INSIDE
Election Slate 2-4
ACOS for Journalist Safety 4
OPC Plaque at Chateau Vouilly 5
People Column 6-7
Press Freedom Update 8-9
New Books 10
Q&A: Rebecca Murray 11

OPC Members to Vote on a Balanced Slate of Diverse Candidates for Board of Governors
BY WILLIAM J. HOLSTEIN

I was pleased to chair the nominating committee that chose the slate of candidates to run for the OPC board this summer. Thanks to the other members – John Avlon, Pancho Bernasconi, Paula Dwyer and Adriane Quinlan.

Our goals were to continue driving down the average age of board members, expand our reach into new types of news organizations and strive for diversity while maintaining stability and continuity. We are pleased to feel that we pulled off that tricky balancing act.

This year, the OPC is electing ten governors who are Active members and two who are Associate members. The club is continuing to use the online voting website Balloteer.com to host its secure election. You will receive an email before the end of July with a link to the election at the e-mail address where you receive OPC electronic correspondence. If you have not received this link by Aug. 5, please e-mail info@opcofamerica.org to obtain it.

The deadline for voting is Tuesday, Sept. 3 at noon, and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 3., which is open to all members and will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Club Quarters. The OPC will host a party at the event with free drinks and refreshments.

Each ballot requires a login, which is your e-mail address where you received the ballot link. The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. For those who prefer to use a paper ballot, please send an email to info@opcofamerica.org or call the OPC office at 212-626-9220.

Visual Journalists to Discuss Covering Migrants and the US-Mexico Border Crisis

EVENT PREVIEW: SEPT. 16

The OPC and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism are co-sponsoring a panel discussion with visual journalists on challenges they encountered in covering the humanitarian crisis on the US-Mexico border.

Panelists include Carolyn Van Houten, a staff photojournalist at The Washington Post, and Jika Gonzalez, a photo and video journalist from Mexico City based in New York. The moderator is Nina Berman, a documentary photographer, filmmaker, author and educator.

Van Houten won the OPC’s Robert Capa Gold Medal Award in April for her photos on the migrant caravan. “Through a year of making monthly visits to document the stories of people at different stages of their trek north through Central America, Carolyn Van Houten brought a deep level of humanity and empathy to a story that saturated the news media,” the OPC judges said. She also won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for Domestic Photography in 2019 and Pictures of the Year International’s Newspaper Photographer of the Year in 2016.

Gonzalez currently is producing and shooting for VICE News. Her film “Walking to America” won a citation from the OPC in April for the The Robert Spies Benjamin Award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America. The film also received three nominations for this year’s 40th Annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards. Previously she was a grantee of the Brown Institute for Media Innovation at the Columbia Journalism School where she taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for photography and video classes.

Berman is a professor at Columbia and directs the photography program. Her work has been recognized with awards in art and journalism from organizations including the New York Foundation for the Art, the World Press Photo Foundation, and Pictures of the Year International.

The event at will get underway on Sept. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the World Room, Pulitzer Hall, 2950 Broadway. Registration is free, but please RSVP for the event via opcofamerica.org.
2019 Election Slate

Active Members

J. DAVID AKE
I’m the director of photography at The Associated Press. All of us in the journalism business increasingly depend on our freelance corps. As a governor of the Overseas Press Club, the safety and training of freelance journalists will be a priority. They are often at risk and need of our support and advocacy. At the AP, I’ve held many photo leadership positions and key assignments: photo editing the massacre at Columbine High School, guiding 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina coverage, and shepherding three presidential campaigns on the way to my position today leading our worldwide photo team. Previous to my time in the management chair, I was on the street as a photographer for Agence France-Presse,UPI and Reuters. My journey as a photographer took me around the globe many times making pit stops on six continents. I’m still trying to figure out how to swing dyin in Antarctica.

LINDA FASULO
It’s an honor to serve as a current member of the Board of Governors of the OPC, an organization that is playing an increasingly important role in supporting international news reporting. I’d welcome the opportunity to continue for a second term. I am a journalist and author specializing in the United Nations and U.S. foreign policy. Based at the UN, I am a longtime independent correspondent for NPR. Other journalistic experience includes working as UN Producer and Correspondent for NBC News and MSNBC for a decade and as Special UN Correspondent for US News and World Report during the 1990’s. I’m currently working on the 4th edition of my book, An Insider’s Guide to the UN, which will be published by Yale University Press next year. I have a masters in Public Administration and have continued my work in international affairs at Columbia University. I currently serve as Co-Chair of the Dag Hammarskjold Fellowship for young journalists and have been a former member of the Executive Committee of the UN Correspondents Association. Over the years, my OPC activities include acting as an awards judge and organizing and continuing UN-focused programs. If re-elected, I would be especially interested in playing a role in OPC efforts to secure a larger membership among young as well as freelance journalists and participating in the freedom of the press committee.

FARNAZ FAHSIHI
I’ve been a journalist for 25 years specializing in conflict reporting, the Middle East and diplomacy. I’m currently a contributing writer for The New York Times and working on a book about Iran. Previously, I was a staff writer for The Wall Street Journal for 17 years and served as Baghdad Bureau Chief, Deputy Middle East & Africa Editor and senior writer. I’ve covered multiple wars and uprisings across the region from the invasion of Afghanistan to the second Intifada and civil war in Syria. I’ve won multiple journalism awards including two Overseas Press Club awards and written a book about the Iraq war titled, Waiting for An Ordinary Day. In my multiple roles at the Journal, I’ve developed a wide range of contacts in the Middle East and around the world. I’ve also served as a head judge for OPC awards for a few years. As board member at OPC, I hope to utilize my journalism and leadership experience to highlight the importance of foreign reporting, organize panels and seminars on conflict reporting and the Middle East and continue to mentor the younger members of the organization.

JOSH FINE
I’m a Senior Segment Producer for HBO’s “Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel.” I’ve been lucky enough to win two OPC awards, one for the show and one for a sports piece. During my 25-year journalism career both at HBO and CBS News’ 60 Minutes, I’ve reported in dozens of countries, including a multi-part series in Russia on Vladimir Putin and sports. I’m seeking a second term on the board. My goal is to increase the frequency of our events. Other believe the club can play an important role in keeping US-based journalists sharp and prepared to cover foreign stories; I’ve benefited from this in the past, and I’d like to make sure we’re continuing to do this going forward.

CHARLES GRAEBER
I’m a former features writer for magazines and newspapers, an Executive Producer for “The Disappear- ance of Madeleine McCann,” a Netflix series, and a fellow of the Investigative Reporting Program at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. As a journalist who’s spent the last decade reporting from places like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, both as a freelance and a staff reporter (I am currently a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine), I know firsthand how difficult it is to operate without traditional institutional support, and I’d like to leverage the OPC’s network to do two things: 1) Shield light on the troubled financial models too many freelance reporters are mired in; and 2) Help expand the OPC’s support for these members, whether through services, resources, or educational tools. In particular, I would like to expand membership services to local journalists abroad who often work as translators or “fixers” with Western journalists. I’ve served three previous terms on the board and know how to work with others to get things done. It would be my honor to continue to help OPC meet the challenges to new, diverse members and more responsive to the challenges of our changing industry.

DEREK KRAVITZ
I am a reporter covering federal politics and government at ProPublica, the New York-based investigative nonprofit. Previously, I was ProPublica’s director of research from 2016 to 2018 and a reporter and editor at The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press and The Washington Post. I was a Livingston award finalist and project I edited or reported have won IRE, Polk, Loeb, ONA, Deadline Club and DuPont-Columbia awards. I have been a member of three teams that have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. I graduated from the University of Missouri and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism’s Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism. I have been an instructor for the Stable program since 2014. I was a 2014 OPC Foundation scholarship winner and have taught research methods to three subsequent scholarship winners; I’ve seen these scholarships and internship placements jumpstart journalism careers and am excited to help aspiring reporters and editors get ready to tackle the most pressing news stories of the day.

HENDRICK HINZEL
I’m an associate producer at VICE News where we discuss the last four years and how our work, an independent correspondent for NPR and ABC, has heavily funded by grants and charitable endeavors, something we could do more of. As a non-profit, the OPC is the most important place to highlight the unique needs independent journalists address on an ongoing basis. As a board member, I’d like to help create more opportunities for mentorships among OPC members and possibly set up pitch workshops or pitch sessions with freelancers, new graduates and editors.

AZMAT KHAN
Freelancers. Fixers. Aspiring report- ers. As an era of decreasing protections, on the OPC board I intend to work to expand the support the OPC offers to some of its most vulnerable members. I’ve witnessed these needs in the field myself. I’m an investigative journalist who’s spent the last decade reporting from places like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, both as a freelancer and a staff reporter. (I’m currently a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine) I know firsthand how difficult it is to operate without traditional institutional support, and I’d like to leverage the OPC’s network to do two things: 1) Shield light on the troubled financial models too many freelance reporters are mired in; and 2) Help expand the OPC’s support for these members, whether through services, resources, or educational tools. In particular, I would like to expand membership services to local journalists abroad who often work as translators or “fixers” with Western journalists. I’ve served three previous terms on the board and know how to work with others to get things done. It would be my honor to continue to help OPC meet the challenges to new, diverse members and more responsive to the challenges of our changing industry.

ISHAAN THAROOR
I’m excited to be a candidate for the next slate of OPC governors. I’m a foreign affairs writer at The Wash- ington Post, where I’ve been for the past five and a half years. I anchor a daily column on global politics called Today’s WorldView that’s read by hundreds of thousands of readers, both online and in the form of a popular email newsletter. Prior to the Post, I was at TIME magazine for eight years. First, as a reporter in Asia head- quarters in Hong Kong between 2006 and 2010, a stint that gave me the chance to travel and write from over a dozen countries in the region, then, I moved back to New York to be a senior editor and ran TIME.com’s international coverage. I love the work OPC does and would strive to help further its outreach and support to freelance journalists abroad, to help surface the work of non-American journalists in places often missed in the U.S. news cycle, and to help buttress its already robust commitment to the defense of press freedoms around the world.

Continued on Page 4
OPC Donates Money for Hostile Environment Training in Beirut

by Patricia Kranz

The OPC is pleased to announce it is donating $5,500 to pay the cost of one training for three trainers at a hostile environment and first aid training course (HEFAT) in Beirut for freelance and local journalists during the last week of November. The program is run by the ACOS Alliance in partnership with International Women’s Media Foundation, Samar Kasir Eyes Center, Golf Center for Human Rights, Frontline Freelance Register, Ropy Peck Trust and the Maries Colvin International Women’s Media Foundation.

The trainer, Cath Massom, has regularly trained and worked with the BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, CBC, News UK, Independent Production companies as well as other corporate clients.

The OPC raised money to support the training as part of its sustainability plan.

To apply for the training, please contact Elisabet Cantenys, elisabet@acosalliance.org and check the ACOS Alliance website for updates.

The Mysterious OPC Plaque at Chateau Vouilly

by Sonya Fry

Chateau Vouilly has long been in my mind ever since OPC member John Morris and I worked together to present several events, most notably introducing his book Quelque Part en France in Bayeux, Normandy. The book records in photographs the devastating aftermath of Nazi occupation. My son, James, is an avid reader of World War II history, so a trip to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day this past June was important to both of us.

Chateau Vouilly became the press headquarters during the D-Day landings and subsequent military operations. I had met the owner of the chateau, James Hanel, at John Morris’ funeral and he invited me to stay there anytime I planned a trip to Normandy. Unfortunately, Vouilly was totally booked for the 75th anniversary, but Hanel did invite my son and myself to see the press room.

We had a full briefing on all the pictures of Ernest Hemingway, Walter Cronkite, Ernie Pyle, Bill Walton and Andy Rooney among the war correspondents, as well as maps of Allied military progress with hand-marked notations.

The surprise came when we were entering the chateau and saw a plaque on the outside wall that had been placed there by the Overseas Press Club on the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994. I had never seen or heard of this plaque and I was the manager or executive director of the club for 20 years, starting in the summer of 1994. Getting busy on emails, I asked Bill Holstein if he remembered the plaque.

Who solved the mystery by digging up an old clip on the 50th anniversary event that prompted Bill to dust off his old files. It turns out that Bill had ordered the plaque and he and Larry presented it to the correspondents that day. The correspondents were getting on the Queen Elizabeth 2 to sail to Normandy for the actual anniversary on June 6. They were charged with affixing the plaque to the chateau and did so. The OPC Bulletin had also published stories about the event.

If you look at the chateau’s website, the OPC plaque is prominently displayed. It was a surprising and proud moment to see the OPC at the forefront of an historic event.

Safety training: Where are the editors?

by Elizabet Cantenys and Jason Reich

This article is reprinted with permission from the online magazine Witness, where it first appeared. Co-authors are Jason Reich, ACOS Alliance Board Member, and Elisabet Cante- nys, Executive Director, ACOS Alliance.

Over the last two decades, thousands of journalists around the world have benefited from specialized safety training. Many still need access to these courses. However, even if we manage to train them all, we won’t get as far as we need to if we fail to bring their editors into the picture.

Editors play a major role in the safety of their journalists – that much is given. But most editors, even those who have received safety training themselves as journalists, don’t know how to design and implement appropriate safety policies and protocols. In traditional broadcast newsrooms, the oversight of safety security policies has always been with dedicated security and risk teams.

However, many news organizations no longer have those specialized (and expensive) teams, so the tasks of security have fallen to editors and news managers. They are the ones who commission and sign off on risky stories; they are the ones who will need to pick up the phone when something goes wrong on an assignment.

At the ACOS Alliance, we realized very early on that there is a desperate need for a specialized safety training for editors, especially as our industry inextricably shifts to a digital environment.

The OPC raised money to support freelancer safety training at the annual awards dinner in April. This is the first of many investments in training the OPC plans to make.

To apply for the training, please contact Elisabet Cantenys, elisabet@acosalliance.org and check the ACOS Alliance website for updates.

The Chateau de Vouilly in Normandy, France served as a press headquarters during D-Day landings in June, 1944.
By Chad Bouchard

PEOPLE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Darren McDermott
Partner
Brunswick Group
New York

Amberlin Zaman
Staff Correspondent
Ukraine

Active Overseas

AWARDS

OPC member Pat Milton, CBS News senior producer of the investigative unit, was inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame of the Long Island Press Club honoring her career at The Associated Press and CBS News. CBS President Susan Zirinsky said during her dinner address, “Her federal law enforcement and intelligence sources are unbreakable. We go live at the network with special reports based on Pat Milton’s reporting. “Pat Milton is inspiration to her colleagues.”

Pat Milton is selfless.” Milton opened The AP’s first bureau on Long Island covering key stories such as the crash of TWA Flight 800, the Long Island Railroad shooting massacre, the battle over the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, and kidnapping of Katie Beers. Milton and AP colleagues were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by The AP for their coverage of the TWA crash. She authored a book entitled In The Blink of an Eye, on the FBI investigation into the crash. She joined CBS News in 2008, and co-produces pieces for 60 Minutes. She and her CBS colleagues were awarded an Emmy for their coverage of the Boston Marathon bombing. Her father, Arthur Milton was a founding member of the OPC and held various positions at the club including Vice President and member of the board of governors. He also started and was long time publisher of OPC’s Dateline magazine.

OPC member Martyn Aim won a Bronze Prize in the Prix de la Photographie Paris awards, also known as Px3, in the category of “Press/War Professional” for his project on Iraq entitled “Near Dark.” The submitted collection includes a range of photos from his daily coverage of the war in Iraq. He wrote for the awards website that during the course of his work there he “began to strive to see beyond the conflict and to capture the terrible beauty conjured in moments of unexpected silence, in stillness, on deserted streets. They are dark visions that stopped me in my tracks.”

OPC Governor Rod Nordland, international correspondent at large for The New York Times and Kabul bureau chief, collapsed in India on assignment in mid-July. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in early July asking for a message of thanks to the OPC and other supporters. Rod was excited that now I get to see the surgery as “a great success.” Rod is recovering in unit 2SW, neurological intensive care, room 2415, Weill Cornell Medical Center, 525 E 68th St., New York, NY 10065. No flowers are allowed, but inscribed books, letters or cards are welcome. On doctor’s orders, calls or visitors are strictly by appointment. Rod can be reached through Leila Segal, who can be reached at rod.nordland@nytimes.com.

CNN announced in early July that OPC past president Marcus Mabry will serve as the organization’s new vice president of global programming for CNN Digital Worldwide. A CNN statement about the promotion said Mabry would “unite a global team in the art and science of con- necting with our audiences, using journalism, mobile and desktop.” Mabry served for the last three years as head of CNN’s mobile programming team, breaking audi- ence records and building its mobile news team. Mabry previously served as editor of TwitterMoments, and spent nearly 10 years at The New York Times as interna- tional business editor, national politics editor and digital editor. He served as the OPC’s president in 2012.

OPC past president Deirdre Depke has been named as the next executive produc- tor of WNYC’s The Takeaway. Depke has been serving as managing editor of Ameri- can Public Media’s Marketplace, and has worked in several senior positions in the New York office over the last five years. A statement from WNYC’s vice president for news, Jim Schachter, said Depke was selected from a pool of more than 90 candidates. Depke started her journalism career at BusinessWeek as a reporter covering Silicon Valley, then later as front-of- book editor. She later worked as foreign editor for Newsweek and managing direc- tor of The Daily Beast. She also served as a White House correspondent for ABC News. She also served as a White House correspondent for ABC News.

Trudy Rubin, winner of the OPC’s newly named Flora Lewis Award for best commentary this year, called the OPC office in early July asking for a message of support from the organization because the Philadelphia Inquirer was going to kill her foreign affairs column. Executive Direc- tor Patricia Kranitz did so immediately in the name of the OPC, and many Inquirer readers also wrote the paper to protest. In a message of thanks to the OPC and other supporters, Rubin wrote that as a result of this outcry, the paper has announced it will continue to run her staff column. She called the move “exciting that now I get to see the surgery as “a great success.” Rod is recovering in unit 2SW, neurological intensive care, room 2415, Weill Cornell Medical Center, 525 E 68th St., New York, NY 10065. No flowers are allowed, but inscribed books, letters or cards are welcome. On doctor’s orders, calls or visitors are strictly by appointment. Rod can be reached through Leila Segal, who can be reached at rod.nordland@nytimes.com.

Former OPC Governor Robert Nickels- berg on July 2 opened an exhibition of 36 prints of his work focusing on the cultural heritage of Afghanistan in the Delegates Room at the United Nations in New York on July 2. The prints are from his latest book printed and published in collabora- tion with the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Press & Public Diplomacy. The book documents 15 cultural heritage projects, institutions and sites in Afghan- stan and the projects are supported by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. Nickelsberg wrote in mid-July: “Better known as soft diplomacy, the book project offered me an opportunity to turn away from people in uniform, frontlines and military hardware, poli- tics and the series of de- structive suicide bombs. In the 38 plus years of my coverage and work in Afghanistan, I could visit museums, shops and sites where in the past, there was often no time for stopping. We’re seeing how crucial this part of diplomacy is for preserving the peace and wellbeing of Afghan- stan. After last week’s [July 1] car bomb in downtown Kabul, the exhibit’s opening was a small offering of hope to the search for political solutions. Training engineers, masons, craftpeople, calligraphers is how a nation can sustain itself. Rahafullah Kha- palov, who accompanied me throughout the month-long project, said, ‘As an Af- ghan working with journalists, this is my country’s cultural heritage and the places that I have that I’m seeing for the first time.’ The exhibit was up through July 17.

OPC member Bas- sandra Vinograd has taken a new post with CNN Digital in the United States. She won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of the TWA crash. She tweeted from @ CNN in early July that “security was always a priority in my track.”

Former OPC Governor Robert Nickelsberg on July 2 opened an exhibition of 36 prints of his work focusing on the cultural heritage of Afghanistan in the Delegates Room at the United Nations in New York on July 2. The prints are from his latest book printed and published in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Press & Public Diplomacy. The book documents 15 cultural heritage projects, institutions and sites in Afghan- stan and the projects are supported by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. Nickelsberg wrote in mid-July: “Better known as soft diplomacy, the book project offered me an opportunity to turn away from people in uniform, frontlines and military hardware, poli- tics and the series of de- structive suicide bombs. In the 38 plus years of my coverage and work in Afghanistan, I could visit museums, shops and sites where in the past, there was often no time for stopping. We’re seeing how crucial this part of diplomacy is for preserving the peace and wellbeing of Afghan- stan. After last week’s [July 1] car bomb in downtown Kabul, the exhibit’s opening was a small offering of hope to the search for political solutions. Training engineers, masons, craftpeople, calligraphers is how a nation can sustain itself. Rahafullah Kha- palov, who accompanied me throughout the month-long project, said, ‘As an Af- ghan working with journalists, this is my country’s cultural heritage and the places that I have that I’m seeing for the first time.’ The exhibit was up through July 17.

OPC member Farnaz Fassihi, a reporter for The New York Times, has been grab- bing attention with her coverage of Iran amid growing tension with the Trump administration. On July 4 a piece she co- wrote with David Kirkpatrick landed on the front page with an extended interview with Iran’s foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, a divisive figure and key player in last year’s nuclear negotiations with the White House, who had previously called for negotiations. Fassihi wrote a piece on July 19 suggest- ing some in the country’s far right are warning to the idea of negotiations again. In her piece, she quoted a Times interview with former President Mah- moud Ahmadinejad that lasted more than an hour.

OPC award winners Hannah Dreier is moving from man Picou to WNYC as a staff writer for National Enterprise. She won the 2016 Hal Boyle Award for coverage of Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis, and with Propublica reported on immigrants, gangs and mishandled law enforcement investigations. She has received several awards including the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. She begins the new gig on Sep 3.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime New York Times correspondent David Binder, whose career spanned decades of key international stories from the dissolution of the Soviet Union to civil wars in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, died on June 30 after a long battle with kidney disease at the age of 88. Binder covered the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, and the wall’s destruction in 1989. He covered wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 90s, interviewing victims as well as war criminals Slobodan Milosevic and Radko Mladic. A Times obituary said he filed more than 2,600 articles over his 43- year career. Binder is survived by his wife, Helga Wagner, an East German physician, who he married in 1959, as well as their daughters, Julia, Andrea and Alena Binder, and six grandchildren.

JULY-August 2019
by Chad Bouchard

On July 7, the Coalition for Women in Journalism announced on July 19 that it would file a lawsuit against China Times Media Group, a Taiwanese firm China Times Media Group recently drew attention to her son’s plight nearly 50 days ago in protest against inhuman treatment since 2013, and began a hunger strike on June 20 to protest reportedly illegal detention in a military prison. Syrian police arrested Khalidi, who is also known as Wisam al-Dimashq, in 2016 while he was working at the city’s Amjad al-Mansour neighborhood. Family members reported that on July 22, a Syrian prison official confirmed to Associated Press that he was still alive. Khalidi’s death threats against journalists while covering protests in June, and called for an independent investigation to prevent it being ransacked by militias during its temporary custody. No charges against either journalist have been publicly announced. The two journalists are among more than 300 journalists who have been arrested and detained in the country’s disputed presidential elections on June 22. The country has also released an annual report on July 16 that a state-owned airport taxi company has been covering China and Taiwan for more than a decade. China Times also announced on July 17 that it would file a lawsuit against Taiwan’s state-owned press agency.”

The Hong Kong Journalists Association released an annual report on July 7 tracking rapidly eroding press freedom in light of China’s country-wide crackdown against dissent. The report, “Red Line Strikes Freedoms,” outlines increasing threats to media freedoms with a focus on the leading role over the last year, including a proposed extradition law that would allow fugitive suspects to be sent back to Mainland China without formal procedures. It highlighted the case of Hassan Sabah, an investigative reporter who was awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize in 2017. They arrested her at her residence. Hassan Sabah also learned that the grounds used for the raid was a complaint that a state-owned airport taxi company had filed against him back in February 2018. Sabah told Reporters Without Borders that he had barricaded his house to prevent it being ransacked by militias linked to political parties. Police in Iran on July 23 arrested Faramarz Payvar, editor of Soheil Arabi, an imprisoned-citizen journalist who was awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize in 2017. Sabah alleged that the raid was part of a broader crackdown on journalists and media workers in Iran.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Rebecca Murray

Rebecca Murray is a freelance print journalist with work published for Vice News, McClatchy, Al Jazeera English, Middle East Eye, IRIN, The Christian Science Monitor and Inter Press Service. She has focused on reporting on Libya since the 2011 revolution, and travelled the country extensively. Murray was a contributor to the book The Libyan Revolution and its Aftermath, which was published in 2016. She has also served as communications advisor and field researcher with humanitarian organizations, and trained local journalists in countries at war or in recovery, including Afghanistan, east Sri Lanka and Liberia. Murray is currently in Tunisia.

Hometown: Grew up in Kenya, the UK and the US.

Education: MA in International Affairs from the New School University in New York, and from the places I’ve lived as a reporter.

Languages you speak: English and a little Arabic.

First job in journalism: Living in south Britain and documenting the reconstruction of towns and clearance of thousands of cluster bombs from fields from the 2006 Lebanon-Israel war.

Countries reported from: I have lived and reported from Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Ethiopia. I have also visited the Central African Republic, Iraq, and the Palestinian Territories.

When and why did you join the OPC?: I joined one year ago for the chance to be long to an institution with colleagues who share similar experiences to my own.

What draws you most to reporting on areas of conflict and fragile environments?: I grew up during an optimistic time in post-colonial Kenya during the 1970s, and have always been interested in how states build themselves up after falling apart. Sadly, in over a decade since I’ve covered the Middle East, states have disintegrated, communities have been ripped apart, sectarianism has replaced cohesion, dangers have grown considerably, and the space for working as a journalist has shrunk considerably.

Major challenge as a journalist: Be cautious of how to draw on friendly contacts and navigate hostile environments, and as a freelancer, to find funding and media outlets to tell the unique stories we find.

Best journalism advice received: As a freelance journalist, live in one place instead of parachuting in, and get to know it and the characters in it well. This way, you will be able tell unique stories with trusted colleagues, understand the complexities of life there, and be able to afford doing this as a living. The downside? If officials don’t like your stories, you have nowhere to run.

Worst experience as a journalist: Living in places in constant fear of the government, armed groups, extremists, Internet trolls and for putting anyone else (hosts, fixers and those interviewed) in danger too.

When travelling, I like to… make sure I have my story logistics down, a good book and music for security of the mind, and a great place to go to after the assignment is over.

Journalism heroes: Ghaffar abdul-shad, Rania Abouzaid, Emilie Manfredo, as well as photojournalists Tanya Habjouqa and Andrew Connelly.

Harder & Going Global

Rebecca Fannin was right. I was wrong.

For at least 10 years, Fannin, an OPC member, has been a prophetess of China’s emerging technology companies at many public events. I have been a skeptic, arguing that China’s rigid Communist Party-controlled state model would never be able to compete against American technology giants and the highly innovative university research ecosystems that support them. A China would remain the industrial workshop of the world, stuck in mid-level manufacturing.

But now, Fannin writes, China’s technology giants are arriving and her argument is overwhelming. I think China has done it in large measure because of the massive and continuing theft of intellectual property from the United States. Fannin treads lightly on that issue, but however the Chinese have done it, the results are impressive, as she chronicles in Tech Titans of China: How China’s Tech Sector is Challenging the World by Innovating Faster. Working Harder & Going Global (Nicholas Breley Publishing, September 2019).

Fannin concentrates on China’s BAT (Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent) which were able to establish themselves because the Chinese government kept America’s FANG companies (Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google) out of China. Microsoft and Apple, two similarly dominant technology players, were allowed into the country. The BAT companies, most famously led by Jack Ma of Alibaba, started out as private sector companies but the government of President Xi Jinping has gradually inserted government funding and government control. China would remain the industrial workshop of the world, stuck in mid-level manufacturing. From Alibaba, started out as private sector companies but the government of President Xi Jinping has gradually inserted government funding and government control.

China has been relying on spurring this burst of innovation in what Fannin correctly describes as “techno-nationalism.” Billions of dollars to government funding are available for technologies mentioned in the Made in China 2025 program. “China is on a tech upgrade that will challenge the West for leadership of the global economy for the coming decades just as America dominated the industrial and information revolution in the past century,” Fannin writes.

The Chinese push in AI is of particular concern to me. Fannin expects the Chinese to be leaders in an industry that will be as transformational as the steam engine, robots and the Internet. To be sure, she offers some notes of caution. The trade and tech war between the US and China could have some impact. Some Chinese companies may not be able to sell their products and services in the United States because they have been optimized to Chinese tastes, not American preferences. But she sticks with the narrative that the Chinese are poised for supremacy, and she has encyclopedic knowledge of all the players by the conferences and meetings that her Silicon Dragon company organizes.

The question that kept screaming out to me is how Fannin’s book was, “What are the Americans going to do about China taking the lead role in all these technological?” Fannin offers no suggestions. Is it inevitable? Or can the Americans take action? In my own book, The New Art of War: China’s Deep Strategicises In the United States, I attempt to map out some policies that we should work. We need to harden our information technology systems against the Chinese push in AI. Fannin concurs, some of the leading minds in AI have been in the United States. But the Chinese have been able to develop AI faster because privacy laws in China are scant and algorithms can thus be employed on huge data sets to “learn” and create products. A wave of products involving AI are about to be unleashed on world markets, including the use of AI in medical diagnosis. Chinese company Xpeng Motors is trying to dominate world markets for autonomous electric vehicles. A Chinese company, Didi, is the dominant player in drones sales around the world. All of this has to be taken seriously because of the massive and continuing theft of intellectual property from the United States. Fannin treads lightly on that issue, but however the Chinese have done it, the results are impressive, as she chronicles in Tech Titans of China: How China’s Tech Sector is Challenging the World by Innovating Faster. Working Harder & Going Global (Nicholas Breley Publishing, September 2019).

Fannin concentrates on China’s BAT (Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent) which were able to establish themselves because the Chinese government kept America’s FANG companies (Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google) out of China. Microsoft and Apple, two similarly dominant technology players, were allowed into the country. The BAT companies, most famously led by Jack Ma of Alibaba, started out as private sector companies but the government of President Xi Jinping has gradually inserted government control.

China has been relying on spurring this burst of innovation in what Fannin correctly describes as “techno-nationalism.” Billions of dollars to government funding are available for technologies mentioned in the Made in China 2025 program. “China is on a tech upgrade that will challenge the West for leadership of the global economy for the coming decades just as America dominated the industrial and information revolution in the past century,” Fannin writes.

The Chinese push in AI is of particular concern to me. Fannin expects the Chinese to be leaders in an industry that will be as transformational as the steam engine, robots and the Internet. To be sure, she offers some notes of caution. The trade and tech war between the US and China could have some impact. Some Chinese companies may not be able to sell their products and services in the United States because they have been optimized to Chinese tastes, not American preferences. But she sticks with the narrative that the Chinese are poised for supremacy, and she has encyclopedic knowledge of all the players by the conferences and meetings that her Silicon Dragon company organizes.

The question that kept screaming out to me is how Fannin’s book was, “What are the Americans going to do about China taking the lead role in all these technological?” Fannin offers no suggestions. Is it inevitable? Or can the Americans take action? In my own book, The New Art of War: China’s Deep Strategicises In the United States, I attempt to map out some policies that we should work. We need to harden our information technology systems against the Chinese push in AI. Fannin concurs, some of the leading minds in AI have been in the United States. But the Chinese have been able to develop AI faster because privacy laws in China are scant and algorithms can thus be employed on huge data sets to “learn” and create products. A wave of products involving AI are about to be unleashed on world markets, including the use of AI in medical diagnosis. Chinese company Xpeng Motors is trying to dominate world markets for autonomous electric vehicles. A Chinese company, Didi, is the dominant player in drones sales around the world. All of this has to be taken seriously because of the massive and continuing theft of intellectual property from the United States. Fannin treads lightly on that issue, but however the Chinese have done it, the results are impressive, as she chronicles in Tech Titans of China: How China’s Tech Sector is Challenging the World by Innovating Faster. Working Harder & Going Global (Nicholas Breley Publishing, September 2019).
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT
Pancho Bernasconi
Vice President, Global News
Getty Images

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Deborah Amos
Correspondent
NPR

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Christopher Dickey
Foreign Editor
The Daily Beast, Paris

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
Scott Kraft
Managing Editor
Los Angeles Times

TREASURER
Liam Stack
Reporter
The New York Times

SECRETARY
Paula Dwyer
Senior Editor
Bloomberg News

ACTIVE BOARD
John Avlon
Senior Political Analyst
New Day, CNN

David Ariosto
Executive Producer
GZERO Media
at Eurasia Group

Molly Bingham
President & CEO
OrbMedia, Inc.

Miriam Elder
World Editor
BuzzFeed News

Linda Fasulo
Independent Reporter
United Nations

Josh Fine
Senior Segment Producer
HBO’s Real Sports
with Bryant Gumbel

Alix Freedman
Global Editor
for Ethics and Standards
Reuters

David Furst
International Picture Editor
The New York Times

Douglas Jehl
Foreign Editor
The Washington Post

Coleen Jose
Premium Success Manager
Adobe

Azmat Khan
Investigative Reporter
New America

Jim Laurie
Documentary Producer
Focus Asia Productions HK Ltd.

Adriane Quinlan
Show Writer
HBO’s VICE News Tonight

Rod Nordland
International Correspondent
at Large
Kabul Bureau Chief
The New York Times

Mary Rajkumar
International Enterprise Editor
The Associated Press

Gary Silverman
U.S. News Editor
Financial Times

Vivienne Walt
Correspondent
TIME and FORTUNE

Michael Williams
Global Enterprise Editor
Reuters

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS
Brian Byrd
Program Officer
NYS Health Foundation

Pete Engardio
Senior Writer
Boston Consulting Group

Sarah Lubman
Partner
SoftBank Group International

Kem Knapp Sawyer
Contributing Editor
Pulitzer Center

Minky Worden
Director of Global Initiatives
Human Rights Watch

PAST PRESIDENTS
EX-OFFICIO
Deidre Depke
Marcus Mabry
Michael Serrill
David A. Andelman
Allan Dodds Frank
Richard B. Stolley
Alexis Gelber
Larry Martz
John Corporon
William J. Holstein
Larry Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Patricia Kranz

OFFICE MANAGER
Farwa Zaidi

EDITOR
Chad Bouchard

OPC BULLETIN
ISSN-0738-7202
Copyright © 2019
Overseas Press Club
of America