



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

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. ♦

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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 photog-

rapher, 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 Spiers 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 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 duty 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 News. 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 1990s. 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 done further graduate study in international affairs at Columbia University. I currently serve as Co-Chair of the Dag Hammarskjold Fellowship for young journalists from developing countries and am 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 moderating UN-focused programs. If re-elected, I would be especially interested in playing a role in OPC efforts to secure a larger membership of young as well as freelance journalists and participating in the freedom of the press committee.



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 mentored younger women colleagues and advocated for diversity in the newsroom. 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.

FARNAZ FASSIHI



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, including the first-ever 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. I 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 freelance long-form features writer for magazines and newspapers, an Executive Producer for "The Disappearance of Madeleine McCann," a Netflix documentary series, the author of two books (*The Good Nurse* and *The Breakthrough*), as well as a former OPC award winner (the Ed Cunningham Award) and governor. I'd be honored to serve again, if my fellow members believe I can continue addressing the unique needs independent of journalists. Previously, I spearheaded the creation of the OPC Press ID's available today, knowing how valuable it was for a freelancer to have the benefit of an official-looking press identification. I believe the OPC can do more to help all journalists, staffers and otherwise, do their job safely and well.



HENDRIK HINZEL

I'm an associate producer at VICE News where over the past four years I've worked on documentaries about Iran's influence in Iraq, the resurgence of far-right movements in Europe, and the cyber security industry in Israel, among others. I grew up in Germany and prior to my time in the United States I lived in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, freelancing for German media outlets from the region.

I've been a member of the OPC since 2013, when I graduated from Columbia Journalism School's Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism. After graduating, the connections I made through the OPC helped me gain ground as a freelancer in New York trying to pitch to news outlets. 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 reporters. In 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 am currently a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine). I know how costly it can be to operate without traditional institutional support, and I'd like to leverage the OPC's network to do two things: 1) Shed 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 mentorship 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 make the OPC more accessible 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 non-profit. 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 am a two-time Livingston Award finalist and projects 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 Stabile 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.

ROD NORDLAND

I'm a career foreign correspondent, both working and based overseas. (Currently International Correspondent at Large and Kabul Bureau Chief for The New York Times.)

I'd like to see the OPC become more than just a vehicle for hosting a wonderful dinner once a year, and become instead the sort of vital organization that the Frontline Club has become in London, providing a regular venue and frequent programming that stimulates discussion and development of our profession. The Frontline is a business, it's true, but it is also heavily funded by grants and charitable endeavors, something we could perhaps learn from.



ISHAAN THAROOR

I'm excited to be a candidate for the next slate of OPC governors. I'm a foreign affairs writer at The Washington 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 its Asia headquarters 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.

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Associate Members

BRIAN BYRD

As a governor seeking a second term, I plan to build upon the work we started the moment the current administration declared journalists the “enemy of the people.” These are troubling times for journalists, both overseas and here at home. In fact, 2018 was the worst year on record for deadly violence and abuse toward journalists, with 78 journalists killed. And with the 2020 Presidential elections nearing, the rhetoric and hostility towards members of the press will only worsen. If elected, my goal for the next two years is to further OPC’s role as an indispensable resource for journalists working in a highly dangerous environment. I want to see more safety trainings for current and aspiring journalists and a stronger voice for press freedom. I also want to reinforce the fact that journalism is not a crime and an unwavering belief that nothing is more important to our democracy than a well-informed electorate.

Currently, I am a senior program officer for the New York State



Health Foundation, managing its Special Projects Fund. Prior to that, I worked for the Council on Foreign Relations as its Deputy Director for Membership. Before that, I was the Assistant Communications Director for the Rockefeller Foundation, where I managed media relations and communications in Europe, Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the United States. I have worked as a freelance journalist and photographer; and a member of the Advisory Board for WITNESS.org, a human rights organization.

BILL COLLINS

I’m currently the chair of the OPC’s Press Freedom Committee and am running for the OPC Board to serve three purposes: 1) establish unique OPC press freedom initiatives; 2) grow OPC membership among younger working journalists; and 3) use my background to work on an OPC sustainability plan.

My career includes 15 years in print and radio reporting followed by 30 years in corporate communications. Later this year, I’ll be working on a press freedom project under the auspices of The Rockefeller Foundation. ❖



Safety training: Where are the editors?

BY ELISABET 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 Cantenys, Executive Director, ACOS Alliance.

OVER THE last two decades, thousands of journalists around the world have benefited from specialized safety training. Many more 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 a 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 realised very early on that there is a desperate need for a specialized safety training for editors, especially as our industry inextricably shifts to a model that relies increasingly on freelancers – a reliance perceived (wrongly) as a form of risk mitigation, as the freelancer is expected to assume all responsibility for their safety. Through our safety workshops and training sessions, we are building up the capacity of editors to learn how to commission dangerous assignments, contribute towards creating a solid security protocol for their news organization and increase awareness of their duty to care for their journalists – both legally and ethically. We also believe that safety is within

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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 of 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, Samir Kassir Eyes Center, Golf Center for Human Rights, Frontline Freelance Register, Rory Peck Trust and the Maries Colvin Journalists’ Network.

The trainer, Cath Mossom, 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 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 Mysterious OPC Plaque at Chateau Vouilly

BY SONYA FRY

CHATEAU VOUILLY has loomed large 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 Hamel, 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 Hamel 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.



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



Jay Gordon, left and Walter Cronkite pose with the OPC plaque at Vouilly on June 6, 1994.

Flashing back 25 years, Bill was about to become president and Larry Smith was ending his two-year term. Bill had organized a 50th anniversary of D-Day event on May 26, 1994 featuring Walter Cronkite, Andy Rooney, Bill Walton and John Thompson. All four had been in the European theater on D-Day but John Thompson was the only one actually on Omaha Beach. He went in with the first wave of troops trying to land and miraculously survived.

Bill obviously remembered organizing the event, but he did not remember any plaque. He asked Larry, who also didn’t re-

member it. It was a moment of transition in leadership and a moment of transition on the OPC staffing side as well. I helped check guests in that day in May but the late Mary Novick, my predecessor, was still club manager. So I wasn’t involved in creating any plaque either, and Mary is no longer around. Nor are any of the correspondents.

It was Jane Ciabattari, a board member at the time now living in California,

who solved the mystery by digging out 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. ❖



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Darren McDermott
Partner
Brunswick Group
New York
Associate Resident

Amberin Zaman
Staff Correspondent
Al-Monitor
Kiev, Ukraine
Active Overseas

PEOPLE

By Chad Bouchard

OPC SCHOLARS

After three years at Mother Jones in San Francisco, **Yu Vongkiatkajorn**, the 2016 Emanuel R. Freedman winner in 2016, has signed on with The Washington Post in DC as a community editor, working on leading audience and community engagement strategies.



MICHAEL DAVES

Vongkiatkajorn

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 joined Milton's family, friends and colleagues from the AP and CBS at an induction dinner in Smithtown, Long Island on June 6. "Pat Milton is always on," Zirinsky said during her dinner address. "Her federal law enforcement and intelligence sources are impeccable. We go live at the network with special reports based on Pat Milton's reporting. 'Pat Milton is an inspiration to her colleagues. Pat Mil-



Milton

ton 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 surreal beauty conjured in moments of unexpected silence, in stillness, on deserted streets. They are dark visions that stopped me in my tracks."

UPDATES

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 and had surgery in New York on July 17, his 70th birthday. His partner described the surgery as "a great success." Rod is in recovery 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 doctors' orders, calls or visitors are strictly by prearrangement only 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 connecting our audiences with our journalism, across mobile and desktop." Mabry served for the last three years as head of CNN's mobile programming team, breaking audience 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 international business editor, national politics editor and digital editor. He served as the OPC's president from 2014 to 2016.

OPC past president **Deidre Depke** has been named as the next executive producer of WNYC's The Takeaway. Depke has been serving as managing editor of American 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 director of The Daily Beast. She is slated to begin at The Takeaway on Aug. 12.

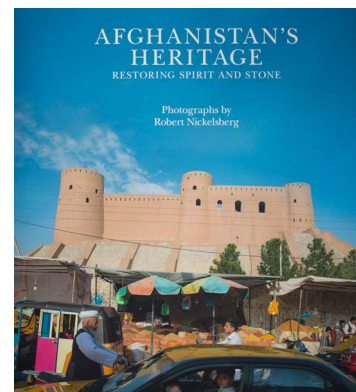
Trudy Rubin, winner of the OPC's newly named Flora Lewis Award for best commentary this year, called the OPC office in early July asking for a message of support from the organization because the Philadelphia Inquirer was going to kill her foreign affairs column. Executive Director Patricia Kranz did 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 on supporters to look at the survival of regional coverage as a necessity for democracy, saying that "civic activism must now extend to support for local newspapers."



Nickelsberg

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 Afghanistan 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, politics and the series of destructive suicide bombs. In the 30-plus years of my coverage and work in Afghanistan, I could visit museums, shrines 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 Afghanistan. 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, craftspeople, calligraphers is how a nation can sustain itself. Ruhullah Khapalwak, who accompanied me throughout the month-long project, said, 'As an Afghan working with journalists, this is my country and I'm amazed at the places we have that I'm seeing for the first time.'" The exhibit was up through July 17.



served as Associated Press correspondent in West Africa and later worked as an editor with The Wall Street Journal in Brussels and London. She has reported extensively on terrorism and ISIS.

OPC member **Farnaz Fassihi**, a reporter for The New York Times, has been grabbing 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 hard-liners are calling to resign. Fassihi wrote a piece on July 19 suggesting some of the country's far right are warming to the idea of negotiations again. In her piece, she quoted a Times interview with former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that lasted more than an hour.

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** wrote a piece for TIME in late June covering the global rise of anti-Semitism, with a focus on the trend's "especially pronounced" increase in Europe. She wrote that for each of the past three years, the U.K. reported record numbers of anti-Semitic incidents. France, which has the world's third-largest Jewish population, records indicate a 74 percent spike in anti-Semitic acts between 2017 and 2018. Germany saw a 19 percent increase in such incidents last year. "Exacerbated by the Internet's ability to spread hatred, anti-Jewish feeling is surging in way that experts fear could result in a

conflagration, if governments and communities fail effectively to tackle its causes," Walt warned. She also wrote a cover story in late July about the destruction of Notre Dame, titled "Saving an Icon."

OPC member **Amy Mackinnon** filed a long-form interactive feature for Foreign Policy magazine, co-bylined with C.K. Hickey, comparing child welfare in the U.S. with that of Russia and China. The story centers on a report from Save the Children showing that China is on par with the U.S. on an index that compares number of children affected by poverty, violence, child marriages, and teen pregnancy around the world. China moved up from number 41 to 36 in three years in terms of best countries for children, while the U.S. has remained static at number 36 on the index. Mackinnon wrote that while the U.S. compares better than China "when it comes to the percentage of children in school, malnutrition, and child mortality rates, the United States has significantly higher rates of teen pregnancy, child marriage, and child homicide.

OPC award winner **Hannah Dreier** is moving from ProPublica to The Washington Post 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 Sept 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 Ratko 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 three daughters, Julia, Andrea and Alena Binder, and six grandchildren. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

by Chad Bouchard

On July 7, the Coalition for Women in Journalism called for Pakistan to investigate attacks on its member, **Asma Shirazi**, which has escalated from online attacks to physical threats and two attempts to break into her home. Shirazi has been the target of digital tolling as well as over broadcast media and on some pro establishment news channels. The attacks started last year before elections when the journalist was slated to interview former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She has since been in the crosshairs of several on-line campaigns against her. CFWIJ’s Pakistan chapter called for Pakistan’s Prime Minister, Imran Khan, to protect Shirazi, chase down her attackers and “punish them for obstructing the public’s right to free and fair journalism.”

A judge in Basra, in southern Iraq, ordered investigative reporter **Hassan Sabah’s** arrest on July 23 on trumped-up charges after he exposed a case of alleged corruption involving another Basra judge. Police raided his home and carried out a search after discovering Sabah was not at the residence. Sabah later 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 home to prevent it being ransacked by militias linked to political parties.

Police in Iran on July 22 arrested **Farangis Mazloom**, the mother of **Soheil Arabi**, an imprisoned citizen-journalist who was awarded the RSF Press Freedom Prize in 2017. They arrested her at her sister’s home and took her to an unknown location, and have not answered why she is being held. Arabi has been imprisoned since 2013, and began a hunger strike nearly 50 days ago in protest against inhuman and degrading treatment. Mazloom recently drew attention to her son’s plight with a video posted online that outlines abuses including frequent beatings by prison guards.

Taiwanese firm China Times Media Group announced on July 19 that it would file a defamation suit against Financial Times correspondent **Kathrin Hille** after she reported on Chinese meddling within the editorial department of the company’s daily newspaper. She was the target of

harassing phone calls and messages after the article was published. The journalist has been covering China and Taiwan for more than a decade. China Times also sued Taiwan’s state-owned press agency Central News Agency for quoting Hille’s article, which accused the China Times of taking orders on a daily basis from China’s Taiwan Affairs Office. Reporters Without Borders published a report in March citing changes in editorial practices at China Times after the paper was purchased by food manufacturer Want Want in 2008. The company’s chairman, Tsai Eng-Meng, has been outspoken about his sympathy for the Beijing regime.

Two Cambodian journalists were arrested on July 19 after covering a demonstration by people protesting their eviction from land on the outskirts of Sihanoukville. Military police arrested **Hun Sokha** and **Keo Ratana** for alleged violence against an owner of the land where evictions had taken place. Hun Sokha is the publisher of the Facebook news page CPNTV, and serves as president of the Club of Independent Journalists. Keo Ratana is the editor of the online TV channel TN-TV. They have been charged with “incitement to commit felony” and “infringement of private property,” and face two years in prison if convicted. The arrest came exactly one week before former Radio Free Asia journalists **Uon Chhin** and **Yeang Sothearin** were due to go on trial in Phnom Penh on charges of supplying a foreign state with information prejudicial to national defence. They were arrested in November 2017 and spent nine months in pre-trial detention. Police have not provided any evidence to support the charge to date.

Venezuelan digital and radio journalist **Braulio Jatar** was released from house arrest on July 8 after receiving official notification from a criminal court in Nueva Esparta. Jatar was charged but not tried for money laundering. He is still banned from leaving Nueva Esparta, and is required to report to the court every 15 days. Jatar’s release was first announced by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on July 5. She had urged Jatar’s release among other high-profile prisoners during her visit to Venezuela in June.

The **Hong Kong Journalists Association** released an annual report on July 7 tracking rapidly eroding press freedom in light of China’s country-wide crack-down and tightening of its “one country” policies. The report, “Red Line Stifles Freedoms,” outlines increasing threats to press freedom in Hong Kong over the last year, including a proposed extradition law that would allow fugitive suspects to be sent to mainland China, censorship in local publications, government paralysis in advancing a proposed freedom of information law, excessive use of force against journalists while covering protests in June, and the visa denial of Financial Times Asia News Editor Victor Mallet, who chaired a talk by pro-independence activist Andy Chan Ho-tin at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents’ Club.

Mauritanian police arrested two journalists over a one-week period, **Seydi Moussa Camara** and **Ahmedou Ould al-Wadea**, prompting calls for their release and restored internet access across the country. On June 26, national police arrested Camara, the director of publishing for the weekly newspaper La Nouvelle Expression, at his home in the capital, Nouakchott. On July 3, police also arrested al-Wadea, a presenter for the Mauritanian broadcaster Al-Mourabitoun TV, also in Nouakchott. No charges against either journalist have been publicly announced. The two journalists are among more than 100 people who have been jailed following the country’s disputed presidential elections on June 22. The country has also faced a widespread Internet shutdown that started on June 25 soon after the elections.

In June, The New York Times went public with a call for authorities in Iran to stop barring **Thomas Erdbrink**, the paper’s Tehran-based correspondent, from reporting in the country. He has been unable to work since late February, when his press credential was revoked. The Times made a public statement after repeated attempts to get an explanation, and said Erdbrink’s absence has become increasingly conspicuous in light of escalating tensions between the Iran and the United States. Times international editor, Michael Slackman, said Iran’s Foreign Ministry has repeatedly assured the paper that Erdbrink’s credentials would soon be restored but have offered no explanation for the delays or for why it

was revoked in the first place. Erdbrink’s wife, Newsha Tavakolian, an Iranian citizen and award-winning photographer, has also been denied permission to work.

MURDERS

Precious Owolabi, a Nigerian reporter for the privately owned Channels TV, was shot during a protest in Abuja on July 22 and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital later that day. The 23-year old journalist was shot while covering a confrontation between Shiite Muslim protesters and Nigerian police. It was not immediately apparent which side shot Owolabi, but a journalist at the scene told the Committee to Protect Journalists on condition of anonymity that he saw police fire teargas and guns during the clash, but did not see any protesters with firearms. Owolabi was working at TV station as part of Nigeria’s National Youth Service Corps, a one-year work program that students participate in before the age of 30.

The family of Syrian freelance photo-journalist **Alaa Nayef al-Khader al-Khalidi** announced on July 22 that the journalist died while being tortured in a military prison. Syrian police arrested al-Khalidi, who is also known as Wisam al-Dimashqi, in 2016 while he was covering conflict in the city of Douma, northeast of Damascus. Family members reported that on July 12, a Syrian prison official sent a voice message leaking information about al-Khalidi, saying that he had died in Sednaya Military Prison under torture. The exact date of his death is not known. Al-Khalidi reported on military clashes, as well as bombings and airstrikes on Douma, and worked with the Douma Coordination Office, an organization documenting civilian deaths and casualties.

On July 10, in Kidapawan City in the southern Philippines, two unidentified assailants on a motorcycle shot and killed **Eduardo Dizon**, a radio news anchor

for the station Brigada News FM, according to a statement on Facebook from the country’s Presidential Task Force on Media Security, a state body dedicated to investigating media murder cases. Police said the attackers shot Dizon five times while he was driving home after hosting his evening news program, killing him instantly. Investigators recovered seven spent cartridges at the scene shot from a nine millimeter-caliber hand gun. Police consider the attack to be related to his reporting. Dizon had reported to police a few days before the attack that he received death threats by text message. The Philippine Star daily reported that Dizon told police the threats could have been related to his reporting and commentary on an alleged investment scam. ❖

‘Safety’ Continued From Page 4

reach of the editorial team, and doesn’t need to involve expensive dedicated risk teams.

ACOS Alliance workshops are centered on providing editors with easy wins and affordable solutions that they can bring back to their newsrooms, as well as practical tools and habits that will have an immediate impact. For example, many editors know how to establish a check-in procedure with a reporter on assignment, but how many editors know what to do and who to call if those check-ins are missed? As many seasoned security advisors will tell you, it happens all the time. Knowing how to create a proper “escalation tree” gives editors and news managers a template to act on.

Our emphasis is on prevention and preparation. What needs to be in place beforehand? If a commissioning editor is not well prepared, it may come down to a seasoned freelance journalist to raise the need for a communications plan and insurance, or safety equipment and training. Unprepared editors may not see the relevance of these. Sometimes they may not be familiar with their news organization’s policy and protocols, or don’t know how to apply them. In the worst case scenario, there aren’t even any in-house safety protocols to refer to.

Through the workshops, we have also learned that many news organizations have poor safety policies and protocols in place. Despite being essential to any newsroom, too often we hear that – to the extent safety policies and protocols do exist—they are based on informal discussions and agreements, and most certainly don’t include a clear framework for working with freelancers, fixers, and other contractors. Also, these protocols rarely incorporate lessons learned based on evaluating what worked and what didn’t after completing an assignment. It has prompted us to create the

News Organizations Safety Self-Assessment, one of the materials most welcomed by workshop participants, and it’s now also available in Spanish. (Soon to come in French and Arabic.)

We have also learned that commissioning editors without field experience are particularly struggling and can be the weakest link. However, experienced editors must also contend with the changing nature of threats and a reliance on freelance journalists. Our workshops facilitate a candid peer-to-peer conversation about the dilemmas and vulnerabilities faced by editors. Here’s a classic example:

Would you take a story by a freelancer you don’t know pitching from a dangerous location?

Often we see a split room. We help workshop participants to articulate a criteria and protocol for whatever they decide. We also highlight the importance of communicating their criteria and protocol with the journalists they work with. This is a very important aspect of their role as an editor.

Having a criteria and a process for ensuring a culture of safety is important. Some editors fear that having a process in place will limit their ability to do their job. Far from it. Good processes enable. Protocols should help facilitate difficult work and decision making. Some also worry protocols will add an extra layer of work away from content production, and this takes us to one of the most important takeaways: Safety should be integrated into content production. For example: Why we are doing this story? Who is doing it? These very journalistic questions have an essential safety dimension, and the simplest questions are often the most relevant. We encourage editors to incorporate safety into their thinking and routine until it becomes second nature.

We are also aware that by reaching out to editors, we are impacting so many journalists on the ground. Building their capacity is cost-effective and it takes us a few steps closer to embracing a culture of safety. ❖

BOOKS

By William J. Holstein

CHINA

REBECA 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-run model would never be able to compete against American technology giants and the highly innovative university research ecosystems that support them. 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 Brealey 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

Communist Party cells into the companies and bulked up state-owned enterprises, meaning the BAT players have to toe the party's line and in some senses have been an extension of state power. Each of the three companies have created vast networks of investments in technology start-ups in China, the United States and elsewhere.

Clearly, as Fannin writes, the Chinese are out-innovating the Americans in key areas. They have become a cashless society, bypassing credit cards, to rely on instant payments made on their smart phones from their bank accounts. Their retail scene has been transformed by the advent of cashless checkouts and massive, rapid deliveries of items such as Starbucks coffees. Starbucks and Amazon are both experimenting in the United States with the lessons they learned in China. Similarly, Facebook is copying some aspects of WeChat, the ubiquitous multi-functional online platform that most Chinese Internet users rely on.

All that is harmless enough. But China also is deploying cameras that use facial recognition technology to identify people at airports, at train stations and in the streets. These systems are powered by Artificial Intelligence, a field where the Chinese are arguably ahead of the United States. As Lee Kaifu wrote in *AI Superpowers*, and 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 diagnoses. Chinese company Xiaoping Motors is trying to dominate world markets for autonomous electric vehicles. A Chinese company, DJI, is the dominant player in drones sales around the world. All of this has a clear strategic implication. "It is no longer a good bet to ignore China as the nation advances technologically and seeks to reclaim its once world-leading economic position of centuries ago," Fannin writes.

China's government is deeply involved in spurring this burst of innovation in what Fannin correctly describes as "techno-nationalism." Billions of dollars in 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 brewing with the United States could have an 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 because of the conferences and meetings that her Silicon Dragon company organizes.

The question that kept screaming out to me as I read Fannin's book was, "What are the Americans going to do about China taking the lead role in all these technologies?" 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 Strategy In the United States*, I attempt to map out some policies that might work. We need to harden our information technology systems against massive Chinese hacking and we need to devise policies that allow us to develop our own technologies as fast as the Chinese are. There is a tremendous vacuum in the American debate about China. Donald Trump's tariffs are a laughable response to the real problem, as are his much-touted meetings with his buddy Xi Jinping. Fannin's book sends a compelling message that it's time for Americans to get serious about competing with the Chinese model – or learn to kow tow to China's technological hegemony. ❖



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 traveled 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 Lebanon 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, Syria, 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 belong 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 cohabitation, dangers have grown considerably, and the space for working as a journalism has shrunk considerably.

Major challenge as a journalist: The ability 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 to 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 surveillance, and for putting anyone else (hosts, fixers and those interviewed) in danger too."

When traveling, 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 after the assignment is over.

Journalism heroes: Ghaith Abdul-Ahad,

Rania Abouzaïd, Emilio Manfredi, as well as photojournalists Tanya Habjouqa and Andrew Connelly.

Hardest story: The quieter stories, like repeatedly covering the absolute misery of refugees and migrants on their journeys – in the desert, in the sea, in detention centers, often accompanied with nothing but trauma – that has affected me the most.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Find a location you have a passion for, that you'd like to learn about, and where it is safe to live. From this base, get to know the region's culture, language and people well, and build up a large portfolio of unique stories.

Dream job: To get funding to shine a spotlight on the world's changing environment: from apprehending bandit fishing ships to animal poachers, game hunters and traffickers – from Africa to the Middle East and South East Asia, to stopping corporations from destroying the world's forests and wildlife.

Favorite quote: "The big problem in the world is that intelligent people are full of doubts while stupid people are full of certainties" – Charles Bukowski

Place you're most eager to visit: The world's oceans by fishing vessel.

Most common mistake you've seen: Pack journalism, especially those who are assigned to countries they don't know, endangering their fixers and community members in their wake. I'm reminded of the debris left behind on Mount Everest once the climbers have left.

Country you most want to return to: Can I pick two? Yemen and Syria.

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

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