



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Dec. 3, 2020

Greetings!

I'm feeling oddly optimistic. As the U.S. copes with a dreadful and deadly COVID-19 resurgence, as families are forced to cancel plans to unite during the holidays, and as the Trump administration in its final weeks seemingly goes AWOL, that may seem like a strange viewpoint. But optimistic I am. A vaccine is about to become available for healthcare and other frontline workers, with most Americans possibly getting vaccinated by mid-2021. The incoming Biden crew seem interested in governing more and grandstanding less – a welcome change no matter your ideology.



At the OPC, we are feeling equally sanguine. We've opened the application window for our annual journalism awards program. We're applying for outside foundation money to distribute to freelancers in pandemic-distress, following our successful micro-grants programs this year. We're preparing a fabulous traveling memorial to celebrate the life and work of Chris Dickey, the legendary foreign correspondent and OPC governor who passed away suddenly from a heart attack in July. We're embarking on two digital projects – a directory available only to members and a searchable archive of documents – to bring us into the 21st century. We plan to offer some great programs early next year, including a special series of data and personal safety webinars in partnership with VICE. And we're already planning our annual awards dinner, which we hope to hold in-person in 2021, possibly in

the fall instead of our usual April event.

None of this is possible unless you do your part. Yes, this is a reminder to pay your dues. Without you, the OPC's mission to support international journalists during these trying times becomes impossible. You will soon receive another – final – email for dues for the period Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021. You must pay your dues to be listed in the new directory.

In this issue of the Bulletin, you'll find a [recap](#) of this week's discussion with winners of the David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award, a [summary](#) of the OPC's joint press conference with the Foreign Press Association and the Hong Kong Hong Kong Journalists Association on Nov. 23, previews of three more upcoming programs in December with winners of the [Joe and Laurie Dine Award](#) on Dec. 8, the [Robert Spiers Benjamin Award](#) on Dec. 10, and the [Whitman Bassow Award](#) on Dec. 15.

In our People coverage this issue, read about COVID-19 coverage from OPC members **Chriss Swaney**, **Annalisa Quinn** and **Portia Crowe**, job updates on OPC foundation scholar **Uliana Pavlova** and OPC member **Sudarsan Raghavan**, accolades for OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** as well as OPC award winner **Azam Ahmed** and the award-winning team of **For Sama**, and more.

In our Resources section, take a look at an upcoming online panel hosted by the ACOS Alliance [on Dec. 9](#) on journalist safety lessons learned in 2020, hosted by ACOS co-founder David Rohde.

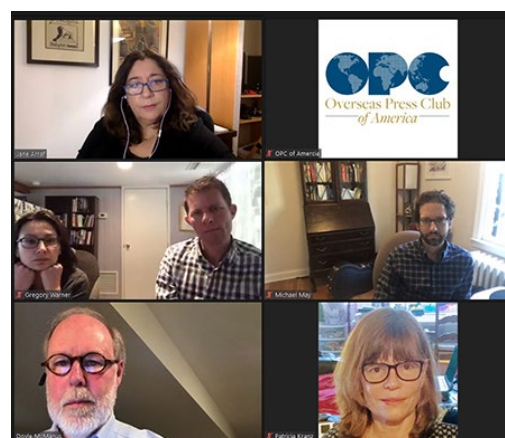
Paula Dwyer
OPC President



Andelman/Title Award Winners Discuss 'Civic Volunteerism' in Mosul

by Chad Bouchard

Walking through the wreckage of Mosul after the routing of Islamic State in 2017, NPR correspondent Jane Arraf, who has covered the Middle East for three decades, witnessed what she called “the most incredible destruction” she had ever seen. As Arraf and local producers toured the abandoned city, she said key questions emerged: “How do you come back from such immense tragedy? How does a city come back from this?”



Those questions were the foundation of a 40-minute episode of NPR's "Rough Translation," titled "D.I.Y Mosul," which won this year's David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award for best international TV, video, radio, audio or podcast reporting showing a concern for the human condition.

On Dec. 2, Arraf, along with colleagues Gregory Warner, Michael May and Sana Krasikov, discussed the story via Zoom as part of the OPC's ongoing series of interviews with award winners. Doyle McManus of the Los Angeles Times, who served as head judge on the award jury, moderated.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

Image above, clockwise from upper left: Jane Arraf, Michael May, Patricia Kranz, Doyle McManus, Sana Krasikov and Gregory Warner.



Upcoming OPC Events

Tuesday, Dec. 8: The Joe and Laurie Dine Award

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Join the OPC for a discussion with winners of the Joe and Laurie Dine Award, including **Angus Berwick**, Reuters correspondent for Venezuela, and **Brian Ellsworth**, senior correspondent for Venezuela. Reuters' Venezuela Bureau won for their series of articles titled "Maduro's Venezuela," which shed light on a system of violence, corruption and "machinery of repression" aided by international partners.



The moderator will be **Anya Schiffrin**, senior lecturer at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, who served as head judge.

Judges for the award said:

"Against all odds, a team of Reuters reporters reported an indispensable account of the corruption inside (President) Maduro's government and the physical dangers faced by Venezuelan citizens, many of whom have had to flee the ravaged country."

RSVP Now



Thursday, Dec. 10: The Robert Spiers Benjamin Award

Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Join the OPC for a discussion with **Azam Ahmed** of The New York Times, winner of the Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America.



Ahmed won the award for his series, "[Kill or Be Killed: Latin America's Homicide Crisis](#)."

The moderator will be **William Booth**, London bureau chief for The Washington Post, who served as head judge.

Judges' comments:

"Azam Ahmed's stories have vivid scenes, with unforgettable characters, that propel readers forward. Judges were also deeply impressed by the photography, graphics and forensic mapping that accompanied the work."

RSVP Now



Dec. 15: The Whitman Bassow Award

Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Join the OPC for a discussion with this year's winners of the Whitman Bassow Award, **Tom Warren** and **Katie J.M. Baker** of BuzzFeed News, who won for their series, "[WWF's Secret War](#)."



The head judge for the award, **Kim Murphy** of The New York Times, will moderate.

Judges said: "BuzzFeed's stories led the WWF to overhaul its human rights guidelines even as Congress investigated how the U.S. government could have unwittingly helped fund such atrocities."

[RSVP Now](#)

Hong Kong Journalist Paints Gloomy Picture for Press Freedom

Chris Yeung, chair of the Hong Kong Journalists Association, told the OPC and Foreign Press Association (FPA) on Nov. 23 that four months after a sweeping security law went into effect in Hong Kong in July, it has become clear that officials plan to carry out its restrictions in a "rigorous, aggressive manner."



The OPC and FPA held a joint press conference with Yeung to discuss how the new security law and intensified Chinese pressure on Hong Kong is affecting reporting by both local and western media.

FPA President Ian Williams introduced the session, saying that China had used the distractions of the U.S. election and a crippling pandemic to tighten its control on Hong Kong, removing elected representatives simply because they favored democracy. When the FPA reached out to legislators to participate in the press conference, they declined for fear they might violate rules penalizing contact with foreigners.

When the national security law went into effect, some observers thought it might have been little more than a "paper tiger," but after several cases demonstrating that police would enforce the law rigorously, it had become "a scary real tiger," Cheung said.

"Media organizations and journalists are in particular worried that sooner or later, media will be a target," he said, adding that those fears have been bolstered by public statements from officials including Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam who said "media is one of the sectors that she said should be 'rectified.' The other sectors are teachers and civil servants."

[Read More](#)

Photo above, clockwise from upper left: Chris Yeung, Bill Holstein and Ian Williams.

Welcome New Member

Mantai Chow

Senior Video Producer
South China Morning Post
Active Resident

OPC Members Covering COVID-19

OPC member **Annalisa Quinn** wrote a piece published [on Nov. 25](#) for The Boston Globe Magazine about why things have gone so differently this year in Germany and the U.S. It's about how similar numbers of people in each country are actually willing to follow social distancing requirements and wear masks -- but Germany is better structured to protect its weakest citizens. The story was funded by a COVID reporting grant from the National Geographic Society.



OPC member and 2014 Reuters Fellowship winner **Portia Crowe** shared a dispatch she wrote for The Independent from Zurich [on Nov. 24](#) about Switzerland's soaring number of second-wave coronavirus cases and how "federalist politics, an aversion to big government and even snobbishness prevent Switzerland from adopting stricter pandemic measures."



Chriss Swaney, an OPC member and freelancer, continues to cover the intersection of COVID-19 and workers rights for WorkersCompensation.com with a piece [on Nov. 19](#) about concerns from bus drivers across the country as a spike in holiday travel and national infection rates put them at risk. She wrote that several California-based drivers complained that "some companies are overpacking buses and not enforcing mask policies."



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

Uliana Pavlova, the Theo Wilson Scholarship winner in 2017, is now a news reporter with the Moscow Times. Before she

returned to her native Russia this fall, Pavlova studied journalism at the University of Missouri and had internships with CNN, Bloomberg and Politico Europe. More recently Pavlova had been a reporter for a regulatory news wire called MLex on the trade and financial services desks.



AWARDS

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** received an honorable mention in the print category of the National Press Club awards for 2020, which were announced [in November](#). Walt's honored piece for FORTUNE, titled "[Boxed In at the Docks](#)," outlines China's effort to dominate global trade by controlling strategic harbors around the world, with a focus on the Chinese shipping company Cosco's acquisition of the historic port of Piraeus in Greece.



Azam Ahmed of The New York Times, winner of the OPC's Robert Spiers Benjamin Award, has received the [2020 Michael Kelly Award](#) for "Kill, or Be Killed: Latin America's Homicide Crisis," the same work that garnered the OPC's award. The Kelly Award comes with a \$25,000 prize. Judges wrote that Ahmed, the Times bureau chief for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, "moves beyond the numbers to paint memorable portraits: a brave Honduran pastor, a remorseful Mexican killer, a teenage Guatemalan mother." See above [or click here](#) for details of his upcoming Dec. 10 chat with the OPC.

The OPC award-winning documentary **For Sama** won this year's [International Emmy Award](#) for the documentary category. The film also won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award this year. [Click here to watch a playlist of video clips](#) from the OPC's conversation in October with Waad Al-Kateab and FRONTLINE executive producer Raney Aronson-Rath.

UPDATES

The Washington Post has [named](#) OPC member **Sudarsan Raghavan** as Europe-based correspondent "who can be deployed quickly to trouble spots around the world." Raghavan is a veteran correspondent who has won three OPC awards for international coverage, including a 2001 Joe and Laurie Dine Award, a 2008 Bob Considine Award for coverage of Iraq, and a 2018 Hal Boyle Award for reporting on Yemen. A Post release said he will "travel extensively in the role, which is new to The Post and is intended to add more agility to our international coverage. His deployments – to Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and other parts of the world – will be driven by the need for timely, on-the-ground reporting that fills the newsroom's most urgent needs."



OPC member and former CNN Beijing correspondent **Jaime FlorCruz** told

aspiring journalists in the Philippines [during a panel](#) hosted by The Manila Times early last month that fake news and disinformation could be “as deadly” as the coronavirus. During the panel, titled “Critical Thinking in Pursuit of Journalism Amid Critical Times,” FlorCruz said rigorous journalism and critical thinking was needed to help combat misinformation, adding “that’s why we need to support credible media groups; that’s why we have to pay for some of the journalism we consume; and that’s why we need top-rated journalism courses in schools. That’s why we give credit to the journalists who cover the news tenaciously and fearlessly because they are our frontline heroes, too.”

The Baltimore Sun interviewed OPC member and FRONTLINE PBS executive producer **Raney Aronson-Rath** [on Nov. 27](#) in a piece that lauded the show’s documentary programming, which writer David Zurawik said “has always operated with a heightened sense of social consciousness.” Aronson-Rath said “corruption can run wild if there aren’t journalists on the case. And we take that really seriously ... That’s actually what drives us.” She talked about the show’s “Transparency Project,” which allows viewers to see interviews without editing, aside from accuracy and libel issues, so that people can determine for themselves if actualities are taken out of context, a common accusation from those who want to discredit mainstream TV journalism. She said that since joining the FRONTLINE team five years ago, she has dedicated herself to building trust with viewers.



People Column December 2020

New Resources

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Dec. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, the **A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance** is hosting a webinar to discuss journalist safety lessons learned during global turmoil of 2020. David Rohde, ACOS co-founder and executive editor for news at The New Yorker will moderate, with panelists including Vanessa Charlot, a freelance photojournalist, Beth Flynn of The New York Times, Guillermo Galdos of Channel 4 News and Mike Shum, writer and director of American Voices: A Nation in Turmoil for FRONTLINE PBS. [Read more and register here.](#)

Speakers:

- **Vanessa Charlot**
Photojournalist
- **Beth Flynn**
Deputy Picture Editor at The New York Times
- **Guillermo Galdos**
Latin America Correspondent, Channel 4 News
- **Mike Shum**
Journalist & Filmmaker

Moderated by David Rohde
Executive Editor for News, The New Yorker

Register
www.acosalliance.org

ACOS
ALLIANCE
VIRTUAL SAFETY
COORDINATION
MEETING - 2020

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted three new webinars that that are available for public view:

- [Podcasting in Times of Pandemic](#)

- [COVID-19 Resources & Send Us Your Pitches!](#)
- [Top Climate Change Stories to Cover in 2021](#)

RESOURCES

The **ICFJ** has posted new research about the spread of online violence against women journalists, published on Nov. 25 to mark the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women. The six-week survey of more than 1,200 respondents, a joint project with UNESCO, found that 73 percent of women journalists surveyed said they'd experienced online violence, and 20 percent said they'd been attacked or abused offline in incidents they said were seeded online. The data, which is published under a Creative Commons Attribution license, has so far been published by [Deutsche Welle](#), [Rappler](#), [The Conversation](#) and [Al Jazeera](#).

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

