, **Index on Censorship**, and the **International Press Institute** released a report indicating threats to media in the U.S. increased during the Obama administration with a record number of whistleblower attacks, a trend that has sharply worsened under President Trump with an uptick in attacks, arrests, border stops, searches of devices, prosecution of whistleblowers and restrictions on the release of public information. The U.S. fell two places on the RSF World Press Freedom Index. since last year. The report was released on World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

On April 30, **at least 10 journalists** were killed in a single day in multiple attacks in Afghanistan, one of the deadliest days on record for the country's press. 25 people died in a double suicide bomb attack carried out in Kabul by Islamic State. A BBC Pashto journalist was shot and killed in a separate attack in Khost province near the border with Pakistan.

Privately owned Liberian newspaper **Front Page Africa** is facing a \$1.8 million civil defamation lawsuit. The newspaper has long been subject to complaints and harassment for its' critical reporting on the government. This lawsuit relates to an advertisement about land administration published by the paper in March. On April 9, police detained at least seven journalists, and shut down the office.

Prominent human rights lawyer **Amal Clooney** has joined the legal team defending two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar.

Wa Lone and **Kyaw Soe Oo** are accused of possessing secret government papers. They will be charged under the Official Secrets Act, which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. The journalists had been working on Reuters' investigation into the killing of ten Rohingya Muslim men in Myanmar's Rakhine state. On March 28, the journalists' lawyers asked the court to dismiss the case due to lack of evidence.

A high-profile Mozambican journalist, **Erincino de Salema**, was abducted on March 28 outside the headquarters of the National Union of Journalists. Salema was beaten with AK-47 rifles and sustained fractures to his arms and legs. According to his wife, Salema received an anonymous call on March 26, saying that he "would be silenced for being so outspoken." On a March 25 broadcast, Salema criticized the government's spending and called for Finance Minister Adriano Maieane to resign.

A Syrian photographer died from injuries from a landmine explosion on March 19 in the city of Afrin. **Kamel abu al-Walid** was a photographer for the Turkish backed pro-opposition Jarabulus Media Office. He was covering the takeover of Afrin by Turkish forces and Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army factions when a landmine planted in the office building next to him exploded. Al-Walid had worked as a photographer for the Jarabulus Media Center since 2016, when the center was first established. He primarily covered humanitarian efforts in Syria. Prior to his photojournalism work, he was a member of the Free Syrian Army. Syria is currently one of the world's deadliest countries for journalists. At least 117 journalists have been killed there in connection to their work since the conflict started in 2011.

Journalists in Brazil were attacked and verbally abused on April 7, when they tried to cover President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva's last minutes of freedom before he was sent to prison. At least eight journalists were attacked by demonstrators who had gathered to support the president before he surrendered himself to authorities. Reporters with three radio stations, CBN, Bandnews FM, and Jovem Pan, and three TV channels, Bandnews, Rede TV, and Globo, suffered verbal and physical violence.

Police in Egypt raided the offices of independent news website **Masr al-Arabia**. At

least ten officers raided the office on April 3, and held journalists for five hours. Police also arrested the website's editor in chief, Adel Sabri, on claims that Masr al-Arabia lacks necessary licensing. Po-lice issued a 50,000 fine after the site translated and published a *New York Times* report alleging election violations. The regulator labeled the report as "fake news."

MURDERS

A Filipino radio reporter died on May 2 of injuries sustained in a shooting attack on April 30 in Dumaguete City in the country's central region. An unidentified gunman shot **Edmund Sestoso**, reporter for Dumaguete's DYGB-FM radio station, several times at while he was returning home on a pedicab. The gunman reportedly also shot out the tires of a pedicab that was preparing to take Sestoso to a local hospital. Police are considering the possibility that Sestoso's murder was related to his work as a journalist.

A Pakistani newspaper reporter was shot and killed by a local politician on March 27. Pakistani police say **Zeeshan Ashraf Butt**, a reporter for the Urdu-language newspaper *Nawa-i-Waqt*, was interviewing Imran Cheema in the town of Begowala when Cheema, head of the local municipal council, shot the journalist.

Indian journalist **Sandeep Sharma** died after he was struck by a truck while riding on his motorcycle on March 26. Sharma was a reporter for the local News World television channel in the state's Bhind district. Sharma received death threats last year after publishing two stories in July and October on alleged police corruption and illegal sand mining. Bhind police superintendent Prashant Khare said that the truck driver who hit him has been arrested, and the incident is under investigation.

Mexican journalist **Leobardo Vasquez Atzin** was shot and killed on March 21 by unknown gunmen in the restaurant he owned in the town of Gutierrez Zamora. A veteran reporter, Atzin began writing about regional crime, corruption, and general news on a Facebook page in February. Several posts were critical of Juan Angel Espejo, the mayor of Tecolutla, the town neighboring Gutierrez Zamora. On March 9, Atzin posted that he had received threats and bribe offers to stop writing about the mayor. ❖

state power or that's defamatory, using broad definitions that allow the government to jail those accused of dissent.

Olesen covered China for eight years as a correspondent for The Associated Press and has spent more than a decade living in Beijing, on and off, since 1993.

Clay Shirky, faculty in Interactive Media Arts at NYU Shanghai, said many of his students have grown up during a time when China was opening up to them, and in their college years they are now seeing that freedom closing back down.

"It's difficult to convey the shock," among students and colleagues, he said. "The ring of censorship which had originally conceived of as this great firewall had shrunk down to people sensing that there's a wall around them." Shirky is the author of two books on social media: *Here Comes Everybody* and *Cognitive Surplus*.

Edward Wong, an international correspondent for *The New York Times* and a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, said it's a mistake to say that the current crackdown is solely Xi's initiative, because his predecessor, Hu Jintao, had already started to intensify restrictions.

Large-scale unrest in Tibet in 2008 and Urumchi in 2009 caused Beijing to clamp down on digital tools for organizing political action. "The party has a very existential fear of these regions breaking off," he said. "There's a misconception that it's a police state, and that there's not even kindling for protests, but there is a statistic that Chinese researcher [Sun Liping] came up with that there were 180,000 acts of social protest in China in 2010."

Wong was an Iraq correspondent for the *Times* from 2003 to 2007 and covered China from Beijing for the *Times* for nearly a decade afterwards. Wong won the OPC Foundation's David Schweisberg scholarship in 1998. ❖



NEW BOOKS

By Farwa Zaidi

RUSSIA

IN VLADIMIR Putin's Russia, some of the darkest chapters of the country's Soviet past are giving way to nostalgia, if not fading from memory altogether. In Masha Gessen's new book, *Never Remember: Searching for Stalin's Gulags in Putin's Russia* [Columbia Global Reports, March 2018], the Russian-American journalist and award-winning Putin biographer finds that Stalin's infamous and deadly network of labor camps, the Gulags, are fast fading from history. Gessen and photographer Misha Friedman traveled across Russia to trace the legacy of these camps and the memory of those who were killed.

Gessen and Friedman visited the sites of three former Gulag camps. They went to Sandarmokh, north of St. Petersburg, where thousands of victims of Stalin's Great Terror were executed in 1937 and 1938. The two met with children of victims who have spent a lifetime piecing together details of their parents' deaths. They discover that records and history of these atrocities have been all but erased.

Their next stop was a site known as Gulag Perm-36, 900 miles east of Moscow near the Ural Mountains, where a forced-labor logging camp had been converted into a museum dedicated to victims of political oppression. They speak with a former inmate, Sergey Kovalev, a survivor and human rights activist who describes harrowing memories of life in the prison. The museum was taken over by local officials in 2015 and its focus changed from atrocities to the camp's contribution as a timber supplier and its role in securing victory in World War II. The journalists' last stop was Butugychag in remote Siberia, the site of a former tin and uranium mine and one of the biggest and deadliest Gulag camps.

Gessen suggests that despite heroic efforts of a few people who have attempted to retain memory of the Gulags, the tide of revision and denial seems poised to bury that history forever. Requests to memorialize Butugychag have been denied by the state.

Masha Gessen's book *The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia* won the 2017 National Book Award. She also won the OPC's 2016 Best Commentary Award for essays on "Trump, Russia and the Reality of Power" for the *New York Review of Books*. She has received the Guggenheim Fellowship and Carnegie Fellowship and is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Misha Friedman is an award-winning photographer whose work is regularly featured in *The New Yorker*, *TIME*, *Der Spiegel*, *Le Monde* and *The New York Times*. ❖

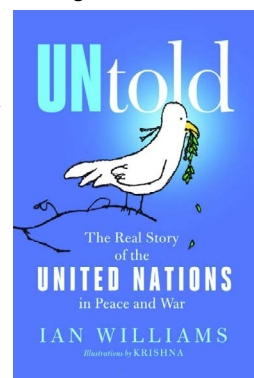
UNITED NATIONS

OPC MEMBER Ian Williams, a longtime United Nations watcher and correspondent since 1989, has released his latest effort to explain and demystify the 70-year-old organization. *UNTold: The Real Story of the United Nations in Peace and War* [Just World Books, November 2017] chronicles the UN's history and delves into its perplexing workings with a spoonful of irreverence. This tone is bolstered every few pages by cartoons from "Krishna," the pen name of a Canadian citizen and a former award-winning illustrator for "Sesame Street," who has a day job at the UN. His cartoons have appeared in *The Guardian* and other publications.

Williams challenges several widespread notions about the UN, including a myth that it is meant to serve as a global government. He explains that it is instead "bossed around by 193 national governments," which foist intractable problems on the international body and often force it to serve as a scapegoat. While isolationists and nationalists accuse the organization of corruption and waste, Williams argues, most of the "peoples of the world" support the idea of an organization that can send peacekeepers to end a war and to coordinate international response to diseases and disasters – natural or man-made.

The book catalogs and describes in plain language many of the UN's lesser-known institutions, such as the World Court, Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council (which he calls the "Cinderella of the UN"). He also includes some of its quirks and customs, such as the reason behind the General Assembly's meeting time in September, which was set in 1945 when leaders from Europe wanted to ensure they had enough time to travel back by steamship before Christmas.

Williams, who has been an OPC member for many years, currently lectures at Bard's Center for Globalization and International Affairs on the UN and the Responsibility to Protect. He has covered the UN since 1989 for *The Guardian*, among other publications. Williams has personally known four Secretaries General and numerous diplomats and officials around the world. ❖





COURTESY OF LOUISE BOYLE

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Louise Boyle*

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

LOUISE BOYLE earned her MA (Hons) in English Literature from Edinburgh University in 2007, where she was also an editor on the university's newspaper. She started out as a trainee for the *Daily Mail* in London before spending time at *The Belfast Telegraph* and then the *Irish Daily Mail* in Dublin where she was an editor in the features department. Boyle moved to New York in 2011, soon after DailyMail.com established its U.S. base. She has traveled to more than 40 U.S. states to cover stories and reported from several countries around the world.

Hometown: Gourock, Scotland.

Education: MA (Honors) in English Literature, Edinburgh University.

Languages you speak: English, French (and currently taking Spanish classes).

First job in journalism: Copy editor for the *Belfast Telegraph*.

Countries reported from: UK, Ireland, U.S., Canada, Honduras, Philippines, the Caribbean.

When and why did you join the OPC? I joined OPC at the start of 2018 because of the quality of the talks and events and the opportunities to network with fellow journalists.

Major challenge as a journalist:

Sometimes people have trouble with my accent on the phone!

Best journalism advice received:

Talk to everyone – you never know who can tell you key information or might have a valuable story to share. On a practical level, wear comfortable shoes – you'll be glad of it on days which stretch into 15 hours.

Worst experience as a journalist:

Anytime I speak to a family who have lost loved ones – it's part of the job that I have found never gets any easier.

When traveling, you like to ...

Talk with local people about the area. When you're reporting on demanding stories, it's easy to become totally immersed but I like to learn about different cultures (and I also like to talk!).

Hardest story: Interviewing survivors of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, many of whom had also lost partners or close friends. I've also interviewed survivors of rape and sexual violence – I have enormous admiration for those who have the bravery to tell their stories.

Journalism heroes: Christina Lamb, Robert Fisk and AA Gill.

Advice for journalists who want to

work overseas: There are no shortcuts – work hard, say yes to opportunities when they arise and be straight with people, no matter the situation.

Stories I'm most proud of:

Most recently, my articles on White House aide Rob Porter and the accusations of domestic abuse made by his two ex-wives. They were impactful and I'm always proud to report the stories of those who have suffered abuse.

Dream job: To be part of an investigative team, like Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor at *The New York Times*, working on ground-breaking exposés.

Favorite quote: "Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cozy, doesn't try it on." – Billy Connolly

Place you're most eager to visit: Japan.

Most over-the-top assignment:

I took an assignment to write a honeymoon travel feature for a bridal magazine. I stayed in a five-star resort in beautiful Dubrovnik. One evening, we were taken by speedboat to a private island for dinner. This is far from my typical travel experience!

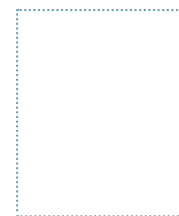
Most common mistake you've seen: Following the pack.

Country you most want to return to: Mexico. ❖

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



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