



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Sept. 10, 2020

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's digital newsletter, which includes:

- Details of Tuesday's online Annual Meeting.
- A reminder to RSVP for the online discussion with OPC [Edward R. Murrow Award winners on Sept. 17](#).
- [A poem of remembrance](#) for Jacqueline Albert Simon by Barbara Chase-Riboud.
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists.
- COVID-19 Coverage by OPC members.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#), this week with a focus on Bangladesh.

Scroll down for more content, summaries and links to items online.



OPC Elects Paula Dwyer
as President of the OPC
and Welcomes Newly Elected Governors
During the Annual Meeting

The OPC announced results of this year's election for the Board of Governors at the club's Annual Meeting on Sept. 8, naming Paula Dwyer, senior editor at Bloomberg News, as President - among other officers and Governors of the board.

Azmat Khan, contributing writer at The New York Times Magazine; Douglas Jehl, foreign editor of The Washington Post; and Scott Kraft, managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, were elected vice presidents. Deborah Amos of NPR is Treasurer and Josh Fine of HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel is Secretary.



Active members elected or reelected to the board are: John Avlon of CNN; Albert Goldson, an independent commentator; Marjorie Miller of The Associated Press; Adriane Quinlan of VICE News Tonight, Peter Spiegel of the Financial Times; Liam Stack and Sandra Stevenson of The New York Times; Marina Guevara Walker of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting; Vivienne Walt of TIME and FORTUNE; and Michael Williams of Reuters.

Associate board members elected or reelected are Emma Daly of Human Rights Watch, Pete Engardio of Boston Consulting Group and Laurie Hays of Edelman.

For a complete listing of the new OPC board, [click here](#).

Dwyer replaces Pancho Bernasconi, Vice President of Global News at Getty Images.

To read more, including remarks from Dwyer and details of her career, please check out the OPC's press release via the button below. Feel free to share the link on your social networks - the OPC is grateful for the signal boost.

[Read More](#)





The screenshot above captures the moment during the Annual Meeting when Paula Dwyer accepted what Past President Pancho Bernasconi called a "virtual gavel," in keeping with a longtime OPC tradition marking the change of guard.



Upcoming OPC Events

Sept. 17: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories The Edward R. Murrow Award

Time: Sept. 17 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online video conferencing (platform TBD)

Join the OPC for an online discussion with winners of this year's Edward R. Murrow Award for best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs with a run time up to 30 minutes.



RSVPs are required. Links to the video conference call will be emailed to registrants before the program begins.

Winners participating in the call include: **Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Geoff O'Brien** and **Victor Tadashi Suarez** of The New York Times for "Collision," a video series episode covering the murders of two cyclists who were touring the world when ISIS ran them down and stabbed them to death. **Vivienne Walt**, Paris-based reporter for TIME magazine and head judge for this year's Edward R. Murrow Award, will moderate.

Judges for the Edward R. Murrow Award said:

"This episode of The New York Times' The Weekly series tells a tale of poignant tragedy, through meticulous reporting and strong visual imagery. The narrative arc takes viewers from the open joyfulness of two young Americans, into the heart of a cold-blooded ISIS outpost in the wilds of Tajikistan. From the victims' excited dispatches home, to the chilling cell phone videos from the killer, the film leaves the audience moved and disturbed, with a lot to contemplate once it ends."

Watch the winning piece here:

[Collision >>](#)

RSVP Now

Photos above, clockwise from upper left: Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Victor Tadashi Suarez and Geoff O'Brien.

'Performance,' a Remembrance Poem for Jacqueline Albert Simon

Barbara Chase-Riboud sent the OPC a poem and dedication in remembrance of longtime OPC member and supporter Jacqueline Albert Simon. She wrote in an email to the club about her longtime friendship with Albert Simon. Click the button below to read her poem, titled "Performance."

"Jacqueline Albert Simon and I enjoyed a 50-year friendship that began in '69 when she commissioned a sculpture, Time Womb/Jacqueline for the foyer of her Fifth Avenue apartment from my gallery Betty Parsons," Chase-Riboud wrote. "We remained friends even after

her being a North Star for me in New York and I being a kind of French comfort for her in Paris. We had lost our close contact recently but I hope she was able to see 'The Albino' installed in the new MoMA."



[Read 'Performance' on the OPC Website](#)

Photo above: A sculpture titled "Time Womb/Jacqueline," installed in the foyer of Jacqueline Albert Simon's Fifth Avenue apartment. Photo courtesy of Barbara Chase-Riboud.

New Resources

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the **New York University Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute** will host a 90-minute online discussion of trauma and journalism with a particular focus on impacts for people of color and diverse journalists coping with news stories affecting their communities. The program will include best practices in coverage and the basics of self-care and resilience. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 17 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Foundation** will host a discussion about the lessons COVID-19 has taught about the physiology of poverty and inequality. The program will include experts on physiology and the social and economic determinants of health. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Oct. 1 at noon Eastern Time, the **National Press Foundation** will host a briefing about reporting on election issues, including help for journalists to understand their state's voter ID laws purges of voter registration rolls, felon voters, polling place closures or consolidation, electioneering intimidation and more. [Read more and register here.](#)

FUNDING AND CONTESTS

Women Photograph is now accepting applications for the organization's 2021 Mentorship Program, which will pair 24 industry leaders (12 photographers and 12 photo editors, curators, and educators) with 24 early-career photojournalists over the course of a year. Mentors include editors and photographers from The New York Times, The Guardian, The Associated Press, and Apple, among others. Application deadline is Oct. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)** has launched a reporting contest to honor global COVID-19 stories. Entries must have been published between June 1 and Nov. 7, 2020. The categories are science and health; transparency, crime and corruption; and inequality, business and economics. The top three articles in each category will receive \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Deadline to apply is Nov. 8. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Magnum Foundation** is supporting short-term visual projects responding to stories and issues related to the 2020 US elections. Up to ten projects will receive \$1,500 in direct funding, editorial support, and publication opportunities. The deadline to submit is Sept. 23. [Read more and apply here.](#)

GUIDELINES AND SOURCES

The Tow Center has been compiling a database on US newsroom cutbacks that have occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers have aggregated sources including news reports, press releases and Twitter announcements. [Browse the tracker here.](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) released a guide for journalists covering natural disasters and extreme weather in connection with wildfires in California. The guide includes advice on risk assessment, how to minimize dangers, checking insurance, and other best practices, as well as a list of contents for an emergency kit. [Read more here.](#)

IJNet publishes an email newsletter that includes articles, grant and training opportunities and resources. [Read more and subscribe here.](#)

More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives here.](#)
- **Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here.](#)
- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only [Resources](#) page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

[OPC Resources Page](#)

OPC Members Reporting on COVID-19

Meghan Sullivan, the 2020 winner of the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship, [shared a story](#) she filed for the Anchorage bureau of Indian Country Today. The story focused on the consequences of one of Alaska's largest air carriers going out of business due to COVID-19 constraints. She told the OPC in an email that "this development resulted in several remote Alaska Native villages being unable to receive critical supplies and food during the pandemic." Sullivan had a foundation fellowship at the Associated Press bureau in Bangkok.

Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 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](#).

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Marta Orosz, the 2020 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner, has joined Business Insider Germany as a business editor. She will be working as part of a global team covering taxation, wealth and the business of tech.

Neha Wadeker, the Reuters Fellowship winner in 2015, [has an article](#) in New Humanitarian on the role of women protesting police violence in Kenya. Neha had an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Nairobi where she stayed to continue her freelance career.

Isabel DeBré, the Stan Swinton Fellowship winner in 2018, has been reporting for The Associated Press from Dubai with articles [on Sept. 1](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on its participation in the global financial market, and an article [on Sept. 3](#) about international port operator DP World's deal with one of Canada's biggest pension-fund managers. DeBré had an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in Jerusalem.

Scott Squires, the 2018 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner, is [reporting](#) for Bloomberg from Buenos Aires on Argentina's recovery after restructuring \$65 billion in overseas debt, saying in a recent article that the country has officially emerged from its ninth default. Squires had a foundation fellowship with Reuters in Buenos Aires.

Two OPC Foundation scholars were [named](#) among the recipients of grants from the Berkeley FILM Foundation. **JoeBill Muñoz**, the 2018 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner, along with UC Berkeley journalism alum Lucas Guilkey, was awarded the \$20,000 Al Bendich Award for their untitled expose on solitary confinement in the California prison system. **Rachel Mueller**, the 2019 H.L. Stevenson Scholarship winner, received a grant for her student film "8 Days at Ware" along with her filmmaking partner Meg Shutzer. Muñoz had a foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Mexico City, and Mueller had a fellowship with the GroundTruth Project in Nairobi.

UPDATES

OPC Governor **Farnaz Fassihi** [appeared](#) on Amanpour and Company to discuss the rise of domestic abuse during lockdown. Host **Christine Amanpour**, herself an OPC member, interviewed Fassihi, who writes about Iran for The New York Times, and Mexican journalist Gabriela Jauregui, about the spike in domestic violence cases.

OPC member **Kristen Chick** wrote for Nieman Reports [on Sept. 3](#) about the push for pay equity amid a national uprising against racism and discrimination across U.S. newsrooms in recent months. She wrote that over the past four years, "dozens of unions at news organizations across the country have conducted pay studies, proving what many had long suspected: Women and people of color often earn less than their white male colleagues."

People Column September 2020

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins, OPC Press Freedom Committee Chair

This week's OPC Press Freedom update focuses on Bangladesh and the ongoing case of Shafiqul Islam Kajol.

By the Numbers:
Bangladesh

World Press Freedom



Index (Reporters Without Borders/RWB)

Bangladesh ranks **150th** among **180** countries

RWB ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

Global Freedom Report (Freedom House)

Bangladesh scores **39** out of **100**; Rating – **Partly Free**

Freedom House annually rates people's access to political rights and civil liberties.

Ailing Journalist Denied Bail in Bangladesh

A court in Bangladesh rejected a bail petition on Sept. 9 filed on behalf of photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol who has been jailed since his arrest under the Digital Security Act on May 3.

Jaydur Rahman, the lawyer representing the renowned 52-year-old reporter, explained that his client should be granted bail as he suffers with several health concerns, including cardiac issues, hypertension and vision problems after being blindfolded for 53 days.

All of this in addition to Kajol's ongoing concerns about health risks while sitting in an overcrowded prison during the COVID-19 outbreak. News reports put jail capacity in the country at 41,000, though estimates are that 90,000 prisoners are currently incarcerated.

The bail petition was opposed by prosecution lawyers who originally filed a case against Kajol on March 11, accusing the journalist of posting derogatory remarks about the Jubo League.

Last month, Human Rights Watch (HRW) sent a letter to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to "express concern over the treatment of renowned journalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol, including his disappearance, the charges against him under the Digital Securities Act, and current imprisonment."

HRW wrote on behalf of 15 international organizations, including The Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders.

“We are calling on you, as prime minister to immediately address these concerns, and personally intervene to ensure the safety and immediate release of Shafiqul Islam Kajol from prison,” said the HRW letter.

“Considering the repeated overreach by authorities to arbitrarily arrest people, we also urge you to take steps to repeal the Digital Security Act.”

Kajol was reportedly “found” by border guards on May 3, 53 days after his disappearance, though HRW and Kajol’s supporters believe there is evidence to suggest that he was in the custody of Bangladesh’s security forces.

This fall, the CPJ will honor Shahidul Alam, a journalist from Bangladesh and founder of the Pathshala Media Institute, who spent 102 days in prison before winning his release in 2018. Alam was arrested for posting a social media video about the student protests in Dhaka.

[Read and Share via the OPC Website](#)

The photo above was taken during the arrest of Shafiqul Islam Kajol on May 3. Photo courtesy of Atish Saha.

