



BULLETIN

OPC Elects Pancho Bernasconi as President
as Well as Officers and Governors

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

DURING THE OPC's Annual Meeting on Sept. 4, members elected Pancho Bernasconi, vice president of Global News at Getty Images, as the club's next president.

As a career photo editor, Bernasconi takes the helm as the club's first visual journalist to be elected president, and is also the first foreign-born OPC president. Bernasconi was born in Chile, and his father was a working print and radio journalist in Chile, as well as a professor of journalism. His family moved to Washington, DC when he was seven years old, because "being a journalist in the early days of the Pinochet regime was not an easy task," he said. In Washington, his father worked in the press office of the Organization of American States. Bernasconi said he looks forward to supporting the club's mission to protect press freedom.

"What we are in the middle of today, both in this country and everywhere else, is something that demands all of our attention and effort, and demands that we make space to help."



CHAD BOUCHARD

Left to right: Newly elected OPC President Pancho Bernasconi, Executive Director Patricia Kranz and outgoing President Deidre Depke.

Bernasconi started his journalism career as a photo editor at the Washington DC bureau of Agence France-Presse. Before joining Getty Images in 2004, he was a photo editor at *The Chicago Tribune* and *The New York Times*.

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WaPo's Martin Baron to Keynote 2019 Awards Dinner

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

MARTIN BARON, executive editor of *The Washington Post*, will be the keynote speaker at the OPC's 80th Anniversary Awards Dinner on April 19, 2019.

Baron is one of the top editors in American journalism. Newsrooms under his leadership have won 14 Pulitzer Prizes, including seven at the *Post*. Reporters from the *Post* have also won several OPC awards, including the first

Kim Wall Award this spring for their 2017 work "Occupied," an immersive series that transports readers into the worlds of three Palestinians.

The dinner will be held at Cipriani 25 Broadway. The board of governors is seeking help from members in selling corporate tables at the dinner. Revenue from the dinner helps fund OPC services such as free photo press ID cards for members, training programs and freelancer support.

Table prices range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

If you know of companies that may be interested in buying a table, please send contact information to Sarah Lubman, chair of the Awards Dinner Committee, at slubman@brunswickgroup.com or Patricia Kranz, OPC executive director, at patricia@opcofamerica.org. ♦



FUZHEAO/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Panel to Offer Advice on Video Journalism in Dangerous Times

EVENT PREVIEW: OCT. 18

MANY JOURNALISTS today are expected to do their storytelling through video as much as the printed word. A panel of experts will lead a seminar to provide a tool kit so that beginners can learn, and video experts can brush up on, what's involved. It will teach the basics of video technology: how to get started; how to use your smartphone; how to do live streaming; and how to provide for the safety and security of digital video.

The seminar will feature Erica Anderson, lead for U.S. partnerships with News Lab at Google. She will talk about the tools that Google provides to verify the authenticity of videos that journalists use from third parties.

Also joining the panel will be Priscila Neri, senior program manager for Witness, a program that trains people globally how to use video and technology to document human rights violations and to tell stories that otherwise would go unheard and unseen.

Sara Obeidat, a co-producer at Rain Media working on films for FRONTLINE, will also speak. Her work includes *Inside Yemen*, *Separated* and *The Pension Gamble*, which will be coming out in October. She also is the



RICHARD MASONER (FLICKR)

Enterprise Fellow at FRONTLINE.

The moderator will be OPC Secretary Paula Dwyer of Bloomberg News. The seminar will start at 6:30 p.m. at Club Quarters.

Click on the gold button or visit the OPC website to RSVP. ❖

Click here to RSVP for the video journalism panel.

PANEL ON REPORTING IN RUSSIA TO BE STREAMED LIVE

On Sept. 20 around 8:45 p.m., you can tune in to a live stream of a panel on reporting in Russia via the OPC's YouTube channel. Tickets are sold out for the panel and performance of the play "Intractable Woman, A Theatrical Memo on Anna Politkovskaya." But the panel portion of the program will be streamed live, and clips will be available soon after the show.

Judith Matloff, a journalism professor at Columbia University and author who has specialized in writing about regions of conflict, will be the moderator.

Panelists include Zach Fannin, a freelance journalist who won several awards for "Inside Putin's Russia," a PBS NewsHour series; Misha Friedman, a photographer who has worked extensively in Russia and Ukraine; and Elena Kostyuchenko, a special correspondent for Russia's Novaya Gazeta (where Anna Politkovskaya worked) who covers conflict and gay rights. She is the 2018 Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellow at Columbia's Harriman Institute. Click on the gold button above to watch the program live.

Click here to watch a live stream of the panel.

East Asia Experts to Discuss the Future Of Taiwan

EVENT PREVIEW: OCT. 30

TAIWAN, THE self-governing island of 23 million people, is caught between an increasingly aggressive Beijing that is projecting military power in the South China Sea and conducting war games near Taiwan, and President Donald Trump's administration, which has increased support for Taiwan above what most previous U.S. governments have offered. A potential trade war between China and the United States and increasing military tensions between the two superpowers complicates the picture. Will Beijing resort to actual military action to put pressure on Taiwan to join what it considers the motherland?

Will Trump's actions increase the chances of stability or conflict?

On Oct. 30, the OPC will host a panel to explore these and other questions surrounding the island nation. Panelists will include: Andrew Nathan, a professor at Columbia University and one of America's foremost experts on China and its foreign policy; Russell Hsiao, executive director of the nonprofit think tank Global Taiwan Institute in Washington, which seeks to improve Taiwan's international relations; and Richard Bernstein, formerly based in China for *TIME* magazine and a veteran of several foreign postings for *The New York Times*. Bernstein is also author of numerous books, including *The Coming Conflict with China* (1997).

Moderating the discussion will be OPC past president, business journalist and author William J. Holstein, who is also former Beijing bureau chief for United Press International.

The evening will kick off at 6:00 p.m. at Club Quarters with a reception – beverages and appetizers will be provided – and the discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. Click on the gold button or visit the OPC website to RSVP. ❖

Click here to RSVP for the Taiwan panel.



Clockwise from upper left, Richard Bernstein, William J. Holstein, Russell Hsiao and Andrew Nathan.

OPC Remembers LA Times Icon Bob Gibson

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

ONE OF the longest standing members of the OPC, Bob Gibson, known for shaping foreign coverage at the *Los Angeles Times*, died on June 22 at the age of 89. He had been an OPC member since 1957.

Gibson began his career in foreign news covering the Korean War at the age of 22. A story about Gibson in the *Times* said that publisher Otis Chandler assigned Gibson to build up the paper's scant staff in international bureaus.

Gibson grew up in St. Louis, and his family moved to San Marino, California. He studied journalism and political science at Stanford University, graduating in 1950. He landed his first job in Honolulu as correspondent for United Press Associations, which later became United Press International (UPI), and was soon sent to cover the Korean War. He was drafted into the Army at 26 and served as public information

officer. Gibson later worked for McGraw-Hill's news service in London and served as correspondent in Moscow, where he declined an offer from the Russian government to become a spy.

Gibson moved to Los Angeles and began working at the *Times* in 1964, and soon ascended to helm the foreign desk.

A *Times* piece said that Gibson "cut a formidable figure in the newsroom," at the *Times*, at a height of 6 foot 4 inches tall, "an image that belied his compassion for reporters and knack for magic tricks."

Gibson took a buyout in 1991, and during retirement he and his wife Esmerelda Gibson both secured memberships as magicians at the exclusive Magic Castle in Hollywood. ♦



ESMERALDA GIBSON

'Annual Meeting' Continued From Page 1

Earlier in the meeting, outgoing OPC president Deidre Depke announced the reformation of the OPC's Press Freedom Committee, and called for volunteers to serve on a group that will monitor press freedom news, pressure world leaders to improve protection for journalists and call out those who attack the press.

"The White House is doing its best to undermine the work that we do every day, and other governments are finding shelter in this president's remarks and his example," she said.

The OPC also elected officers, nine newly elected or reelected Active board members and three Associate board members. Deborah Amos of NPR was elected First vice President. After a run-off vote to break a tie during the meeting, Christopher Dickey of *The Daily Beast* was elected Second Vice President, and Scott Kraft of the *Los Angeles Times* was elected Third Vice President. Liam Stack of *The New York Times* is Treasurer, and Paula Dwyer of Bloomberg News is Secretary.

Active members elected or reelected to the board are: John Avlon of CNN, Miriam Elder of BuzzFeed, Alix Freedman and Michael Williams of Reuters, Douglas Jehl of *The Washington Post*, Jim Laurie of Focus Asia Productions, Adriane Quinlan of HBO's *Vice News Tonight* and Gary Silverman of the *Financial Times*.

Associate board members elected or reelected are Pete Engardio of Boston Consulting Group, Sarah Lubman of Brunswick Group and Kem Knapp Sawyer of The Pulit-

zer Center for Crisis Reporting.

Board members still serving out their terms are listed in the masthead on the back page of the Bulletin.

Depke thanked governors who are leaving the board due to term limits: Rukmini Calimachi, Bill Collins, Emma Daly, Charles Graeber, Anjali Kamat, Rachael Morehouse, Abigail Pesta, Roxana Saberi, Lara Setrakian, and Calvin Sims.

The OPC Foundation's executive director, Jane Reilly, announced that Stephen Adler, the editor-in-chief of Reuters, will be next year's keynote speaker at the foundation's luncheon, and that the organization will offer a new award in the name of legendary AP reporter Richard Pyle, who died last September. William Holstein spoke about progress in the A Culture of Safety (ACOS) alliance, a coalition of groups working to improve safety for freelance journalists in the field. The OPC Foundation administers the finances of ACOS. The group is hammering out the details of a possible insurance scheme for freelance journalists.

Executive Director Patricia Kranz announced several programs coming up this fall, including a play and panel on Sept. 20 about reporting in Russia, with a performance of *Intractable Woman, A Theatrical Memo on Anna Politkovskaya*. Tickets for that event are sold out. On Oct. 18, there will be a panel on video journalism with Priscila Neri of Witness and Erica Anderson of News Lab at Google, among other speakers. On Oct. 30, the OPC William Holstein will moderate a panel on the future of Taiwan with several China and Asia policy experts. ♦



PHOTOS: CHAD BOUCHARD

Pancho Bernasconi and Deidre Depke



Abigail Pesta and Josh Fine



Robert Nickelsberg and Michael Serrill

New Video Therapy Service Offers Help for Journalists

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

LIFE AS an international journalist comes with big rewards, but can also come at a cost. A high-octane lifestyle, marked by frequent uprooting between posts and the trauma of witnessing tragedy and loss, takes a toll on mental health. But getting help can feel like a nearly impossible task for such moving targets. A new service launched this summer is aimed at making access to therapy easier via remote video chat.

The Mind Field is a small but growing network of therapists who are available for video therapy sessions to help aid workers, volunteers and journalists in the field wherever they are. Anna Mortimer, a therapist and former Moscow correspondent for *The Times*, London (as Anna Blundy), launched the project along with two colleagues who have experience in the development realm.

"People who go into these professions are already on the run from un-

wanted feelings," Mortimer said. "If you need to seek out adrenalin and danger, or even feel the need to help people who are much worse off than yourself, you already probably have some stuff to think through."

Mortimer's father, David Blundy, was a foreign correspondent and conflict reporter for the London-based *Sunday Correspondent* newspaper. He was shot and killed while on assignment in El Salvador in 1989.

She said he was of a generation of journalists "who would rather have died, and indeed did, than ever see a shrink."

Mortimer said people facing trauma in the field often turn to drinking or other self-destructive behaviors to cope, while also becoming their own relentless critics.

"You've got this horrible double thing happening. You've seen awful stuff, and then you are very contemptuous and cruel to yourself for the way that you've

reacted. It isn't the type of contempt and cruelty that people would mete out to people they love."

Interstate medical rules in the US can make remote therapy services tricky, so therapists in The Mind Field are all based in Europe and licensed by European authorities.

Mortimer added that people who are interested should understand that it's ok to sign up for a single session and would not be pressured to commit to more. The cost is \$100 per hour. Therapy is currently available in English, Italian, Spanish, Arabic and Russian, and the organization plans to add other languages.

There is a Facebook page (@the-MindFieldworld) where people can request access for a closed group that serves as chat support. For more information, you can find the website at themindfield.world, where people are also invited to share stories, even anonymously, about mental health issues in the field. ❖

Legendary Foreign Correspondent Richard Pyle Laid to Rest at Arlington Cemetery

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

FRIENDS AND family members of legendary war correspondent and Army veteran Richard Pyle gathered at the Arlington National Cemetery on Aug. 20 to celebrate his life and a career with The Associated Press that spanned nearly five decades. Pyle died on Sept. 28 last year at the age of 83 after battle with respiratory disease.

At the service his wife, actress and writer Brenda Smiley, who is also an OPC member, received a folded American flag, and placed her husband's ashes in a memorial wall. Seven soldiers fired three volleys of rifle shots.

Later that night, friends and colleagues continued to celebrate Pyle's legacy at their home. The AP quoted Brenda as saying she was moved by the group's tributes.

"When I walked into the family room, all I could think was how thrilled Richard would have been. This was a party not to be missed! And in an alternate universe, he would still be there deep in conversation."

Pyle served two years in the U.S. Army before graduating from Wayne State University in Detroit. He joined the AP's Detroit bureau in 1960.

His career spanned 49 years, including top stories such as the presidency of John F. Kennedy, the Vietnam War, the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, revolution in the Philippines and the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center's twin towers.

He covered Vietnam from 1968 to 1973, serving as Saigon bureau chief for the last few years of his tenure there. In the



PAUL STEVENS

Brenda Smiley receives a folded American flag during a memorial service for her husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

1980s, he served as AP's Asia news editor based in Tokyo.

He was the author of the 1991 book *Schwarzkopf*, on the 1991 Gulf War commander H. Norman Schwarzkopf, and co-author of *Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else*, a history of the AP published in 2007. He retired in 2009. ❖

PEOPLE

By Farwa Zaidi

OPC SCHOLARS

Valerie Hopkins, winner of the Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting in 2013, is now the Southeast Europe correspondent for the *Financial Times* covering Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslavia. She is based in Budapest. Hopkins had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Belgrade. She speaks Serbian/Croatian, some Albanian, some Russian, basic German and basic Spanish. Her new role will make it necessary for her to learn Hungarian as well.

Ben Hubbard, who won the Swinton Award in 2007, was named the *New York Times* bureau chief in Beirut. An Arabic speaker, he has reported from Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Jerusalem, a posting that lunched his career, which lasted until he joined the *Times* as a correspondent in 2013.

Pete Vernon, the 2016 Theo Wilson scholar, wrote an article published on July 30 in the *Columbia Journalism Review* surrounding an off-the-record meeting between President Trump and *New York Times* publisher A.G. Sulzberger. The story recounts Trump's claims over Twitter that the meeting included discussion of "the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media." Sulzberger responded that he had met with Trump "to raise concerns about the president's deeply troubling anti-press rhetoric." That prompted tweets from Trump painting media as "unpatriotic." Vernon wrote that Sulzberger had made a mistake in "expecting that Trump would both provide an accurate account of the meeting and change his approach to the media, two things he has shown no interest in doing." Vernon's article also examined Ronan Farrow's latest campaign against high-profile sexual abusers, foreshadowing the *New Yorker* investigation into allegations against CBS chairman Leslie



MICHAEL DAVIES



Moonves and 60 Minutes executive producer Jeff Fager. Vernon completed an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Johannesburg.

WINNERS

Last month's People column neglected to mention a notable accolade for past OPC President **David A. Andelman**, who won this year's Deadline Club Award for Opinion Writing. Andelman is a columnist at CNN who regularly contributes opinion pieces on global affairs. He is a veteran foreign correspondent, author, and commentator. He was also recently elected president of the Society of the Silurians, a prestigious club of past and present staff members of newspapers and related organizations in the New York area. He succeeds Allan Dodds Frank, who is also a past OPC president. Andelman served as president of the OPC from 2010 to 2012.

Several OPC members received accolades from the Online News Association on Sept. 16. Work from OPC Governor **Coleen Jose**, Jan **Hendrik Hinz** and late OPC member **Kim Wall** received a 2018 General Excellence in Online Journalism award in the "small newsroom" category. The award went to The Marshall Project, a multimedia report on climate change and nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. The project was published in *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *The Guardian*, Mashable and other publications. OPC member **Nicholas Kristof** garnered an ONA award for Online Commentary, along with other *New York Times* colleagues. This year's James Foley Award for Conflict Reporting went to OPC member **Nicole Tung** for

"powerful coverage of social issues and conflict in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, and her work as a dedicated advocate for freelancers' rights and safety." Tung is a freelancer based in Turkey.

OPC member and former Governor **Abigail Pesta** has won multiple awards this

summer. She won third place in the National Headliner Awards for magazine feature writing on several topics she had covered in *Mother Jones*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Texas Monthly*. She also won a New York Press Club Award in sports feature writing for her article on Lindsay Lemke, who was one of the first gymnasts to publicly identify herself as a victim of abuse by Larry Nassar. Pesta also won a Clarion Award for magazine feature writing from the Association of Women in Communications for a profile in *Texas Monthly* of a young woman who escaped jihad in Syria and went on to de-radicalize herself in Texas. Pesta is working on a novel highlighting stories from hundreds of women who teamed up to take down Nassar. The book will be published next year by Hachette (Seal Press).

Three team members who worked on an OPC award-winning project are recipients of the McGraw Fellowship for Business Journalism. **Margie Mason**, **Robin McDowell** and **Martha Mendoza** are members of the The Associated Press investigative team for Seafood from Slaves, which won the OPC's Malcolm Forbes and Hal Boyle Awards in 2017. The fellowship will build on the award-winning project, which exposed human rights abuses in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The project led to the release of more than 2,000 enslaved migrant fishermen and the seizure of millions of dollars in assets and revisions to U.S. law. The three team members will receive \$15,000 to continue examining labor abuses and international supply chains.

Continued on Page 6

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Martyn Aim

Freelance
Amman
Active Overseas

Sarah Bellingham

Freelance
New York
Active Resident, Young
(29 or under)

Andre Borges

Senior Editor and Manager,
Quick Response Team
BuzzFeed
Mumbai
Active Overseas, Young
(29 or under)

Jane Ferguson

Special Correspondent
PBS NewsHour
Beirut
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

Paul Haven

Global Director
of Top Stories
The Associated Press
New York
Active Resident

Patrick Hilsman

CUNY
New York
Student

Continued From Page 5

The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) announced that this year's Gwen Ifill Award winner is **Karen Amanda Toulon** of Bloomberg News. Toulon serves as a board member for the OPC Foundation. The Gwen Ifill Award recognizes an outstanding female journalist of color whose work furthers Ifill's legacy of supporting women journalists. The IWMF said in a release that Toulon received the honor for "developing and promoting the broadcast skills of Bloomberg journalists and researchers around the world, while helping to diversify Bloomberg's global lineup."

UPDATES

On Sept. 9, 2018, **Leslie Moonves** stepped down as Chairman of CBS on following several sexual abuse allegations against him. An investigative piece published in an August issue of *The New Yorker* included accusations of intimidation, sexual coercion, assault and misconduct from 12 women in incidents spanning from the 1980s to the early 2000s. Moonves' resignation marks one of the most powerful media executives to face abuse allegations since the start of the #MeToo movement in October last year. After Moonves' resignation, CBS announced it would donate \$20 million to organizations to support the #MeToo movement and equality for women in the workplace. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the CBS board plans to negotiate a severance settlement after the conclusion of an investigation by two prominent law firms. Joseph Ianniello, who has served as the company's chief operating officer since 2013, has been appointed president and acting CEO. The chairman position will remain open until the company names a permanent CEO.

Only a few days later, CBS News fired longtime 60 Minutes producer **Jeff Fager**, who was dismissed following a text message he sent to CBS News correspondent Jericka Duncan that warned her to "be careful" about a story she was working on about allegations that he had groped CBS employees at company parties. The

text read "There are people who lost their jobs trying to harm me and if you pass on these damaging claims without your own reporting to back them up that will become a serious problem." Soon after Fager's resignation, Quinnipiac University rescinded a Fred Friendly First Amendment Award that Fager had received at a luncheon ceremony in June.

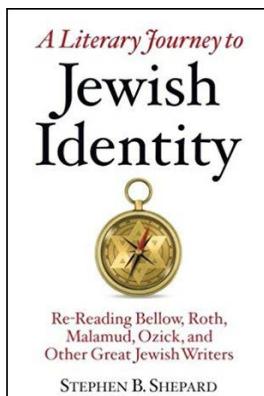
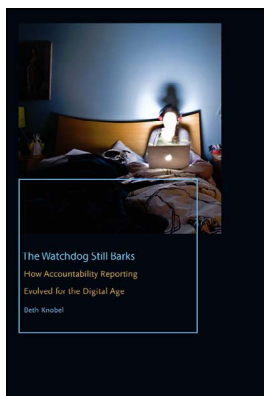
OPC member and veteran CNN reporter **Christiane Amanpour** has started her new role as host of a talk show on PBS that has replaced Charlie Rose's former slot. PBS launched "Amanpour and Company" on Sept. 10. Rose's show ended nearly ten months ago after he was accused of sexual assault by multiple women. PBS began running Amanpour's CNN International program in Rose's slot soon after it went off the air. Amanpour is CNN's chief international correspondent, and served as a war correspondent for the network in the early 90s, covering conflict in the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Bosnia and Rwanda. She told Salon in an interview that despite her career as a show anchor, she remains a reporter at heart. "I've spent my whole career in the field. And I genuinely view my role as an anchor, almost like sort of drawing on all my experience in the field, bringing that into the studio and into the conversation." The show is a co-production between WNET and CNN, and will continue to air on CNN International on weekdays. The show's format includes three interview segments per night, with Amanpour on camera for two of them and the third done by a contributor. Amanpour has been a member of the OPC since 2009.

Former OPC Governor **Chrystia Freeland**, who now serves as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, sparked a row between Canada and Saudi Arabia in early August over comments about a jailed female civil rights activist in Saudi Arabia. Freeland, along with many other Canadian public figures, have voiced concern about the Saudi kingdom's human rights violations. Human rights advocates have spoken out against the recent imprisonment of multiple activists in the country's

Eastern province. Freeland voiced concern for Israa al-Ghomgham, who was accused of "starting protests," "filming protests and posting them on social media," and "providing moral support to rioters." Freeland and other advocates are worried that Ghomgham could face the death penalty for her charges. Freeland started her journalism career as a stringer based in Ukraine for the *Financial Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Economist*, and later served as Moscow bureau chief and then U.S. managing editor of the *FT*, global editor-at-large of Reuters, and editor of Thomson Reuters Digital. Freeland left journalism in 2013 to begin a career in politics.

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** penned the cover story of *TIME* magazine's Europe edition on Sept. 24 with a profile of Italy's far-right nationalist Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini. He spearheaded a political movement that defeated traditional parties in Italy's elections in March, mobilizing supporters with nationalist rhetoric, drumming up fear over the immigrant crisis and collapse of Syria, and criticizing the European Union. Walt wrote that his "rocketing rise over just six months has jolted Europe's establishment and threatens to finally upturn a political system that has reeled under a populist surge for the past three years." She wrote that former White House chief strategist and nationalist Stephen Bannon met Salvini in Rome on Sept. 7 to discuss creating a hard-line coalition across Europe ahead of E.U. elections slated for May next year. In an interview with Walt, Salvini he outlined a plan to change Europe from within the E.U., rather than push for a Brexit-like departure for Italy.

OPC member **Beth Knobel** will speak on a panel about her new book on watchdog reporting on Oct. 17. The book, *The Watchdog Still Barks: How Accountability Reporting Evolved for the Digital Era*, rejects a popular notion that investigative journalism is in decline, and presents a study of how the form came of age in the digital era at American newspapers. The evening will get underway at 7:00 p.m. at Book Culture near Columbia at 112th and Broadway.



Knobel is a professor at Fordham and a former CBS News producer. Other panelists include OPC member Kim Murphy of *The New York Times* and Steven Waldman, Report for America co-founder. A reception will follow the panel.

OPC member and author **Stephen Shepard** will talk about his new book at the 92nd Street Y on Nov. 1. Rabbi Scott Perlo, with the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life will interview Shepard about *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-Reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers* [Bayberry Books, January 2018]. The literary memoir explores a “golden age” of post-war Jewish writing in America, and how those writers influenced his sense of Jewish identity and faith. Shepard served as editor-in-chief of *BusinessWeek* magazine from 1984 to 2005, and as editor at *Newsweek* from 1976 to 1981. He is also the founding dean emeritus of the Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.

OPC member **Ruchi Kumar** filed an article for *Foreign Policy* magazine on Aug. 29 about boys and teens forced to join the Taliban or ISIS. The article, “Afghanistan is Trying to Save its Child Bombers,” included interviews with boys ages 12 to 17 who faced threats and intimidation. They discussed lost childhoods and the desire for a better life and opportunities. Kumar wrote about challenges for Afghanistan’s new system in keeping up with the children and offering opportunities for reform and rehabilitation, and she highlighted the urgent need to fill gaps. Kumar called

the story “difficult and heartbreaking” to report. She has been an OPC member since the beginning of this year.

A FRONTLINE documentary from OPC Award winner **Marcela Gaviria** and former OPC Governor **Martin Smith** aired on July 31. *Separated: Children at the*

Border follows the story of immigrant children separated from their parents. Gaviria produced the film, Smith and Gaviria wrote it, and Brian Funck co-produced and edited the piece. The film explores the impact of Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy and compares the treatment of minors at the border under the Trump and Obama administrations. Gaviria was part of a team that won the 2009 Edward R. Murrow Award for Best TV interpretation or documentary on international affairs.

OPC member and former Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** told *The Guardian* in August that covering radicalization and the Islamic State for her *New York Times* podcast “Caliphate” sparks ambivalent feelings. The ten-episode series has been among the top downloads on iTunes since it was launched in April. Callimachi interviewed a young man who calls himself Abu Hufaiza, a Canadian and former member of Islamic State who recounted his experience in Syria. “Deradicalization is not some sort of neat process,” Callimachi told *The Guardian*. She also spoke about another source, Huzaifa, who was arrested by Canadian police the day after Callimachi first interviewed him. “I cover a bunch of killers, who vary in the level of disgust or empathy that they evoke in me,” she said.

Photojournalist, videographer and OPC member **Stefania Rousselle** took a road trip across France in 2017 on a quest to collect people’s deepest and most life-changing love stories. The result can be found in her article for *The Guardian*, “This is What Being in Love Looks Like.” Rousselle

had been on a series of bleak and heart-wrenching assignments, including terror attacks and sex slavery, and launched the project to heal her despair. She shared the best love stories she heard on her Instagram page. Rousselle has been a member of the OPC since 2013, and was part of a *New York Times* team that won the 2015 David Kaplan Award for best TV or video spot news reporting from abroad.

OPC member **Markos Kounalakis** launched a new book in July warning that state-run media in China and Russia are overtaking Western media as the latter shrinks its foreign desks. The study, titled *Spin Wars and Spy Games: Global Media and Intelligence Gathering*, found that while the number of foreign correspondents around the world is growing, they are mainly from China and Russia. The book examines how this changing news landscape affects foreign affairs and policy. In an interview for *The Washington Times*, Kounalakis, a visiting fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution and a senior fellow at the Budapest-based Center for Media, Data and Society at Central European University, said as Western news bureaus abroad are “supplanted by non-Western organizations with state-driven agendas, the information that we’re getting in the United States is becoming agenda-driven,” resulting in a less informed citizenry that is subject to manipulation by rival foreign powers. Kounalakis has been an OPC member since 2014. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

By Farwa Zaidi

The OPC has issued several statements in support of press freedom since the last *Bulletin*. In mid-August, the organization joined newspapers across the country in condemning **President Trump's assaults on U.S. journalists**. *The Boston Globe* and the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) led the call for joint action to defend a free press. "This dirty war on the free press must end," ASNE said in a blog post on Aug. 9. "The slander of 'fake news' has become Donald Trump's most potent tool of abuse and incitement against the First Amendment, labeling journalists the 'enemy of the American people' and 'dangerous and sick.'"

"The Overseas Press Club has a long history of defending the rights of journalists and promoting responsible journalism around the globe," said Deidre Depke, OPC President. "But the attacks the press has sustained under the Trump administration are a new low in modern American history. It is time for all journalists and all defenders of a free press to simply say, 'enough.'"

Also in August, the OPC spoke in support of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, which came under pressure from both the Chinese and Hong Kong governments for hosting a pro-independence speaker Andy Chan, who advocates independence for Hong Kong from China.

"At that time, the Chinese promised that Hong Kong could maintain its political system and its liberties for 50 years as part of a plan called 'One Country, Two Systems,'" past OPC President William J. Holstein said. "Freedom of speech is an incredibly important aspect of what has traditionally made Hong Kong a thriving outpost on China's doorstep and attracted investments from around the world." Holstein was based in Hong Kong from 1979 to 1981 and frequented the FCC at its previous location. "We believe that in free societies such as Hong Kong it is vitally important to allow people to speak and debate freely, even if one does not agree with their particular views," the FCC said in a statement.

On Sept. 4, the OPC called on police in the United Kingdom to release two British journalists who were arrested Friday on suspicion of stealing confidential documents. According to *The Washington Post*, two men were arrested in Belfast for allegedly stealing documents from Northern Ireland's police ombudsman. The paper said filmmaker Alex Gibney tweeted that **Trevor Birney** and **Barry McCaffrey** had been detained. They were in custody for 14 hours before being released on bail. McCaffrey and Birney worked on Gibney's 2017 documentary "No Stone Unturned" about a 1994 massacre in the village of Loughinisland southeast of Belfast.

Also on Sept. 4., the OPC denounced a court ruling in Myanmar that found two Reuters journalists guilty of breaching a law on state secrets and jailed them for seven years. The verdict "is a major step backward in the nation's transition to democracy," said Stephen J. Adler, editor in chief of Reuters. According to Reuters, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin said **Wa Lone**, 32, and **Kyaw Soe Oo**, 28, breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act when they collected and obtained confidential documents. The two reporters, who were investigating the killing by the security forces of Rohingya villagers at the time of their arrest, had pleaded not guilty.

Egyptian photojournalist **Mahmoud Abou Zeid**, also known as Shawkan, was released from prison after he was sentenced on Sept. 8 to five years of "police observation." Under the sentence, he will have to appear at a police station every night at sunset. The Committee to Protect Journalists is calling for the Egyptian government to remove all restrictions on his release. Shawkan was convicted on charges of murder and membership in a terrorist group. He had been in prison since August of 2013, when he was arrested while covering clashes between Egyptian security forces and supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi. While Shawkan's family is relieved that he has finally

been able to walk out of prison, they plan to fight the conditions of his release. Shawkan and his lawyer plan to appeal the verdict. With at least 32 journalists currently detained in connection with their reporting, Egypt is ranked 161st out of 180 countries on Reporters Without Borders' 2018 World Press Freedom Index.

Venezuelan freelance photographer **Jesus Medina Ezaine** was arrested and sent to on Aug. 29 and sent to military prison. Ezaine had been working on a story at a hospital, helping two Peruvian journalists with an investigative report when he was detained at a subway station and later charged with crimes including inciting hate. A group of armed men approached and asked Ezaine if he knew the Peruvians. He responded that he did not, and the men immediately took him into custody. At his hearing on Aug. 31, Ezaine was formally charged with money laundering, criminal association, illegal enrichment against acts of public administration, and inciting hate. Ezaine's photographs have appeared on the website *Dolar Today*, which is based in the US and is critical of the Venezuelan government.

The Nepalese government passed a new law that threatens press freedom in the country. A new criminal code that went into effect on Aug. 17 criminalizes several journalistic activities, such as recording or photographing people without their consent, satirize any individual, or disclose private information on public figures. Provisions of the law could put journalists under threat of exorbitant fees and imprisonment. The articles go against the preamble of the Nepalese constitution, which supports press freedom. A new government took power in Nepal in December 2017, led by an alliance of two communist parties.

Unidentified attackers threw fireworks at Brazilian reporter **Adenilson Miguel** and left a written death threat at his home on Aug. 9. The attack took place around 1:00 a.m., only a few hours after he had shared information about alleged corruption

in the mayor's office. The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that the note read "you are going to die," and included a homophobic slur. Miguel told the CPJ he believes the attack was meant to prevent him from publishing an article in Vox, an independent newspaper he writes and publishes. Miguel founded the paper four years ago. It is not affiliated with the website of the same name founded by Ezra Klein. The paper is distributed twice a month in seven towns and cities in the south of Minas Gerais state, one of the most populous in Brazil.

At least **two dozen journalists** and more than 200 other people were injured in Bangladesh during protests in early August. Police fired rubber bullets into crowds and destroyed camera equipment and forced several photojournalists to delete photos or video documenting the protests. News reports alleged that police and supporters of the ruling Awami League party beat several journalists. Demonstrations broke out in Dhaka on July 29 after a bus ran over passengers at a bus stop, killing two students and injuring a dozen others. One of the journalists detained was Shahidul Alam, an award-winning photographer and founder of a photography school and festival in Dhaka. More than 20 police raided his home on Aug. 5 after Alam had posted a video on Facebook saying he had been beaten by pro-government thugs. He was later seen barefoot being taken to a court hearing, when he shouted that he had been tortured in custody. OPC member Rod Nordland reported in a story for *The New York Times* that Alam was charged under a law that gives the government latitude to arrest critics of the government.

A community radio station in Cameroon, **Sky FM**, was the target of an alleged arson attack on Aug. 3. The station is based in the town of Ndu, in the volatile Northwest region. Unknown assailants set fire to the station, destroying the building and equipment inside. The equipment included two transmitters, computers, four recorders, a video camera, a mixer, a decoder, a television set, and some office furniture. The town of

Ndu is about 77 miles from Bama, the capital of the Northwest region. English-speaking separatists in the region have been waging a battle for an independent state called Ambazonia against the government of President Paul Biya. All sides of the conflict have been guilty of harming and mistreating members of the media. No employees of Sky FM were injured in the attack.

The **government of Mozambique** recently made plans to impose extremely high fees that target independent media. On July 23, a government decree outlined hefty hikes in registration fees that must be paid to the department in charge of media registration. The decree stated that the new fees went into effect on Aug. 23. The Mozambican government is currently in the middle of signing natural gas contracts with multinational corporations. The country is also holding municipal elections in October and general elections in 2019. CPJ's Africa program coordinator, Angela Quintal, said that the new fees make it virtually impossible for independent press to continue working, and are a clear attempt to undermine transparency prior to the elections. Mozambique's press regulator, the Conselho Superior da Comunicação Social, told CPJ that the fees are "illegal" and violate the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Mozambique's constitution.

MURDERS

Two journalists died in a double bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan on Sept. 5. **Samim Faramarz** and cameraman **Ramiz Ahmadi** were both covering a bombing at a wrestling club in a Shi'ite neighborhood for TOLO News when a second blast went off, killing them both. No group immediately claimed responsibility. In April, at least nine journalists were among dozens of people killed in a suicide bombing in Kabul.

On Aug. 29, unknown shooters shot and killed **Javier Enrique Rodríguez Valladares**, a cameraman for a local TV broadcaster Canal 10 based in Cancún. Another male who was with Rodríguez Valladares in a residential area of the resort city was also killed in the attack. He was not wearing any company clothing at the

time and was off duty, but investigators have not ruled out the possibility that he was killed in retribution for his work. His death marks the third attack in Quintana Roo state over the last two months, including the July 24 shooting of **Rubén Pat Cauich**, co-founder and editorial director of online news resource Semanario Playa News, and the June 29 murder of **José Guadalupe Chan Dzib**, who also worked for Playa News. No suspects have been arrested in those cases.

Afghani media technician **Mohammad Dawood** was killed on Aug. 10 during a Taliban attack on his workplace. Dawood worked for Radio Television Afghanistan, a state-run broadcast in the provincial capital of Ghazni. The area of the city where the attack took place, known as Tape-e-Television, includes headquarters and broadcast equipment for many local media outlets. The attack was part of an ongoing assault on the area by the Taliban. Militants recently burned down a building that was privately owned by Ghaznavian Radio-TV. Landlines and cellphone links to the city have been cut off during the fighting. Since it began on Aug. 10, at least 100 Afghan police and soldiers have been killed, as well as 20 civilians, according to reports from The Associated Press.

Somali cameraperson **Abdirizak Kasim Iman** was shot and killed in Mogadishu on July 26. Iman worked for the privately-owned SBS TV. He was shot while trying to pass through a checkpoint near a public park in Mogadishu. Witnesses said police had ordered his driver to back up and not to pass the checkpoint. During their argument, the officer shot Iman twice in the head, according to reports. He was taken to a nearby hospital and pronounced. The police officer allegedly fled the scene following the shooting. Iman's family said that he was on his way to work at the television station when he was killed. He had his camera with him at the time of the attack. At least twenty-six journalists have been killed in Somalia over the last decade. ❖

NEW BOOKS

By Farwa Zaidi

UPCOMING EVENTS

How To Do Video Journalism In These Dangerous Times

Club Quarters
6:30 p.m

Oct. 18

The Future of Taiwan

Club Quarters
Reception 6:00 p.m
Program 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 30

INDIA

AFTER INDIA'S economic liberalization in 1991, the country spent decades building new industries and expanding private foreign investment. The country became known for rapid growth and displays of wealth rivaling America's Gilded Age, with a vastly uneven distribution of wealth. In his new book, *The Billionaire Raj* [Tim Duggan Books, July 2018], James Crabtree, former Mumbai correspondent for the *Financial Times*, takes a deep look into India's boom through the 2000s, and examines power and privilege in the country's emerging billionaire class. Crabtree sheds light on vast economic disparity, with skyscrapers looming over slums and fortunes built on mountains of unpaid debt.

He explores ties between economic power and government, following a generation of wealthy influencers, so-called "Bollygarchs," who finance political campaigns and secure powerful positions in government. Crabtree argues that the rich and famous of India have used power to erase scams, scandals and crimes. He wrote that "the Trump administration's alleged excesses pale in comparison with the unchecked power of India's new tycoons, enmeshed in and protected by layers of political and economic influence."

Crabtree immersed himself in the lavish world of India's elites, flying with the Bollygarchs on private jets and mingling at their parties. The book offers a thorough survey of India's political and economic transformation, chronicling the country's transition from British rule to one of the world's most attractive markets.

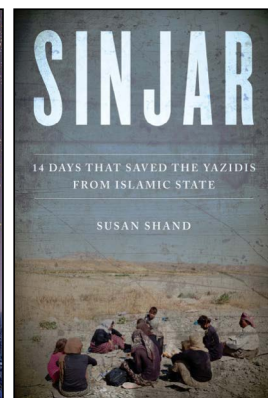
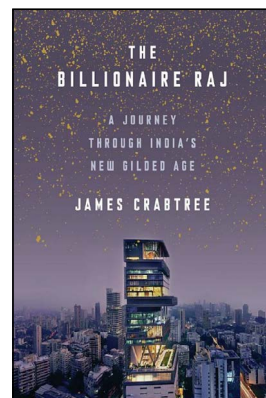
Crabtree was the Mumbai bureau chief for the *FT* from 2011 to 2017. He is currently based in Singapore and is an associate professor of practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School. He most often provides analysis on Asian geopolitics and development, particularly focusing on South and Southeast Asia. ♦

IRAQ

ON AUG. 3, 2014, the Islamic State attacked a majority Kurdish area of northern Iraq's Ninewa province. The offensive targeted the Yazidi people, a Kurdish religious minority with roots that stretch back centuries in the region. IS had declared its intention to completely eliminate the group from Iraq, which is considered heretical among extremists. Over just a few harrowing hours, about 150,000 Yazidis were forced to flee their homes. Many sought refuge on the nearby holy site of Mount Sinjar. They were stranded, surrounded by jihadi militants, in over 100-degree weather without food or water. In *Sinjar: 14 Days to Saving the Yazidis From Islamic State* [Rowman & Littlefield, September 2018], Susan Shand chronicles how many Yazidi survivors were rescued from Sinjar and the Islamic State.

Shand's book gives an insider's view of the story of U.S. intervention and the effort to rescue survivors on the mountain. She worked with a Yazidi colleague to investigate how a group of Yazidi expatriates, working from a Super 8 motel room in Maryland, was able to pressure a small and forgotten office in the U.S. State Department, supplying intelligence that led to a military operation aimed at averting a humanitarian crisis. While the Islamic State killed thousands of Yazidi men and sold thousands more women into slavery, U.S. troops were able to airdrop water and food and help evacuate tens of thousands of stranded Yazidis.

Shand has served as a television producer in the Near East and Central Asia division of the Voice of America for ten years. She covers news in Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. She has reported on refugee crises and the stories of Yazidi and Christian refugees several times. She lives in Washington, D.C. ♦



Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Charles Graeber

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

CHARLES GRAEBER is a contributor to a wide range of publications, including *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Vogue*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, *Salon* and *Wired*, for which he is a contributing editor. He is also author of *The Good Nurse*, a portrait of America's most prolific serial killer, Charles Cullen. Graeber's work has received several awards, including the OPC's 2011 Ed Cunningham Award for reporting on the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan for *Bloomberg Businessweek*. He served as OPC Governor from 2014 to 2018.

Hometown: Nantucket, MA.

Education: Tufts University BA, Bryn Mawr PostbPac Premed, other.

Languages you speak: English, pidgin.

First job in journalism: *The Budapest Sun* (newspaper reportage), *Phnom Penh Post* (longform), *Harper's Magazine* (longform magazine feature).

Countries reported from: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, England, East Timor, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam.

When and why did you join the OPC? I joined in 2013. I was out there as a freelancer, and fairly isolated from any notion of professional journalistic organizations and relying on editors to tie my work into the larger matrix. Then a story I wrote won The Ed Cunningham Award and I was introduced to a larger community of journalists via the OPC, which was thrilling and eye opening, and eventually invited to contribute ideas as to how they might even better serve the needs of those out there in the world. The organization gives community, structure, support, and the like to those who need it. That's true around the world. The mission of the media seems especially under attack right

now in the United States, but in truth it's always a mission in peril. Professional organization helps secure it, and provides community for what is increasingly an isolating profession.

What sparked your interest in long-form crime reporting? It's all about excuse. Crime is interesting – I like to read about it, especially when it's inventive, and so I like to write about it as well. Then by chance, my first story at the *Budapest Sun* was about a group from a traveling circus who had been busted as professional burglars – they used a contortionist to get into windows, the strongman to move the goods, etc. That's three big stories in one, really – the obvious salacious news, the backstory on the individuals, the socioeconomics of the thing – really, crime has it all. It's an excuse to write about everything.

Major challenge as a journalist: Left to my own devices I'd study the situation from the edges forever. Editors don't like that. Journalism is like being pushed from the edges into the center of the dance. So the major challenge is both-ering people. I probably wouldn't have a phone if I wasn't a journalist.

Best journalism advice received: "There is no case but this case" and/or "when in doubt, lay brick."

Worst experience as a journalist: There's the horrible and there's the embarrassing. Embarrassing is standing up the president of Iceland, by accident. Horrible has been the times when the family of those victimized by a criminal took me as a sort of moral accomplice to the mastermind, though those instances were all misunderstandings, awkward but resolved. Truly the worst experiences have been specific to journalism as a profession or business. People screw you over, especially when you're young and vulnerable. Early on I had my work stolen by major editors, was threatened with blackballing if I didn't sell to X rather than Y, and at a certain price, etc. And I'm positive my experiences are tame compared to folks who weren't white men making their way in the biz.



Charles Graeber

Hardest story: 5,000-word stories where scouring a high desert and finally encountering a pile of cat scat was the climax (the cat was endangered). More generally creating drama from intellectual or subtle criminal acts or transgressions is tricky – making a lockpicking conference feel like Wimbledon was a challenge. In terms of raw work, trying to get to, humanize and return a 12,000-word story on a city (the people, really) devastated by the 2011 Japanese tsunami, and in a timely fashion and without a fixer, translator, etc – that still seems hard. That was one of the hardest emotionally, too – the dead were everywhere and the stories were too much, and yet, because they weren't mine, it wasn't mine to break down over them, except in private. Generally, what's hard is bearing witness, then trying to do justice to that truth, and those people, in print. All while keeping it interesting – because that's an essential aspect of the effective communication.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Go. There's a sense some have that one needs to be sent, or to get some sort of specific training or permission. Surely all of that helps, and I'm not advocating recklessness. But, especially when young, I believe you have a radar for the shifting fault lines on the planet, and a capacity to save up enough temp work cash to get there and put finger to pulse. Go.

Dream job: This one. Close seconds include parasitologist, rhino prosthetics manufacturer and whiskey taster.

Country you most want to return to: Kashmir, but in peace.

Favorite quote: Everything in moderation, including moderation.

Twitter handle: @charlesgraeber –
Website: charlesgraeber.com ❖

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



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