



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin April 9, 2021

Greetings!

Your club has had an incredibly busy month – and it's only April 9. We announced the winners of our journalism awards program and the Foundation held its 30th annual program (digitally) to honor the winners of its scholar awards.



These annual accolades accomplish two of the most important things the OPC does: Trumpet the work of journalists who go to great lengths, especially under 2020's pandemic conditions, to report the news from abroad, and help prepare the next generation of foreign correspondents.

Congratulations to all the winners, whose details appear in the newsletter below, and a hearty thanks to all the board members and staff who spent many hours making these programs a success.

The club also held a book night with Steve Shepard, one of the greatest journalism practitioners and teachers of the last half-century and one of the smartest thinkers about what we do right and wrong – and how to do it better. For more, take a look at the recap and video clips below.

We have some exciting upcoming events planned, including another book night on April 16 with OPC member John Maxwell Hamilton. A professor at

Louisiana State University's mass communications school, Hamilton reported at home and abroad for the Milwaukee Journal, the Christian Science Monitor, ABC radio and Marketplace. His new book: *Manipulating the Masses: Woodrow Wilson and the Birth of American Propaganda*, is very topical. OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank will moderate.

On May 18, the OPC and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting will host a panel discussion analyzing the root cause of the surge in migration from Central America and what can be done about it. Tracy Wilkinson, senior foreign policy writer for the Los Angeles Times and a longtime OPC member, will lead the discussion.

Keep reading this Bulletin for more programming news, updates on what your OPC colleagues have been up to and, as always, a handy list of programs and resources to help you work smarter. Happy reading!

Paula Dwyer
OPC President

OPC Announces Annual Award Winners

Leading storylines among this year's winners in 22 categories for the 82nd Annual Overseas Press Club Awards include human rights abuses against civilian populations, corruption in business and government, and the spread of COVID-19.

The announcement on April 6 has brought a wave excitement on social media as winners, colleagues and organizations celebrate the year's best in international journalism. A single announcement tweet linked to the OPC's press release page reached nearly a half-million users, with more than 1,000 celebrants boosting the signal with likes and retweets. Many thanks to OPC members who helped to spread the word.

Please keep an eye on the [OPC Twitter account](#) and on this year's awards hashtag, [#OPCAwards82](#), to watch as we continue sharing links to the winning work. On Facebook, join hundreds of others in celebration via posts on [our page here](#).

The OPC will honor the journalists at an [Oct. 22 event](#) this year.

The annual awards process, overseen by OPC Head Judge Scott Kraft, involves more than 100 jury members from across the profession with deep experience in international journalism. A list of all our awards judges [is posted here](#).

To see Citation for Excellence (runner-up) winners, [click on this link](#).

Below is an at-a-glance summary of the winners. To see a list of winners on the OPC website with full award descriptions, sponsors and judges' comments, click the button below.

82nd Annual Overseas Press Club Awards

Newspapers, News Services, Print or Digital

THE HAL BOYLE AWARD

Andrew Quilty, The Intercept
“The CIA’s Afghan Death Squads”

THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Mary Beth Sheridan and Kevin Sieff
The Washington Post
“Losing Control”

THE ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Sarah Topol
The New York Times Magazine
“Her Uighur Parents Were Model Chinese Citizens.
It Didn’t Matter.”

THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Dan McCrum, Paul Murphy, Sam Jones and Olaf
Storbeck
Financial Times
“Inside Wirecard”

THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Danielle Paquette
The Washington Post
“Life in West Africa”

THE KIM WALL AWARD

Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo
Buschek
BuzzFeed News with support from the Pulitzer
Center
“Built to Last”

TV, Video, Radio or Podcast

THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Maria Hinojosa, Julieta Martinelli, Diane Sylvester,
Marlon Bishop and Fernanda Camarena
Latino USA with support from the Pulitzer Center
“The Moving Border”

THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

David Culver
CNN

Any Medium

THE ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Kate Morrissey, Lauryn Schroeder, Nelvin Cepeda
and Alejandro Tamayo
The San Diego Union-Tribune
“Returned”

THE ROY ROWAN AWARD

Dake Kang and AP Staff
The Associated Press
“China Cracks Down”

THE FLORA LEWIS AWARD

Peter Beinart
Jewish Currents
“Yavne: A Jewish Case for Equality in Israel-
Palestine”

THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Abraham Lustgarten and Meridith Kohut
The New York Times Magazine and ProPublica with
support from the Pulitzer Center
“Refugees From the Earth”

THE JOE AND LAURIE DINE AWARD

Margie Mason and Robin McDowell
The Associated Press
“Fruits of Labor”

Photography

THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Kiana Hayeri
The New York Times Magazine
“Where Prison is a Kind of Freedom”

THE OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Nanna Heitmann
National Geographic
“COVID Russia”

THE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Cheryl Diaz Meyer
NPR with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis
Reporting and Yunghi Kim
“Comfort Women”

“Coronavirus Outbreak in China”

THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Angad Singh, Isobel Yeung, Jackie Jesko and
Ahmer Khan
VICE on Showtime
“India Burning”

THE PETER JENNINGS AWARD

James Bluemel and Jo Abel
FRONTLINE
“Once Upon a Time in Iraq”

THE MORTON FRANK AWARD

Monte Reel and Topher Forhecz
Bloomberg Green
“Blood River”

**THE DAVID A. ANDELMAN AND PAMELA TITLE
AWARD**

Staff
The Wall Street Journal and Gimlet Media
“Vale Ignored Warnings”

Books

THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Declan Walsh
W.W. Norton & Company
*The Nine Lives of Pakistan: Dispatches From a
Precarious State*

Cartoons

THE BEST CARTOON AWARD

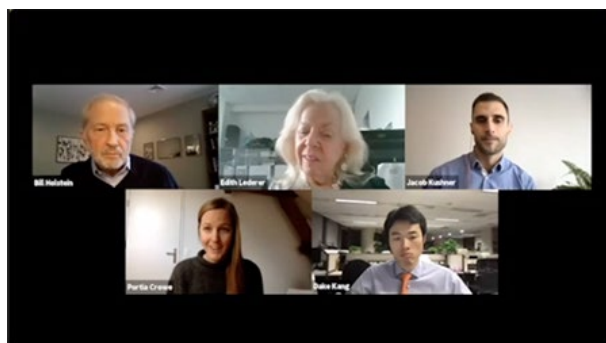
Kevin Kallaugher (pen name KAL)



2021 OPC Foundation Scholar Awards

On Thursday afternoon the OPC Foundation held its 30th Annual Scholar Awards, a virtual celebration to honor 17 journalists selected among more than 150 applicants.

The event included video presentations from each of the recipients and a panel presentation with past winners who discussed their own careers and paths forward for global journalism. OPC member and veteran Associated Press journalist Edie Lederer, who was honored with a new scholarship in her name announced this year, moderated. Panelists included Portia Crowe, a freelancer based in Paris; Dake Kang of The Associated Press in Beijing; and Jacob Kushner, a freelancer based in Nairobi. OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein served as host for the event.



A list of this year's recipients is below, and you can read more about their backgrounds and winning essays on the [OPC Foundation website here](#). In case you missed it, scroll down for a link to watch a video of the entire program.

Jack Stone Truitt

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Columbia University School of International Public Affairs
DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family

Krisztian Sandor

New York University
REUTERS FELLOWSHIP
Sponsored by Reuters

Diana Kruzman

New York University
HARPER'S MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP in memory of I.F. STONE
Endowed by John R. MacArthur and the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust

Brett Simpson

University of California-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism
IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by the Scripps Howard Foundation

Rose Gilbert

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
STAN SWINTON FELLOWSHIP
Endowed by the Swinton Family

Meena Venkataramanan

Harvard University
EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by family

Luca Powell

Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY
ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by family and friends

Arno Pedram

Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY
FLORA LEWIS / JACQUELINE ALBERT-SIMON SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust

Matthew Reysio-Cruz

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Columbia University School of International Public Affairs
S&P GLOBAL AWARD for ECONOMIC and BUSINESS REPORTING
Endowed by S&P Global

Akash Pasricha

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
JERRY FLINT FELLOWSHIP for INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPORTING
Endowed by family and friends

Alicia Carter

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism
WALTER & BETSY CRONKITE SCHOLARSHIP
Funded by Daimler and Supported by CBS News and friends

Tre'Vaughn Howard

University of Miami
NATHAN S. BIENSTOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by the Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation

Doyin Oladipo

New York University
FRITZ BEEBE FELLOWSHIP
Endowed by Anne and Larry Martz

Anna Jean Kaiser

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
SALLY JACOBSEN FELLOWSHIP
Endowed by family and friends

Heather Schlitz

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
RICHARD PYLE SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by family and friends

Jimin Kang

Princeton University
RICK DAVIS-DEB AMOS SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by Deb Amos and friends

Kira Leadholm

Northwestern Medill School of Journalism
EDITH LEDERER SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by Edith Lederer and friends

Click the window below to watch the program.



Upcoming OPC Events

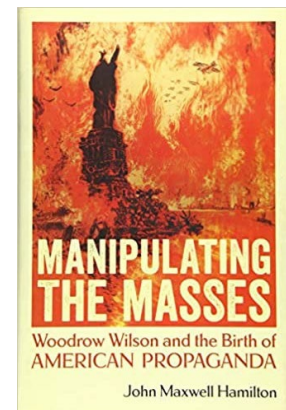
For all of the programs below, RSVPs are essential. Register now to receive login credentials before the programs.

April 16: Book Night - Manipulating the Masses: Woodrow Wilson and the Birth of American Propaganda

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Zoom video conferencing app.

Please join us for a Book Night with author and OPC member **John Maxwell Hamilton** about his new book: *Manipulating the Masses: Woodrow Wilson and the Birth of American Propaganda*. OPC Past President **Allan Dodds Frank** will moderate the discussion.



Hamilton has produced a compelling investigation that documents how the American government under President Woodrow Wilson a century ago laid out the foundations for the government to build a propaganda machine designed to mislead the public. Using World War I as the rationale for establishing the "Committee on Public Information" under muckraker George Creel, the Wilson Administration wrote a propaganda playbook that foreshadowed what future administrations would do to manipulate public opinion. In Hamilton's view, these perversions of the truth represent a persistent threat to democracy. His story also has startling revelations about the extent to which the press allowed itself to be bend to Wilson's war aims.

[RSVP Now](#)



May 18: Straddling the Border - Forces Pushing Central American Migrants North While Still Keeping Them Out

Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Zoom video conferencing app

Former President Donald Trump tried to build a wall to stop migrants from Central America entering the United States by crossing the border with Mexico. One of the first actions President Joe Biden took when he entered office in January was to denounce the wall and cancel spending for its construction. Creating a new policy to treat the migrants humanely while stemming the flow of people crossing into the US illegally is one of the biggest challenges Biden faces.

On May 18, the OPC and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting will host a panel discussion analyzing the root cause of the migration. Why are so many people in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador desperate to leave home and work in the US? How did they end up stranded in Mexico? What should the US do about it?

Tracy Wilkinson, senior foreign policy writer for the Los Angeles Times and a longtime OPC member, will lead the discussion. Tracy has won multiple OPC awards for her coverage of Mexico and migrants.

Two of the panelists won OPC awards this year. **Maria Hinojosa**, President & Founder of Futuro Media, was part of a group that won The Lowell Thomas Award for Best radio, audio, or podcast coverage of international affairs for “The Moving Border.”

Kate Morrissey of the San Diego Union-Tribune and colleagues won the Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America for a series that looked into what really happens to those seeking the promise of asylum.

Carlos Dada is a founder and director of El Faro, a news website established in El Salvador in 1998 and known for independent and high-quality journalism in Central America.

[RSVP Now](#)

Stephen Shepard Reflects On ‘Second Thoughts’ And News Industry Challenges

by Chad Bouchard

Journalism in the digital age has increased demands on reporters, fueled attacks on their integrity, and imploded traditional media business models, leaving news organizations scrambling for sustainable revenue, author and journalist Stephen B. Shepard said during an OPC book night on April 1.



Despite discouraging trends, the former editor-in-chief of BusinessWeek said he sees reason for optimism and hope in the next generation of journalists.

Shepard's book, *Second Thoughts: On Family, Friendship, Faith and Writers*, is a reflection on his life, including his childhood in the Bronx, his struggles with his Jewish identity, his career at Newsweek and BusinessWeek, and his years as founding dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.

OPC President Paula Dwyer asked Shepard about some of the fears and anxieties he noted in the book, including his fear of success and his struggle to embrace his passion, journalism, over engineering, his chosen major.

“It had a lot to do with guilty feelings about outdoing my father, who wasn't particularly successful financially in his work. So that ambition was not a good thing for me and pursuing the goal of being a journalist was not a good thing. It filled me with a lot of guilt.”

[Read the Full Recap](#)



Welcome New Members

Sara Herrin

Freelancer
Denver, CO
Active Non-Resident, Young
(29 or under)

Michael Slackman

Assistant Managing Editor
The New York Times
New York
Active Resident

People by Chad Bouchard

Thank you to all who have sent in member news tips and updates. Keep them coming! If you have personal anecdotes, photos, or links to published pieces, please send them to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our People column pages on the OPC website and share with members here in the Bulletin. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

SCHOLARS

Tik Root, the 2017 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner, is joining the Climate and Environment team as a reporter for Climate Solutions at The Washington Post. Most recently, he was at Newsy, a live news channel, where he worked in the documentary unit. A veteran freelancer, his work has appeared many times in the Post, including as a lead author of the paper's daily newsletter from the [2018 Olympics in PyeongChang](#). Root has written about climate solutions in the past, including a story about an [effort to restore coral reefs](#) in Belize for National Geographic and a piece about the [pitfalls of individual action](#) to fight climate change for The New York Times.



AWARDS

OPC member **Sonali Prasad** was named among the 2021 TED Fellows [on March 30](#). In a release, the organization said TED Fellows are selected for “remarkable achievements, the potential impact of their work and their commitment to community building,” and said Prasad’s work as artist and environmental journalist “tells stories about loss, survival and resilience in response to environmental crises and natural disasters. She establishes new rituals and practices to help us mourn a world stricken by catastrophic climate events.” The TED Fellows program is in its twelfth year, and to date includes a network of 512 fellows from 100 countries.

UPDATES

OPC Governor **Sandra Stevenson** has accepted a new position at CNN as Associate Director of Photography. She previously worked as assistant photo editor for The New York

Times, where she served in various roles since 2005. Separately, in March Stevenson was [on a panel of judges](#) that selected winners of this year's Leica Women Foto Project Awards, the second year of a project that is part of "an ongoing commitment to diversity in visual storytelling to help empower the female point of view through photography." At the OPC, Sandra was one of the judges for the freelance grant program that gave out \$1000 grants to 92 journalists in March.



OPC member **John R. MacArthur**, publisher of Harper's magazine, was featured in a New York Times article for the Media section that chronicled challenges and turbulence in the magazine's recent history. The article, titled "[Inside America's Most Interesting Magazine, and Media's Oddest Workplace](#)," chronicles MacArthur's beginnings as publisher in the 1980s when his family's foundation rescued the magazine from bankruptcy, hiring editor Lewis Lapham and building a crew of excellent writers, navigating the dawn of the digital age, and turbulent conflicts between staff and management over the last decade. Most recently, the magazine drew a spotlight for publishing a letter last year signed by more than 150 writers and others that MacArthur characterized as "a public stand against political correctness and 'cancel culture.'" The letter sparked outrage publicly and among many staff members who saw it as a rejection of protests against racism.



OPC member **Sima Diab** provided several photos from Egypt for a New York Times story [on March 27](#) about the Ever Given container ship that ran aground and blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week. Diab's photos accompanied a story by Vivian Lee that outlined efforts to free the ship and profiled Manshiyet Rugola, a small Egyptian village on the banks of the canal near the grounding site, where residents of the poor community watched in fascination. Diab's photos depict the ship towering over the town, where Lee wrote that people were reluctant to talk to journalists because government security personnel "had passed through, warning residents not to take photos of the canal and generally spreading unease."



OPC member **Sudarsan Raghavan** also covered the Ever Given crisis for The Washington Post. [On March 31](#), the Cairo bureau chief wrote an autopsy of the disaster along with colleagues Siobhán O'Grady and Steve Hendrix that reconstructed a timeline of the rescue effort and ripple effects across the world. In a follow-up [on April 7](#), Raghavan examined how the effort from Egyptian salvage crews boosted national pride and provided a shift in the narrative of what Raghavan called "a low expectation of Egypt's ability to fix its own problems."



OPC member **Rachel Donadio** reviewed a book for The New

York Times [in March](#), her first since leaving the paper in 2017. Donadio wrote about Philippe Sands' non-fiction work, *The Ratline: The Exalted Life and Mysterious Death of a Nazi Fugitive*, which follows the story of Otto Wächter, a high-ranking Nazi official in occupied Poland who was indicted on a charge of mass murder after the war, but escaped. Donadio credits Sands for suspenseful storytelling and "his fiercely inquiring mind, his excellent researchers, the wealth of documents and his ability to make them come to life." She has served as contributing writer for The Atlantic in recent years, writing about COVID-19 and a police campaign against crime syndicates in Italy last year.



OPC member **Borzou Daragahi** connected tactics used for disinformation campaigns from Syria, Russia and the Capitol Hill insurrection in January in a piece he wrote for the Independent [in late March](#). He wrote about how the Syrian government's campaign of violence against its own citizens and its "machinery of lies that fueled the conflict" was copied elsewhere. "One can trace a line between the barrage of Assad's chemical weapons that struck the Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta in 2013 and the hordes of American fascists who stormed the United States Capitol on Jan. 6," Daragahi wrote.



The OPC heard from Dana Rowan, son of OPC Past President **Roy Rowan**, that Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York is maintaining an archive of his father's work. Roy Rowan died on Sept. 13, 2016, at the age of 96. Dana noted that the archive includes references to Roy's tenure as OPC President from 1998 to 2000, items about the OPC Foundation's Roy Rowan Scholarship, photographs and more. [Click here to see a detailed inventory of the Roy Rowan Manuscript Collection](#). There is also a website about his life and work at royrowan.com. OPC Past President William Holstein and other friends and colleagues contributed to an extensive remembrance page on the [OPC website here](#).



People Column April 8, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Journalists' Network** has updated its Mental Health and Journalism Toolkit with articles and webinars on reporting on traumatic stories, managing stress and overload, and the physical and mental health impacts of the pandemic on journalists. [Explore the toolkit here](#).

The **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** on April 7 posted a tipsheet for interviewing victims and survivors of traumatic events such as violence and crime, disasters, or accidents. [Read the outline of best practices here.](#)

PEN America has released an extensive report on online abuse, including violent threats, hateful slurs, sexual harassment, impersonation and doxing of writers and journalists, who are especially susceptible because they conduct so much of their work online and in public. The report also identifies groups within journalism that are disproportionately targeted, such as women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and members of religious or ethnic minorities. The report explores the connection between professional exposure to online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter and incidents of harassment and makes recommendations for how best to protect against abuse. [Read the report here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On April 14 and 15, the **International Press Institute** will host a virtual conference titled “#Uncovered,” an event aimed at fostering cross-border investigative journalism and addressing “the challenges and opportunities for conducting watchdog journalism on transnational subjects at a time of upheaval.” [Read more and register here.](#)

The **Human Rights Foundation** and the **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** hosted a panel on April 5 titled “An Invisible Threat: Press Freedom and the Dangers of Spyware.” The conversation featured Omar Abdulaziz, Saudi activist, blogger, and close friend of Jamal Khashoggi; Bryan Fogel, director of *THE DISSIDENT*, a film about Khashoggi’s murder; Ghada Oueiss, journalist for Al Jazeera; and CPJ Senior Africa Researcher Jonathan Rozen. [Watch the program here.](#)

The **International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)** posted a recording of its seminar on March 26 about misconceptions, confusion and misinformation regarding the pros and cons of the various vaccines. The program featured Lorenz von Seidlein, associate professor at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) at Mahidol University in Thailand, and was moderated by ICFJ Global Forum Community Manager, Paul Adepoju. [Watch the discussion here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)**, in partnership with the Eleanor Crook Foundation, is calling for applications for its Global Nutrition and Food Security Reporting Fellowship. The program is aimed at helping journalists around the world “gain a better understanding of COVID-19 impacts on global hunger, malnutrition & food security.” The deadline to apply is April 25. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **ICFJ** is also calling for applications from Latin American reporters, technologists and media entrepreneurs for a program to grow a global network to “harness the power of digital tools to create sustainable news businesses that

provide news and information in the public interest.” Applications are due by April 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Amazonia Rainforest Journalism Fund (RJF)** and the **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting** are calling for proposals for journalism grants to cover stories about the Amazon during the pandemic. Journalists, editors, and independent media organizations are invited to submit their proposals that address “the converging crises of COVID-19, deforestation, and other critical threats to the region.” The deadline to apply is April 15. [Read more and apply 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](#)

