

## Overseas Press Club of America

# BULLETIN

## **OPC Welcomes Newly Elected Governors During the Annual Meeting**

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

THE OPC announced results of this year's election for the Board of Governors at the club's Annual Meeting on Sept. 3. The slate this year included 10 newly elected or reelected Active board members and two Associate board members, each elected for two-year terms.

OPC President Pancho Bernasconi, who is serving the second year of his term, welcomed new governors and thanked OPC leaders for their contributions. He lauded the efforts of Executive Director Patricia Kranz and the success of Awards Dinner Committee chair Sarah Lubman in getting dinner tables filled and boosting donations despite what he called the "increasingly difficult environment journalism organizations find themselves in."

He also gave a hat tip to Bill Collins, head of the Press Freedom Committee and newly elected Associate board member. "Bill and the work that he's doing have made a difference and is engaging in the arena of social media to make sure that our voices are heard."

Bernasconi closed his remarks with a quote from Marty Baron's keynote speech in April, "I want to make a point about the work we honor here tonight, while this is journalism we admire, even more important it is work we need. Americans need to know about the wider world they live in, and because of you they can know, and they do."

Kranz welcomed the OPC's new office manager,



Left to right: Patricia Kranz, Pancho Bernasconi, and Deidre Depke.

Emily Brown, who started working part time over the summer. She formerly worked as weekend editor at the news aggregator Digg, has a degree in religious studies from Bard College, and wants to pursue journalism. Her first bylines for the OPC appear in this issue of the Bulletin.

The OPC Foundation's executive director, Jane Reilly, introduced her new associate, Katri Reilly, who is helping out with the organization's daily operations. She mentioned this year's 16 scholarship award

Continued on Page 3

## INSIDE

Event Recap: Hong Kong's Future 2

Cambodia's English Newspapers

People Column 5

8-9

Press Freedom

Update

**New Books** 

O&A:

Jacob Kushner

## Journalists Share Stories About US-Bound Migrant Caravans

#### **EVENT RECAP**

#### BY CHAD BOUCHARD

N LATE 2018, a caravan of migrants embarked on a journey that would span more than 2,500 miles from Central America to the U.S.-Mexico border. It was far from the first such caravan, but this one gathered particular

attention as its progress straddled U.S. midterm elections. President Trump used it in campaign rallies to fan supporters' worries about immigration, ordered troops deployed to the border, and claimed without evidence that MS-13 gang members and "unknown Middle Easterners" were travelling with the group.

In such a highly charged political environment, journalists covering the caravan faced extra challenges in putting the story in context, avoiding ethical pitfalls, and revealing the underlying humanity of those involved.

On Sept. 16, the OPC and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism co-sponsored a program with two journalists who were in the ground and followed the story closely.

Carolyn Van Houten, a staff photojournalist at The Washington Post, spent most of the last year covering issues surrounding immigration and asylum in Central America. She presented a slide

Continued on Page 4

## **Panelists Call for Change** as Hong Kong Protests Intensify

#### EVENT RECAP

BY EMILY BROWN

INCE THE passage of Hong Kong's controversial extradition bill in June, the country has seen massive protests against the government. The bill was withdrawn, but demonstrations aren't stopping anytime soon, and their methods are only growing more sophisticated. On Sept. 19, author and journalist Philip Bowring joined New York-based activist Anna Yeung-Cheung to discuss the future of Hong Kong in a panel moderated by OPC governor Pete Engardio, called "Can Hong Kong Survive?"

Bowring, a British journalist based in Hong Kong since 1973, is a two-time president of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club and a former editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review. He has been a correspondent for the Financial Times and Asian Wall Street Journal and columnist for the International Herald Tribune. Yeung-Cheung, a Manhattanville College professor and Hong Kong native, is a member of Global Solidarity, a group that helps activists organize rallies, chat groups, and other events in dozens of cities in more than ten countries in support of the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement. She is the founder of NY4HK (New Yorkers for Hong Kong).

To start off, Engardio asked how much support the "proindependence agenda" has in Hong Kong, which led to a discussion about the goals of the protests. "What we're really talking about is just reform of the system of Hong Kong," said Bowring. The hope is that Hong Kong is "not undermined by the one-country emphasis that has been pushed by the Carrie Lam government." Yeung-Cheung had a similar view. "These are the things that we were promised a long time ago," she said.

"The whole world is moving in a slightly new direction than what we have been accustomed to," said Bowring. He briefly outlined the events leading up to the current protests. starting with the desire for increased Hong Kong autonomy by localists in the 2016 Legislative Council elections. Some young people were elected to office, but they were removed by government officials for reasons like "not taking oaths properly." Others were accused of not being patriotic, making them not allowed to run for office at all. "Later on, they just say no, you don't obey the Basic Law," said Yeung-Cheung.

Engardio asked, in light of escalating violence from some protestors such as use of Molotov cocktails and occupation of an airport, if police violence is in any way justified or unprovoked. "To the best of my knowledge," said Bowring, "not a single policeman has suffered any severe injury at all, but many protesters have been beaten or hospitalized as a result



Left to right: Philip Bowring, Pete Engardio, and Anna Yeung-Cheung.

of rubber bullets and tear gas canisters." He added that Molotov cocktails burn spectacularly but have not caused much damage. And there is no evidence they have injured police.

Yeung-Cheung also stressed that most of the violence is not being carried out by protestors, but by police. "People see a lot of violent things that look really scary," she said, "but in reality, it's police brutality." She talked about the young people coordinating today's protests, and the ways they organize on messaging apps like Telegram .

She said protesters also use a Hong Kong-based social media platform, LIHKG, to launch spontaneous protests or meetings. Like Reddit, the platform allows "upvotes" and "downvotes" for people to quickly weigh in on proposals anonymously and democratically. "This mobilization is a key point of this movement, which no one is the head of, and it is

"How can you see a way out of the situation?" Engardio asked. Yeung-Cheung and Bowring both agreed that Carrie Lam, the chief executive of Hong Kong, has to go. "There is no leadership, there is no prospect while she is there, because she has no clue," said Bowring. Lam resigning would force Beijing to search for other people, he explained, and make people realize that things actually can change in Hong Kong. "Carrie Lam was very arrogant in the beginning," said Yeung-Cheung.

Ultimately, Bowring and Yeung-Cheung said they believe that the extradition bill opened a floodgate that can't be easily stopped. "Although she said 'let's withdraw the bill now," Yeung-Cheung said, "the public is saying it's a little too late, I want the other four demands." Aside from withdrawing the bill, protestors are calling for Carrie Lam to step down, an inquiry into police brutality, a release of those who have been arrested, and greater democratic freedoms. "One down, four to go," Yeung-Cheung said. ❖

## Journalist Tells a Tale of Two Mastheads in Cambodia

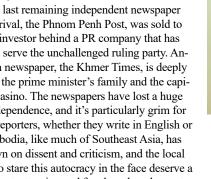
BY DANIELLE KEETON-OLSEN

THE MASTHEADS of Cambodia's two storied English news outlets look the same as they did when I arrived in the country, but for those of us working covering the swiftly developing Southeast Asian country, the last two years have been a sea change.

I came to Cambodia at the start of 2017 to learn from a Phnom Penh news outlet that weathered constant batterings from political and business interests yet still maintained its fierce attitude. When my internship at the Cambodia Daily ended, I enthusiastically accepted a job, thrilled to learn about the country I had come to love from veteran local and foreign journalists. By September, the government had taxed the Daily to its death, as well as a slew of independent radio shows that broadcast to rural provinces. Eight hours before we were supposed to show up for our final day in the newsroom, the government arrested the leader of the primary opposition party, and we all reported

as if we would have jobs the next day. Our last front page was meant to carry a tribute to the newspaper's 24-year life, but instead bore the dramatic headline, "Descent into Outright Dictatorship."

From there, attacks on media have become more slippery. The last remaining independent newspaper and friendly rival, the Phnom Penh Post, was sold to a Malaysian investor behind a PR company that has been hired to serve the unchallenged ruling party. Another English newspaper, the Khmer Times, is deeply connected to the prime minister's family and the capital's largest casino. The newspapers have lost a huge degree of independence, and it's particularly grim for Cambodian reporters, whether they write in English or Khmer, Cambodia, like much of Southeast Asia, has clamped down on dissent and criticism, and the local reporters who stare this autocracy in the face deserve a lot more respect, attention and freedom than they actually receive.





Continued on Page 7

#### 'Annual Meeting' Continued From Page 1

winners, including the launch of the first Richard Pvle Scholarship, which went to A.J. Naddaff, a student at Davidson College with reporting experience in the Middle East, North Africa and Kosovo. Twelve of the winners won fellowships that sent them to news bureaus around the world.

The foundation is working on a new scholarship for 2020 in the name of Deborah Amos of NPR, who currently serves as the OPC's First Vice President, and her husband Rick Davis, a former Middle East correspondent for NBC who died in January this

Foundation President William J. Holstein chimed in to share some news about the ACOS (A Culture of Safety) Alliance, which is finalizing details of a short-term insurance system for freelance



OPC Governors Alix Freedman, left, and Kem Knapp Sawyer.

journalists working abroad. Holstein said he expects the program to roll out over the coming months. The OPC Foundation serves as fiscal sponsor for the ACOS Alliance.

Newly elected Active members for the OPC board are J. David Ake of The Associated Press, Farnaz Fassihi, a freelancer and contributor to The New York Times, Hendrik Hinzel of VICE News, Derek Kravitz of ProPublica, and Ishaan Tharoor of The Washington Post. Those who were reelected are Linda Fasulo, an independent reporter for NPR, Josh Fine of HBO's Real



Katri Reilly, left, and Jane Reilly

Sports with Bryant Gumbel, Charles Graeber, freelance longform feature writer, Azmat Khan of The New York Times, and Rod Nordland, also of the Times. The club also elected or reelected Associate members Brian Byrd of the NYS Health Foundation and Bill Collins, a communications consultant. Board members still serving out their terms are listed in the masthead on the back page of the Bulletin.

Bernasconi thanked outgoing governors who are leaving due to term limits: David Ariosto of GZERO Media, Molly Bingham of OrbMedia, David Furst of The New York Times, Mary Rajkumar of The Associated Press, Vivienne Walt of TIME and FORTUNE, and Minky Worden of Human Rights Watch. Those who reach term limits can run in a future election again after a year hiatus if they choose. ❖

September 2019

#### 'Migrant Caravan' Continued From Page 1

show of photos from the caravan and captions based on her reporting. Her photographs documented moments of exhaustion, desperation, sickness, injury and crowding along rest stops, as well as a few moments of lightness when groups bathed in a river on a sunny day. She said one asylum seeker expressed doubt that the journey would be worthwhile, telling her "the truth is that I don't know if [the U.S.] will help us."

"Much of the national narrative around asylum in migrant caravans is muddled with the conversation about illegal immigration," Van Houten said. She also presented photographs of squalid conditions at detention centers at the U.S. border.

Van Houten won the OPC's Robert Capa Gold Medal Award in April for her photos of the caravan.

Jika González, a photo and video journalist from Mexico City based in New York, presented a few minutes of the film she co-produced for VICE News, "Walking to America," which followed the same group of migrants last fall. She said since many other news outlets already covered the caravan as breaking news, her team wanted to find a more intimate and longform angle. They chose a single adolescent, named Mario, to focus on during the journey.

"For me it was important to hear just one voice of one of these kids, and I think it shows a lot of process."

González's film won a Citation of Excellence from the OPC in April for The Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America.

Much has changed over the last year since their reporting. The Supreme Court on Sept. 11 allowed the Trump administration to

bar most Central American migrants from seeking asylum in the United States while a legal battle about a new rule is still underway. The rule bans asylum applications from migrants who traveled through another country on their way to the United States without first applying and being denied asylum in those countries. The American Civil Liberties Union has challenged the rule, and the case will likely find its way back to the Supreme Court in the coming months.

"Essentially Mexico is now acting as an extension of the U.S-Mexico border," González said, adding that Mexico agreed to become a buffer border after caving to Trump's threat of tariffs. She said she saw thousands of migrants and asylum seekers stuck in Guatemala a month ago from countries like Cameroon, Uganda,



Central African Republic and Bangladesh, as well as Central



Left to right: Nina Berman, Carolyn Van Houten, and Jika González.

The moderator, Nina Berman, who is director of the photography program at Columbia, asked the panelists to talk about conditions that prompted migrants to leave their homes and join a

Van Houten had traveled in Central America with U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials as they sought an answer to that question. "And I think we came away from that with no good answers, to be honest," she said. She heard reasons ranging from extortion, gang violence, and poverty to food insecurity and severe drought in rural areas of Guatemala.

Both journalists said that they struggled to find a balance in how much historical context to provide in their reporting without bogging the stories down. "If you get too into the weeds it's easy to lose people," Van Houten said. "Also, contextualizing in certain situations is seen as political," such as the impact of climate change on the food system, she said.

González said she had talked to migrants who had previously grown coffee, but three years of drought had destroyed their livelihood and pushed them into extreme poverty. "I think it's important to not just label someone as an economic migrant, because if you dig deeper, you'll find there are so many reasons."

Berman asked the panelists about logistical challenges on the road, such as transportation and housing. Both said that they avoided riding along with the caravan vehicles because it would mean displacing someone who needed the ride more than they did, and would risk inserting themselves too much into the story.

Along with the migrants they both faced sickness and exhaustion due to poor sanitation, relentless hours and unpredictable schedules. Despite those challenges, Gonzalez and Van Houten said that nothing they faced matched anything near the hardships the migrants faced. "I come from a place of privilege and comfort," Van Houten said, adding that she feels a responsibility to use the privilege and resources and access to media to commit fully to the people she's covering, "and nothing that we experience covering these stories will ever compare to what the people who we're covering are going through, ever. It's no comparison. Because we get to go home." 💠

## **PEOPLE**

#### **OPC SCHOLARS**

**Eli Binder**, the 2019 winner of the Fritz Beebe Fellowship, has been covering Hong Kong's political protests with The Wall Street Journal. Binder, a recent graduate of Brown University, has also written about international politics for the Brown Daily Herald. Binder's fellowship took him to Hong Kong with the Journal. He submitted work about Chinese entrepreneurs working in Sri Lanka for his OPC Foundation application.

Rebecca Redelmeier, 2019 David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship winner, was named a digital engagement associate for the Committee to Protect Journalists. She will work as part of the CPJ digital team that promotes press freedom through its digital channels - like social platforms and email newsletters.

**Leticia Duarte**, the winner of the 2019 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, was named among the Columbia Journalism School Postgraduate Reporting Fellows this academic year. She is one of three women on a Global Migration Project team that will spend six months investigating stories at the intersections of gender and issues surrounding refugees and immigration. They will work as a team on data projects and multimedia work, as well as individual long-form stories. Her team mates are Cristina Baussan and Ottavia Spaggiari.

Micah Danney, the 2018 Theo Wilson Scholarship winner, is now a reporter and editor for Religion Unplugged. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project in Jerusalem. Religion Unplugged is a non-profit news organization, funded by TheMediaProject.org.

Sarah Dadouch, 2017 winner of the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship, has been named Beirut correspondent for The Washington Post. She joins the Post from the Reuters bureau in Istanbul, where she has worked since her OPC Foundation fellowship there in 2017. During her



by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

two years at Reuters, she also reported from Beirut and Riyadh.

Patricia Rey Mallén, winner of the 2013 Theo Wilson Scholarship, is working as a producer for Al Jazeera in Doha, Qatar. She previously worked as a freelance journalist in Mexico City with bylines in Quartz, Roads & Kingdoms, Conde Nast Traveler and Univision, among others. She also worked for International Business Times.

Nizar Manek, winner of the 2012 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in honor of I.F. Stone, recently co-wrote a Bloomberg piece about the death of a Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project engineer with Marc Champion. Since winning the award, Manek has written for the Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and Bloomberg Businessweek, and now works as the Addis Ababa correspondent for Bloomberg News.

#### AWARDS

Amanpour accepted the University of Arizona's John Peter Zenger Award in Tucson on Sept. 20, catching a dawn flight from New York and then blasting back on a redeye for the U.N. General Assembly opening. Her red cashmere is emblazoned with her new watchwords: Be truthful but not neutral. Mort Rosenblum, also a longtime OPC member who periodically returns from Paris to teach at the J-school, introduced her. "With rare humanity, prodigious knowledge and a firm grasp of the big picture, she gets to the heart of the most complex stories," he said. "And she

Longtime OPC member Christiane

tells them in crystal clear terms with that plummy Anglo-Persian inflection the world knows so well. You can't learn her kind of instincts. I always chuckle at one network house ad that features a correspondent in a war zone saying, 'This is actually hell.' If that were Christiane, she would

skip the story at hand

and get the devil on camera."

Martha Mendoza of The Associated Press, a member of the investigative team that won the 2017 Malcolm Forbes and Hal Boyle Awards, was named among winners for The National Headliner Awards in the category of "investigative reporting in newspapers in top 20 media market" for her reporting along with partner Garance Burke, titled "The Innocents: How U.S. Immigration Policy Punishes Migrant Children." They garnered third place in the category, while the "best in show" spot went to Julie K. Brown and Emily Michot of The Miami Herald for "Perversion of Justice," in which the team tracked down Jane Does years after their violations by a serial pedophile, which sparked "a wave of outrage both in Florida and nationally that was felt in the hearings rooms of Congress." Mendoza and Burke also won a Clarion Award in the investigative newspaper series for the same reporting. The Clarion Awards are given out by The Association of Women in Communications.

The "photo essay/story" category of the National Headliner Awards included two former OPC Award winners. First Place went to **Rodrigo Abd** of the AP for photos of the migrant caravan heading to the U.S. border last fall. Abd won the OPC's Feature Photography Award for 2010 and 2014 for photos in Guatemala and Peru, respectively. Second place went to Nariman El-Mofty of the AP for a series titled "Yemen: Life

Continued on Page 6

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### Megan Boyanton

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism Arizona State University Washington, DC Student

#### Gloria Dickie

Freelance Ontario, Canada Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)

#### **Heiko Faass**

Editor-in-chief Latin Media House San Juan Puerto Rico **Active Overseas** 

#### **Edward Fettig**

Freelance Producer-Director Director of Photography Brooklyn Active Resident

#### Jacqueline Muniello G.

Freelance Photographer Mexico City Active Non-Resident

#### **Danielle Keeton-Olsen**

Freelance **Engagement Editor** Tarbell Phnom Penh Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)

#### Joseph Lawrence

Freelance Photographer Brooklyn Active Resident, Young (29 or under)

#### **Maryanne Porter**

Middletown High School Middletown, DE Student

#### **Catherine Treyz**

Freelance Editor/Writer Researcher Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)

September 2019

America.

#### Continued From Page 5

in Ruins." El-Mofty won this year's Olivier Rebbot Award for his photos of conflict in Yemen, and was part of an AP team that won Citations for Excellence in both the Hal Boyle and Roy Rowan Awards.

Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo and Reuters colleagues won first place in the "online investigative reporting" category for the National Headline Awards. That team also won this year's Bob Considine Award for reporting on abuses against Rohingva in Myanmar, reporting for which the two were jailed. **Ed Ou**, co-winner of the 2017 David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award along with Aurora Almendral of NBC, won first place with David Scott Holloway for an NBC News video exploring white nationalist extremism and radicalization in the U.S. The National Headliner Awards were founded in 1934 by the Press Club of Atlantic City.



#### **UPDATES**

Rod Nordland,
OPC Governor
and international
correspondentat-large for The
New York Times,
wrote about his
diagnosis with a
brain tumor while
covering monsoons in India.
In July, just as a
monsoon began

to hit, a stranger found Nordland on the ground in the midst of a seizure. He was taken to Moolchand Hospital in Delhi and sat comatose for two days while floods ravaged the country, killing dozens of people. Soon after, he was transported to Weill Cornell Medical Center and diagnosed with a glioblastoma multiforme. In the piece, titled "Waiting for the Monsoon, Discovering a Brain Tumor Instead," Nordland describes a harrowing adventure to the hospital, writing about the Good Samaritan's struggle to convince ambulance drivers to take him because they were afraid to be held accountable

for Nordland's injuries. The Samaritan was asked to leave his motorcycle as collateral, but the drivers compromised and allowed him to leave a smartphone instead. Nordland's piece is blunt if not irreverent, recounting frustrating euphemisms for a tumor, "sub-cranial, space-occupying lesion," and joking about a silver lining that his "toe-tag" in the hospital had flatteringly misjudged his age as 47 and a half, despite it being only days from his 70th birthday. Nordland underwent surgery in New York, and his neurosurgeon said that 99.99 percent of the tumor had been removed and the remainder would be radiated and treated with chemotherapy just in case. "We're on a journey," the doctor told him.

OPC Treasurer **Liam Stack** is currently in Berlin on an Arthur Burns Fellowship. The fellowship is the longest running program of the International Center for Journalists, and aims to foster transatlantic relationships

the International Center for Journalists, and aims to foster transatlantic relationships by helping U.S., German and Canadian journalists to live and work in each other's countries.

OPC member **Rebecca Fannin**, founder of Silicon
Dragon, organized an evening of panels and talks on

Sept. 12, in partnership with the OPC, to discuss issues surrounding technology in China. The annual forum this year was titled "Tech Titans Of China-What Could Go Wrong?" and featured programs representing variations on that theme including venture capital, trade issues, and a presentation from a drone maker. OPC Past President William J. Holstein participated in a panel on U.S.-China technology





FINDING THE NEWS

PETER COPELAND

and trade issues. Holstein recently published his new book, *The New Art of War*. Fannin's book, *Tech Titans of China*, was published on Sept. 3.

OPC member **John Koppisch** left Forbes Asia at the end of May, after the magazine moved production from the U.S. to Singapore. He had edited for Forbes Asia since 2006 and worked at Forbes' headquarters in Jersey City, NJ. Production in Singapore began with the February issue. The move came after a reorganization at Forbes Media near the end of 2017 shifted editorial control of Forbes Asia from the top editor in Jersey City to the top business executive in Singapore. Before Forbes, Koppisch worked at Bloomberg Businessweek and The Wall Street Journal and spent 12 years overseas, in South Africa and Hong Kong.

OPC member **Peter Copeland** has

a book due to come out on Oct. 1. The book, Finding the News: Adventures of a Young Reporter, is a memoir of his storied career spanning three decades, starting in Chicago as a night police reporter, then working as a war correspondent in Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa before covering politics in Washington, DC,

and ultimately bureau chief of the E. W. Scripps Company.

OPC member **Rebecca Murray** filed a piece on Sept. 11 about the war in Libya from Tripoli for the website Middle East Eye. Her long-form story titled "Gridlock: Libya Suffers as Haftar's Tripoli Offensive Drags On," covered the war's international backers and devastating impact to human lives on the ground. Then on Sept. 26, Murray participated in a debate on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to discuss issues surrounding the war. Other participants included Abdul Rahman Alageli of Chatham House and Jalel Harchaoui of the Clingendael Institute. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime sponsored the discussion.

OPC member and outgoing board member Vivienne Walt scored another cover story for TIME magazine's Europe edition in late September with a story about French President Emmanuel Macron. She chronicles the former Economy Minister's grassroots uprising and path to presidency, which started in May 2017. Walt spoke to Macron for the story and follows up on reporting from two years ago, remarking that he seemed relaxed and informal "in his shirtsleeves, he leaned back and reflected at length on his tumultuous time in office and what might lie ahead."

OPC Governor **Miriam Elder** has returned to reporting after a stint as world editor for BuzzFeed News. Now based in New York, she formerly served as The Guardian's Moscow-based correspondent. She has been with Buzzfeed since 2013.

OPC member **Ilana Ozernoy** is now the Global Head of Communications at Bloomberg Media. She had previously worked at News Corp, where she was the Vice President and Deputy Head of Communications.

Abrahm Lustgarten, winner of this year's Whitman Bassow Award, filed a story in July for ProPublica about a US munitions burning site that has garnered some attention. In it, Lustgarden investigated the town of Colfax, Indiana, whose residents have to deal with the effects of the U.S. military burning thousands of pounds of explosives just miles away from their homes. Lustgarten won the Bassow Award for a report linking U.S. biofuel policy and corruption in Indonesia.

Maggie Steber, recipient of the OPC President's Award in April this year, served as judge for the inaugural Leica Women Foto Project Award. The award, which will be awarded to three young female photographers, comes with \$10,000, a one-year loan of a Leica Q2 camera, and a free replacement camera at the end of the loan period.

Reuters announced on Aug. 8 that **Paritosh Bansal**, Reuters journalist who was part of a team that won the 2017



Len Leng, a former journalist with the Cambodia Daily, holds up a copy of the last and final issue of the newspaper on Sept. 4, 2017.

Malcolm Forbes Award, will serve as the organization's finance and markets editor. His previous role at Reuters was as managing editor for news in the Americas, in which he oversaw coverage of current events in the region. Bansal and his team won the Forbes award for "The Philip Morris Files," an investigation into the business practices of Philip Morris. \*

#### 'Cambodia' Continued From Page 2

So I've taken the plunge and become a freelance journalist, and two years later I'm still floating. I was uncomfortable with the idea of becoming a freelance journalist so early in my career, but I was not ready to abandon all that I had learned of Cambodia to start. I frantically took any writing job I could find in the beginning, but I've started to understand pitching and I am now focusing on the subjects – environment, business and human rights – that I intended to cover when I first accepted a job here.

America may have always had an internal gaze, but I've come to understand how challenging it is to reach this audience. That frustration has morphed into a conviction: as important as I believe it is to support journalism at home, America must maintain its interest in the rest of the world, because our country has – both willingly and unwittingly – tied itself too deep into global affairs. I decided to stay because I've heard so many important stories that should reach out beyond Cambodia, and I'm slowly figuring out how to bridge between Cambodia and the countries that are tied to it.

Unfortunately, I'm one of the few foreign reporters still in Cambodia. And if I'm being honest, I'm probably not qualified or prepared to tell Cambodia's stories, at least not alone. But I'm stubborn enough to still be here, and I hope with given time and energy, more stubborn reporters emerge to rebuild a new scene on the ground where the Post and Daily once stood.

Danielle Keeton-Olsen is a freelance reporter based in Phnom Penh who covers economy, society and environmental issues. She interned and worked for the Cambodia Daily for just nine months before it was closed and stubbornly stuck it out in the country's capital. She is also an engagement editor for the investigative news startup Tarbell.

September 2019
September 2019

## PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

#### by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

New York Times publisher A.G. Sulz**berger** wrote in an op-ed on Sept. 23 outlining a relentless global campaign targeting journalists in the era of President Donald Trump. In the piece, he reveals for the first time a chilling story about a reporter based in Egypt named Declan Walsh. A US government official informed the Times that he was in danger of imminent arrest. But the official was doing so without the permission of the Trump administration: "Rather than trying to stop the Egyptian government or assist the reporter, the official believed, the Trump administration intended to sit on the information and let the arrest be carried out. The official feared being punished for even alerting us to the danger."

The trial of two Bloomberg reporters accused of undermining Turkey's economic stability began in Istanbul on Sept. 20. Reporters Kerim Karakaya and Fercan Yalinkilic face jail terms of two to five years for charges stemming from an August 2018 story about the country's currency crisis. "They've been indicted for accurately and objectively reporting on highly newsworthy events," said Bloomberg's editor-in-chief, John Micklethwait. "We are committed to them and to press freedom and hope that the judiciary will do right by acquitting them." 36 other defendants, including economist Mustafa Sonmez and journalist Sedef Kabas, are also on trial for social media comments critical of Turkey's economy and banks.

Chadian editor Martin Inoua received a three-year jail sentence for defamation on Sept. 23. Inoua is the editor of the quarterly Salama Info. The sentence included a fine of 3,140 euros and damages of 31,400 euros, to be paid jointly by him and his co-defendant, Abderamane Boukar **Koyon**, the editor of a satirical newspaper, Le Moustik. Both were convicted on charges of "association for the purpose of computer crime" as well as "false accusations." The case stemmed from a defamation suit by former health minister Toupta Boguéna in connection with their coverage of sexual assault charges brought by her niece. Lawyers for Inoua and Koyon have pledged to appeal.

Imprisoned Azerbaijani journalist **Afgan Mukhtarli** went on a hunger strike on Sept. 22 despite being diabetic and hy-

pertensive. The investigative journalist is protesting arbitrary treatment that both he and his lawyer are receiving from the prison authorities, who have placed him in solitary confinement since he started the strike. Mukhtarli was sentenced to six years in prison after being abducted and brought back by force from selfimposed exile in Georgia in May 2017. Mukhtarli went on strike after his lawyer, Nemat Kerimli, was searched on entering Mukhtarli's cell on Sept. 20 and officials demanded to see the notes he had taken during the meeting. Kerimli says that when he refused, the guards slammed him against a wall, grabbed his bag and locked him up for nearly an hour while they read

On Sept. 20 Russian radio journalist **Svetlana Prokopyeva** was charged with "justifying terrorism" in a commentary broadcast from November last year. She has been under judicial control, deprived of her passport and bank accounts and placed on an official list of "terrorists" since authorities detained her following the broadcast. Prokopyeva had speculated that a teenager who detonated a suicide bomb outside the entrance to the Federal Security Service in the northern city of Arkhangelsk the previous week could be the result of the lack of freedom in Russia, which made political activism impossible.

In August, the **Chinese Communist** Party's Central Propaganda Department announced that starting from the end of this year, Chinese journalists will have to pass a compulsory "loyalty exam" toward the Party and President Xi Jinping in order to earn or renew press credentials. More details were rolled out on Sept. 18 on WeChat. A pilot test involving 10,000 journalists in 14 state-run media is slated to begin in Beijing in October. According to the announcement, the exam will have five sections including one surrounding "Xi Jinping Thoughts" and another covering "Marxist Journalism." To pass, Journalists have to score at least 80 out of 120 points, and can only retake their exam once.

The Committee to Protect Journalists will honor this year's **Press Freedom Award** winners on Nov. 21 in New York.

Recipients include **Patrícia Campos Mello**, a reporter at Brazil's Folha de. S

Paulo, **Neha Dixit**, a freelance journalist who covers human rights in South Asia, **Lucía Pineda Ubau** and **Miguel Mora**, broadcast journalists from Nicargua's 100% Noticias, and **Maxence Melo Mubyazi**, a Tanzanian journalist who runs the popular news forum Jamii Forums.

United Photo Industries and St. Ann's Warehouse collaborated with the Committee to Protect Journalists on a special, large-scale exhibition during **Photoville 2019** in September. "Journalists Under Fire" presented the life and work of several visual journalists who have been killed or are currently living under threat for delivering the news we can no longer take for granted, including Anja Niedringhaus, Paúl Rivas Bravo, Camille Lepage, Mohamed Ben Khalifa, Niraz Saeed, Chris Hondros, Tim Hetherington, Masrat Zahra, Mahmoud Abou Zeid (Shawkan), and Seyoum Tsehaye.

First Look Media's **Press Freedom Defense Fund** (in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists) launched a fundraising campaign in August to provide legal support for journalists facing extensive legal battles meant to suppress critical journalism. Maria **Ressa** is the first recipient. Ressa founded the online news site Rappler, which has been critical of the Philippines government. Filipino authorities arrested Ressa in February on charges of tax evasion and cyber libel charges for coverage of the drug trade and human trafficking. Ressa now faces eight ongoing criminal cases and the government recently spread allegations that she is involved in a coup plot. Rappler's legal expenses have reached up to \$40,000 per month. Supporters can visit the Press Freedom Defense Fund website to learn more and donate.

China effectively expelled Wall Street Journal reporter **Chun Han Wong** on Aug. 30 following a story about allegations that a cousin of Chinese leader Xi Jinping was involved in gambling and possible money laundering in Australia. Wong, a Singaporean, worked in Beijing for the Journal since 2014, and his press credentials had been approved each year since. The Journal applied to renew in late July, but his visa was not renewed and expired on Aug. China's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs declined to provide a reason for its decision.

Iranian journalist Amir Tohid Fazel sought asylum in Europe in late August after traveling to Sweden with Iranian politicians and fleeing during the trip. According to The New York Times, Fazel slipped away from his group during a smoke break and took a cab to the police station, where he asked for asylum. Fazel "once worked for a news outlet seen as the official mouthpiece of the Revolutionary Guards, a powerful paramilitary wing of the Iranian armed forces."

Aug. 14 marked the seven-year anniversary of the disappearance of **Austin Tice**, a freelance journalist who was kidnapped while reporting in Syria. In 2012, 31-year-old Tice was about to begin his final year at Georgetown Law School when he was detained at a checkpoint in Damascus. Five weeks later, his captors released a video of Tice with a group of armed men. No information has surfaced since, and nobody has claimed responsibility. Tice's parents recently wrote a letter in The Washington Post urging readers to support their efforts to bring their son home.



Marc and Debra Tice hold a news conference about their missing son at the UN Correspondents Association.

An American journalist working in the Philippines, **Brandon Lee**, was shot and critically wounded on Aug. 6 while retrieving his daughter from school in the northern province of Ifugao. Lee reports for the Northern Dispatch, a weekly English language newspaper and website covering the region. He sustained gunshot wounds to the face, neck, and back, and was conscious when taken to a local hospital and declared to be in critical condition. No suspects have been named,

but the newspaper has stated that the paper's reporters are under attack for their reporting.

Washington Post contributor Pavin Chachavalpongpun, a Thai dissident and academic, was attacked in Kyoto on July 8, according to an op-ed that Post colleague Christian Caryl wrote in August. Chachavalpongpun had been living in exile for the last five in Japan due to Thailand's official objecting to his criticism of the country's military junta and monarchy. Caryl wrote that a masked man dressed in black entered Chachavalpongpun's home and sprayed a chemical at him and his partner while the two men were in bed, and they immediately felt a burning sensation on their skin. The assailant managed to get away, the police arrived quickly, and Pavin and his partner were taken to a nearby hospital. Doctors treated them but were not able to determine what was in the spray. Caryl said the attack is part of a systematic campaign of violence and intimidation against Thai dissidents living outside of the country.

Reporters Without Borders announced in early August the appointment of **Dokhi Fassihian** as the new Executive Director

of RSF USA. Fassihian was previously the Director of the Middle East and North Africa at Freedom House, where she oversaw programs dedicated to advocacy and press freedom. Before that, she ran the Democracy Coalition Project, where she worked on issues relating to democracy and foreign policy. Fassihian holds a Master of Arts in Advanced International Studies from the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies with a focus on the Middle East and International Economics.

Police in Senegal arrested independent Senegalese journalist and commentator **Adama Gaye** at his home in Dakar on July 29. Gaye was charged for compromising public security and offending the president. According to his lawyers, Gaye arrested for writing Facebook posts about the personal life of Senegalese President Macky Sall. He was charged under Article 80 and Article 254 of Senegal's penal code, relating to compromising national security and offending the head of state.

If convicted, these sentences carry maximum punishments of five and two years' imprisonment. Gaye has contributed to Al Jazeera, Kapital Afrik, Jeune Afrique, France24, and TV5Monde, among others.

Police raided the home of Iraqi reporter **Hassan Sabah** on July 23 and issued a warrant for his arrest after he reported on government corruption. Sabah had posted a video on his Facebook page criticizing the Basra Airport Taxi Company for slow service and overcharging customers. In February 2018, the taxi company filed a lawsuit against him under Articles 430 and 434 of the Iraqi penal code.

#### **MURDERS**

The body of a founder and editor of a news website, **Nevith Condés Jaramillo**, was found on Aug. 24 with multiple stab wounds on a hill in the city of Tejupilco. According to a statement from the state attorney general's office, the motive for the attack and identity of attackers is unknown and an investigation is ongoing. Condés Jaramillo founded the site El Observatorio del Sur. He previously worked as a radio news host and reporter at Radio Roca. He reported on a range of local issues including crime, violence, and alleged abuses by local authorities.

Unidentified attackers shot and killed Mexican print journalist Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez on Aug. 2. Ruiz was a reporter for the newspaper El Gráfico in the eastern state of Veracruz. News outlets and a statement from the state's attorney general's office said Ruiz received several threats about his reporting. He covered general news, local politics, crime and violence. A news website, La Silla Rota, quoting the case file about the killing, said municipal officials had allegedly threatened Ruiz. ❖

September 2019

## BOOKS

THE PRICE OF FAST FASHION

AND THE FUTURE OF CLOTHES

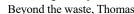
DANA THOMAS

#### **FASHION**

THE CLOTHES we wear come at a price, and the cost goes beyond what we pay. From environmental consequences to human labor exploitation, the world of fast fashion has created a harmful and unsustainable consumer culture. In her new book Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion – and the Future of Clothes, journalist Dana Thomas explores the many impacts of fast fashion and the ways innovative thinkers are trying to fix it.

Thomas, who similarly took down the high fashion industry in her 2007 book Deluxe: How Luxury Lost

Its Luster, presents jarring numbers about how much mass-produced clothing goes to waste: 20 percent of the 100 billion items of clothing produced annually goes unsold, and on average, a garment is only worn seven times before getting thrown out. 53 million tons of clothing are produced each year, and 87 percent of them are incinerated in a landfill. Only 1 percent of that 53 million tons gets recycled.



also tells us how fast fashion is made possible by sweatshop labor and environmental destruction, with the fashion industry creating nearly 20 percent of all industrial water pollution annually and releasing 10 percent of the world's annual carbon emissions. The fashion industry employs one out of six people worldwide, and 2 percent of those employees earn a living wage. She takes us inside Bangladeshi garment factories in 2018, five years after the garment factory Rana Plaza collapsed and left over one thousand workers dead.

Fashionopolis doesn't have a fatalistic view of the industry. In the second half of the book, Thomas introduces us to the scientists and designers coming up with more conscious and sustainable production possibilities. She looks at the process of 3D printing, a revolutionary opportunity to change the whole way we buy clothes, having the capability to print any garment on-demand without the usual waste and labor. We also meet companies working to improve sustainability, like Modern Meadow, which produces labgrown leather, and Moda Operandi, a made-to-order retailer. The book shows us the seedy underbelly of the fashion industry, but also gives us hope about its future.

Thomas is the author of Gods and Kings: The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galliano and Deluxe: How Luxury Lost Its Luster. She contributes to The New York Times style section and lives in Paris. ❖

#### **SURVIVORS**

Who Brought Him Down

ABIGAIL PESTA

TN 2016 and 2017, former USA Gymnastics national team doctor Larry Nassar was convicted of sexually Labusing hundreds of girls over multiple decades under the guise of medical treatment. For years, as rumors of Nassar's abuse reached higher-ups at the gymnastics clubs and universities that employed him, these girls were failed by the organizations that were supposed to protect them. In The Girls: An All-American Town, a Predatory Doctor, and the Untold Story of the Gymnasts Who Brought Him Down, former OPC Governor Abigail Pesta uncovers the

> immeasurable consequences of Nassar's actions through interviews with dozens of his victims

Pesta weaves together each individual tale of abuse through interviews and diary entries, each containing horrifying details. These intimate chapters center on the girls, not Nassar or the people who protected him. As these girls recount their trauma, it becomes clear that many opportunities to stop Nassar

were ignored or not taken seriously by those in power. When girls tried to report Nassar, writes Pesta, "they were dismissed or disbelieved. If anyone had listened and believed, this predator could have been stopped much sooner. Hundreds of girls could have been spared."

The reader learns about administrators and coaches complicit in the coverup, like Michigan gymnastics coach John Geddert, who facilitated much of the abuse while creating a culture of silence and fear. We also learn that 13 women reported Nassar to 11 employees at Michigan State University over two decades. These employees included professors, coaches, doctors, and trainers, all of whom allowed Nassar to keep treating students. As attorney Jamie White put it, "He had every single tool a sexual predator would want: protection, fame, power."

Many of the victims interviewed gave harrowing statements at Nassar's trial, while some are speaking about their experiences for the first time. Nassar's victims were ignored for decades, but The Girls allows them to reclaim their narrative, highlighting their resilience, courage and

Pesta is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and New York Magazine, among. She is the co-author of How Dare The Sun Rise, a memoir of a young woman who fled from a massacre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Left - Kushner interviews two refugees in Nairobi: Cynthia, a lesbian who fled Burundi, and Sulait, a gay man from Uganda. Both have resettled abroad.

## **Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Jacob Kushner**

Jacob Kushner is an independent journalist who writes about migration, conflict, extremism, foreign aid, corruption and human rights abuses in East and Central Africa, the Caribbean and Germany. His work has appeared in a range of media, including The New York Times Magazine, National Geographic, Harper's, The Atlantic, VQR, Outside Magazine, Newsweek, The Associated Press and the L.A. Times, among many others. Kushner won the OPC Foundation's Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013. He is a 2019 Logan Nonfiction Fellow at the Carey Institute for Global Good. Kushner wrote about "solutions journalism" for the OPC's Dateline magazine this year.

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison (B.A., Journalism & Latin American Studies); Columbia University (MA, Journalism – Politics).

Languages you speak: Haitian Creole, Dominican Spanish, conversational German, and cringeworthy French.

#### First job in journalism:

Writer/Editor of my high school newspaper, Ripples. First paid gigs: Editor of La Comunidad News, a Spanish community newspaper, and Intern at The Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism.

Countries reported from: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo, Germany, Haiti, Dominican Republic.

#### When and why did you join the OPC:

After reporting my master's thesis in Congo. I wanted to go back to east or central Africa, so I applied for an OPC Scholarship. I was awarded the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship, which sent me to Nairobi, Kenya to intern with The Associated Press.

As a freelancer, OPC's annual events and vast network have helped me connect with editors to whom I've pitched stories from around the world. But the best part is getting to know the young OPC Scholars – each group seems more ambitious than the last, and their enthusiasm rekindles my own.

#### What drew you to reporting on migration?

A longtime source of mine once tried to convince me that "We are all refugees, wherever we are. Anything could happen tomorrow, and I'd have to be on the run." But my life couldn't be more different. I countered – there's nothing on the horizon forcing me to flee. His concept of home was so impermanent: "No matter how much you want a place to be home, it's not going to be forever." I think what draws me to people in flux is the chance to understand a nomadic life that's so different from my own. "That's one thing I learned – not to get hung up about home," he told me. "To make home wherever you are. To not have too many expectations." That last phrase stuck with me – the idea that the world's displaced may have given up expecting anything from the rest of us. I hope that my reporting draws some attention to their plight.

#### Best journalism advice received:

Print their names. Don't just blame a depart ment, or agency, or 'Congress.' Find the people who are responsible – and print their

Worst experience as a journalist: After the Westgate Mall Terrorist attack in Nairobi, watching reporters at the city morgue shove their cameras in the faces of grieving family members who'd just discovered their loved ones had died. That was journalism at its worst. It doesn't need to be that way.

#### When traveling, I like to ...

Crash on the couch. Hotels can be boring; an evening spent with friends or sources, never.

Hardest story: A radio series I did about Fabienne Jean, a dancer who lost her leg in Haiti's 2010 earthquake. Following the money that the U.S. pledged to 'rebuild Haiti' wasn't easy, but far harder was conveying just how difficult it is to rebuild a single life.

Journalism heroes: Rukmini Callimachi, Anthony Shadid, May Jeong, Jina Moore. Edwidge Danticat, Jiayang Fang, Raoul Peck.

Advice for journalists who want to work **overseas:** Don't parachute – plummet. Move somewhere and stay a while.

Dream job: NatGeo wildlife videographer. (At least, the way I imagine it).

#### **Favorite quotes:**

"Those who write about Europe have a comfortable life." - Ryszard Kapuściński.

"Pale franse pa fè ou entelijan." Speaking French doesn't make you smart. (Haitian proverb)

Most over-the-top assignment: Watching from a helicopter as Kenvan wildlife rangers chased down elephants to tranquilize them and tag them to track their migration. (National Geographic).

Most common mistake vou've seen: More enthusiasm for being on the frontlines than willingness to investigate those responsible for creating them.

#### **Countries you most want to return to:**

Uganda to hike the Rwenzoris, South Africa to camp in Drakensburg, Russia to skate on Lake Baikal, and Congo – to finally finish learning French.

Twitter handle: @JacobKushner \*

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

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