



Overseas Press Club
of America

Your Bulletin

Greetings!

The OPC appreciates members' support and patience as we adapt to challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of our effort to reduce risks of exposure, we are temporarily suspending print and PDF versions of the monthly Bulletin. We hope you enjoy this digital newsletter format to round up our coverage of club and member news.

This digital-only issue of the Bulletin includes:

- A call for members' experiences working during the pandemic
- A [survey](#) for OPC freelancers about how COVID-19 is affecting your work
- A reminder about our new offer for a [special press ID](#)
- The OPC's Annual Awards [announcement](#)
- Recent [People](#) items
- A [tribute](#) to Maria Mercader by her colleague Marcy McGinnis
- A recap of our [discussion](#) with Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn about 'Tightrope'
- A recap of the OPC Foundation's [Scholar Awards Luncheon](#)
- Press Freedom Updates

Scroll down for summaries and links to the articles online.



A Call to Share COVID-19 Stories

The OPC cares about our members and colleagues as we all face new challenges and risks while keeping the world informed at such a crucial moment. In an effort to maintain ties and support among club members, we are asking you to send personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces. What new barriers have you discovered in the course of your work? How have you adapted to new realities on the ground? What extraordinary efforts have you witnessed while covering the pandemic? Please send your anecdotes and insights to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can

also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

To kick this off and inspire ideas, please take a look at OPC Secretary Paula Dwyer's piece for Bloomberg [recounting](#) her battle and narrow victory over the novel coronavirus. "I wasn't scared. Until I started gasping for breath," she wrote in the introduction of the article. "I took deep gulps, trying desperately to get some air. When that made it feel like I was breathing fire, I knew the pathogen had gone for my asthma-weakened lungs."

Overseas Press Club Freelancer Questionnaire

The novel coronavirus has upended journalism across the globe, resulting in shuttered newsrooms, laid-off journalists and many freelancers out of work. The Overseas Press Club would like to offer help to its members who are freelancers. So we'd like to hear from you through the short questionnaire, linked below. The deadline to respond is 6:00 p.m. ET on Monday, April 13.

Please complete the survey only if you are a freelancer.

[Complete the Survey](#)

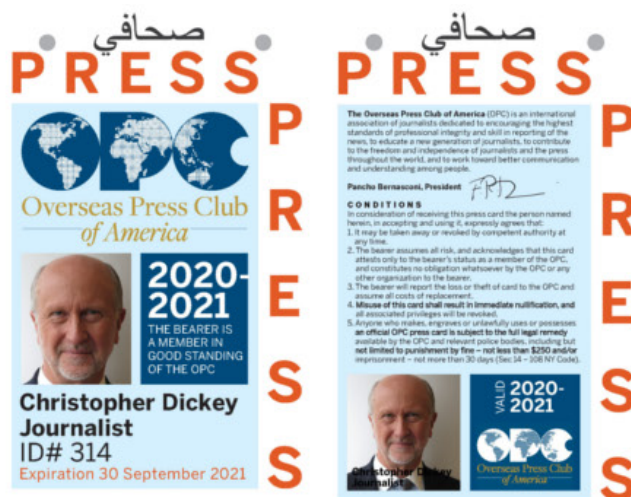
OPC Offers Special Press ID

The Overseas Press Club is offering members a special deal on the large OPC press ID cards as one of the measures the club is taking to help journalists cover breaking news amidst the danger and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In normal times, the cards are valid for only 12 months to correspond with the OPC's dues schedule that runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. But we are offering an extra 6 months to anyone who orders a large ID card in April. The cards will not expire until Sept. 30, 2021.

To order a card, email a high-resolution color headshot to patricia@opcofamerica.org and pay the \$40 charge [on this link](#).

We are not able to offer any free, credit-card sized ID cards at this time because the printer is located in the OPC office, which is under lockdown.



Many OPC members find the large ID's an invaluable tool. Read testimonials from OPC Second Vice President Christopher Dickey, member and freelancer [Chriss Swaney](#), and OPC Award winner and member [Anand Gopal](#) on the OPC website.

Please use the link below to spread the word about this benefit of OPC membership to your journalist friends and colleagues.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

April 23: Covid-19 and China's Future

Place: The Zoom video conferencing app

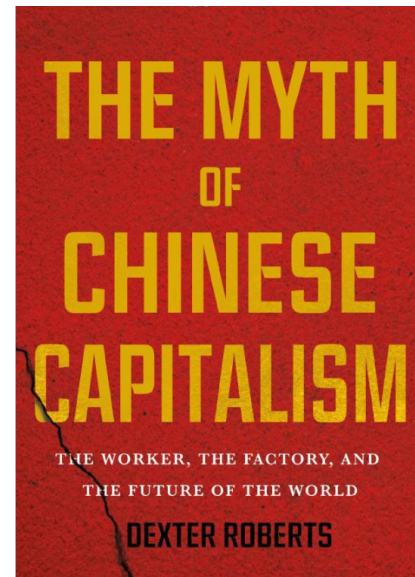
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

China, the country hit earliest by the virus, shows real signs of recovery. Will it be a lone bright spot as other major economies struggle and will China once again be a key driver of global growth? And can it use the crisis to push its global soft power?

Dexter "Tiff" Roberts will discuss his new book *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism*, and why it argues that China's future is deeply uncertain.

OPC Past President **William J. Holstein** will moderate.

Join the Zoom session via the link below. There will be time for discussion and Q&A among participants at the end of the session.



[Join the Zoom Session](#)

People

by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Anupreeta Das, the 2006 Reuters Fellowship winner and a past former OPC governor, has taken a post as finance editor for The New York Times. She was previously the deputy business editor at The Wall Street Journal.

Eva Dou, the 2012 S&P Award for Economic & Business Reporting winner, joined The Washington Post as a China correspondent focusing on business and technology. She previously worked at The Wall Street Journal, where she reported on business and political news from Beijing and Taipei for seven years.

2007 Stan Swinton Fellowship winner **Ben Hubbard** [wrote](#) about Saudi Arabia's attempted hack on his phone for The New York Times, where he works as the Beirut bureau chief. After receiving a suspicious text message, he discovered that he had been deliberately targeted by hackers working for Saudi Arabia. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Jerusalem, which launched his career with the AP. Christopher Dickey, OPC Second Vice President and foreign editor of The Daily Beast, [reviewed](#) MBS: The Rise to Power of Mohammed bin Salman by Ben Hubbard for The New York Times.

Jonas Ekblom, the 2019 Reuters Fellowship winner, is now a business journalist at the Stockholm-based daily Svenska Dagbladet in his native country of Sweden. Previously, he spent his Reuters Fellowship from the foundation in Brussels.

2016 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner **Dake Kang** has been [reporting](#) on the coronavirus in Beijing for The Associated Press since the early days of the outbreak in Wuhan. His contributions include a Q&A about the city's [largest temporary hospital](#), a report on the U.S. [halt](#) on visas for Chinese citizens, and reporting for a story by Deb Riechmann tracking contradictions in President Trump's statements about China during the crisis.

[Click here](#) or scroll down to the blue button below to read more updates on OPC Foundation Scholars, including **Lisa Martine Jenkins**, **Yi-Ling Liu** and **Neha Wadekar**.



AWARDS

OPC Governor **Josh Fine**, along with his team at Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel, [won](#) an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for Sports Investigations for work on high school football and concussions. IRE Judges applauded the team's statistical analysis of which communities are still playing tackle football and analyzed "the makeup of the team from a racial and socioeconomic perspective." Fine shared the award for the piece, titled "Game Change," with colleagues Joe Perskie, Nick Dolin, Tim Walker, Nisreen Habbal and Tres Driscoll.

OPC member and former Governor **Vivienne Walt** [won](#) a National Headliner Award for "Magazine Feature Writing by an Individual on a Variety of Subjects" for longform dispatches in 2019 in Fortune Magazine, from Athens, Gothenberg Sweden, and Amsterdam. She received Third Place in the category, with Jen Wieczner of Fortune winning the First Place award, and Paul Tullis in Second Place.



UPDATES

OPC member and New York Times journalist **Kenneth R. Rosen's** new book Bulletproof Vest is [set to be published](#) on April 16. The book is part of a series from publisher Bloomsbury Academic that focuses on "the hidden lives of ordinary things." Rosen recounts his personal story of using a security vest in Mosul, Iraq, when he realized that the idea of a bulletproof vest is more effective than the vest

itself, and serves as a metaphor for many forms of personal security. A portion of Rosen's proceeds will be donated to RISC, a nonprofit that provides emergency medical training to freelance conflict journalists. The Object Lessons series is published in partnership with an essay series in the The Atlantic.

OPC member and 2019 Sally Jacobsen Fellowship winner **Krithika Varagur** has a new book [coming out](#) on April 21 covering Saudi Arabia's vast global influence, from Nigeria to Indonesia to Kosovo. The Call: Inside the Global Saudi Religious Project, published by Columbia Global Reports, traces Saudi Arabia's campaign to propagate its brand of ultraconservative Islam worldwide after it became oil-rich in the 20th century. Varagur is a freelance journalist based in London who has written for The Atlantic, The New York Times, The New York Review of Books, and The New Republic, and has served as The Guardian's Indonesia correspondent and the Financial Times' reporter in Indonesia.

OPC member **Judith Matloff** [wrote](#) a piece for The New York Times on March 19 offering tips on how to survive as a journalist while reporting from lockdown. In a Q&A format, she recounts getting holed up in a hotel in Angola in the 1990s during a civil war, and being stuck on a mountaintop in Colombia while researching a book. She covers key survival strategies that could help those working in conditions like pandemic quarantine. Matloff teaches crisis reporting at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and her new book, "How to Drag a Body and Other Safety Tips You Hope to Never Need," is slated for release in May.

[Click here](#) or on the blue button down below to read more updates, with stories about OPC Governors **Charles Graeber**, **Ishaan Tharoor**, **Rod Nordland**, **Azmat Khan** and First Vice President **Deborah Amos**, in the full version of the latest People column.



MEDIA NEWS

Martyn Bond, vice-chairman of the **London Press Club**, announced via email to members of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) that their current schedule of programming has been canceled or postponed indefinitely, and there are no current plans for future activity due to "immense pressure" on journalism, saying that the "collapse of advertising has hurt free titles in particular, and members are struggling to hold onto work (remotely) rather than planning additional activities."

The **Australian Associated Press** [announced](#) that it would close on June 26, after operating for 85 years. "This decision's been made with very heavy hearts. It's been made on an economic and financial basis," said chief executive Bruce Davidson, in a statement following the announcement.

The U.S. Department of Defense in February [proposed](#) an effective shutdown of **Stars and Stripes**, the U.S. military news organization that has published a daily newspaper continuously since World War II. Defense Secretary Mark Esper in February announced on Feb. 13 that the department's 2021 budget submitted to Congress, which would take effect Oct. 1, would zero out the expected \$15.5 million appropriation for the paper. Esper said the move was needed so that the department "invest that money, as we did with many, many other programs, into

higher-priority issues.”

Read the Full People Column on the OPC Website

In case you missed it...

OPC Announces Annual Award Winners

The plight of immigrant populations fleeing violence across several continents and the state of ISIS after the caliphate emerged as the leading storylines among the 22 winners of the 81st Annual Overseas Press Club Awards.

America's oldest association dedicated to international news canceled this year's awards dinner, which was originally scheduled for April 23, due to concerns with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The OPC is planning to honor the winners in an online awards ceremony in the coming weeks. Please check the OPC website – www.opcofamerica.org – for details.

Read More



Marcy McGinnis Pens Tribute to Maria Mercader

OPC member Marcy McGinnis writes a tribute about her friend and colleague, Maria Mercader, a CBS network veteran who died on Sunday, March 29.

"Maria Mercader was, I guess, a typical journalist – always asking questions. But she was anything but typical. Maria asked you questions, not because she was producing a story, but because she wanted to know about you and your life. She cared about all the details – big and small, important and mundane, tangible and intangible. She remembered every story ever told to her – always asking about specific people or events in your life long after you had forgotten you'd even shared them. And whether it was over a glass of wine, a keyboard in the newsroom, or her own hospital room, she had an uncanny way of getting you to open up and trust her with what mattered to you – professionally and personally. Then, only after you'd exhausted your own windy tales, did she get down to two things she really loved – laughter and gossip – 'Wait until you hear the latest – you won't believe it...'"



Read More



Clare Baldwin Tells OPC Scholars to Fight Impunity

by Chad Bouchard

Clare Baldwin, an award-winning special correspondent for Reuters based in Hong Kong, urged journalists embarking on new careers to balance hard data with ground-level human stories during the OPC Foundation's Scholar Awards Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

This year, the foundation presented 16 scholarship awards to winners, including a new scholarship in the name of Rick Davis and his wife Deb Amos of NPR, who serves as first vice president of the OPC. Davis died in 2019.

OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein said during opening remarks that the awards help the next wave of foreign correspondents to embark on what he called the sacred path of "being on the ground to discover the truth, and then telling the world no matter the odds."

Click the button below to read the full recap of this year's luncheon on the OPC website.

[Read a Recap of the Luncheon](#)

The 2020 OPC Foundation Scholars:





Click on the image above to see a full list of the scholarship and fellowship recipients, their affiliations, the presenters, and a brief description of their winning applications.

Left to right: Meg Bernhard, William Martin, Marta Orosz, Juan Arredondo, Mateo Nelson, Matt DeButts, Annie Todd, Genevieve Finn, Sarah Trent, Jake Kincaid, Thomas Nocera, Kimon de Greef, Sandali Handagama, Annie Rosenthal, Kantaro Komiya and Meghan Sullivan. Photo: Jackie Molloy



Kristof and WuDunn Discuss 'Tightrope'


On Feb. 20, New York Times op-ed columnist Nicholas Kristof, along with his wife and co-author, business executive Sheryl WuDunn, joined the OPC to talk about their new book, *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope*, which focuses on the crisis facing America's working class and "how our country could have let tens of millions of people suffer an excruciating loss of jobs, dignity, lives, hopes and children, and how we can recover."

Kristof and WuDunn started to see troubling trends during visits to Kristof's home town of Yamhill, Oregon several years ago. The journalists found many of the classmates Kristof grew up with were suffering or had died from a host of problems including drugs, suicide, alcohol, obesity and reckless accidents. That sparked a dive into research that uncovered a matrix of issues gripping rural, working-class communities across the country.



Press Freedom Update

Press freedom advocates are calling for Chinese authorities to disclose the location of freelance video journalist Chen Qiushi, who disappeared on Feb. 6 after traveling to the city of Wuhan to report on the COVID-19 outbreak. He reported on a shortage of resources and capacity in hospitals in videos posted on his [YouTube channel](#), which has more than 450,000 followers. The Committee to Protect Journalists [reached out](#) to Chen's colleagues, who have not received information about his whereabouts since he disappeared. In his last known contact with family, he said he was planning to report on a temporary hospital in Wuhan. The Washington Post's Press Freedom Partnership [published](#) a full-page ad on April 9 to draw attention to Chen's case.




On Feb. 6, journalist Chen Qiushi disappeared after reporting on the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan.

Chinese authorities must immediately look into Qiushi's disappearance and ensure his safe return home.

For more information on Qiushi's case, visit cpj.org/chenqiushi

CPJ



The Press Freedom Partnership is a public service initiative from The Washington Post to promote press freedom and raise awareness of the rights of journalists worldwide who are in pursuit of the truth.

www.wapo.st/pressfreedom
[@wppressfreedom](https://twitter.com/wppressfreedom)

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD



The OPC on March 17 condemned the Chinese government's retaliatory decision to revoke the media credentials of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. The OPC called for U.S. and China officials to find a solution that would allow more media coverage and greater transparency, especially where reporting on the global pandemic is concerned. Beijing says that journalists for the U.S. outlets are not allowed to work in mainland China, Hong Kong or Macao. The decision comes in response to the Trump Administration's recent limits on the number of Chinese state media allowed to work in the U.S.



Read more Press Freedom news coverage on the OPC website via the link below.

Press Freedom News

