



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin July 9, 2021

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this installment of the Bulletin. This issue features:

- A recap of our July 7 Book Night with OPC Past President Bill Holstein and OPC Governor John Avlon to discuss Holstein's [*A Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media*](#).
- Read remembrances of OPC Past President [Richard Stolley](#), who died on June 16 at the age of 92.
- The OPC's [open letter to Nicaragua](#) expressing growing concern over deteriorating conditions for journalists and media organizations.
- The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China's offer [to help](#) journalists heading to the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Plus, updates on OPC members and OPC Foundation scholars in our People column, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.

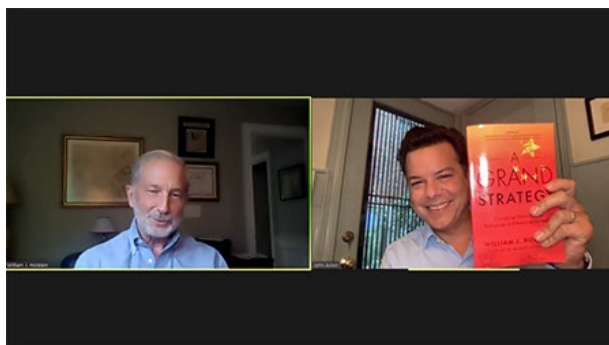
Happy reading!

William J. Holstein Examines The Rise Of

China And A Teetering News Industry

by Chad Bouchard

In his new book, OPC Past President William J. Holstein weaves his own personal experience as China correspondent in the late 1970s and early 1980s, with four decades of insight as a close observer of the country's trajectory, commenting on the critical state of global media and technology's role as a driver of change.



On July 7, 2021, Holstein discussed [*A Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media*](#), with OPC Governor John Avlon, senior political analyst and anchor at CNN.

Holstein launched his career in international journalism in Hong Kong in 1979 working as correspondent for United Press International. Part of his job was covering southern China, where the country's economic modernization efforts were launched. As a result, he won the 1979 Overseas Press Club Award for Best Business-News Reporting from Abroad. After serving in Hong Kong, he became Beijing bureau chief for UPI until his return to the U.S. in 1982. His insight was that he saw most Chinese people showing more interest in the trappings of modern life, meaning Western luxury goods, than in the socialist class struggle of the Cultural Revolution.

"All the early evidence was that yes, they want economic modernization, they want political liberalization, they want to break away from the tyranny of the Cultural Revolution," he said. "All the early indications, I'd say for decades, were that this was a great success story, not only for China but for the world."

[Read the Full Recap on the OPC Website](#)



Upcoming Events

Sept 9: OPC Annual Meeting

The OPC Annual Meeting will be held on Sept. 9 online via Zoom. All members are welcome. Stay tuned for more details in the next Bulletin.

Honoring the Best in International Journalism

Host
John Avlon, Senior Political Analyst
New Day, CNN

Cocktail Reception
sponsored by
REUTERS

Post-Dinner Reception
sponsored by
Bloomberg

SAVE THE DATE

82nd ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER
October 22, 2021

CIPRIANI
25 Broadway, New York
BLACK TIE

Date and Time: October 22, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Cipriani, 25 Broadway, New York City.

The OPC is moving forward on plans for the 2021 awards dinner on Friday, Oct. 22 at Cipriani 25 Broadway in lower Manhattan. It will be so wonderful to honor the winners and see our friends and colleagues in person once again. Mark your calendars now!

Click the button below to read more information and RSVP via the OPC website.

[RSVP Now](#)

People Remembered: Richard Stolley

The OPC was saddened to learn that OPC Past President Richard Stolley, who worked for LIFE and TIME magazines in roles ranging from reporter to bureau chief and managing editor, died on June 16 of heart complications in Evanston, Illinois at the age of 92.



Stolley was OPC President from 2004 to 2006 and participated in many of the club's events.

His career with Time Inc. spanned six decades. Highlights include obtaining a copy of the Abraham Zapruder film footage of President John F. Kennedy's assassination for LIFE magazine in 1963, and serving as People magazine's managing editor when it launched in 1974. In an obituary in People, the magazine's current editor-in-chief, Dan Wakeford, said in a statement that Stolley was "an amazing journalist whose work and magazine craft we still refer to every day at People as it's still so relevant."

A Washington Post article memorializing Stolley quoted him saying that "to sophisticates who thumbed their noses at [People magazine's] friendly interviews with stars, Mr. Stolley defended his publication as one that 'covers humankind in a way no other magazine does.'"

In an email to the OPC, club member Bob Dowling, a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico where Stolley lived for many years, said Stolley was "always accessible to anyone in town who had a question. He had the curiosity of a real shoe leather journalist." Dowling wrote a piece for the Bulletin in 2013 at the conclusion of Stolley's national tour to promote TIME's 50th anniversary photo book of the Kennedy assassination.

Click the button below to read the full remembrance page, with thoughts from Former OPC Governor and longtime member Bill Collins, retired OPC Executive Director Sonya Fry, and OPC Past President Michael Serrill. The OPC continues to collect remembrances from club members that we will add to the remembrance page. If you have thoughts or stories to add, please send them to info@opcofamerica.org.

[Read More](#)

An Open Letter to the Government of Nicaragua

The Overseas Press Club of America, which represents more than 500 journalists engaged in international reporting and editing, has been monitoring with growing

concern the deteriorating conditions for journalists and media organizations in Nicaragua.

Under President Daniel Ortega, at least 90 journalists have fled the country in fear of their lives or their freedom in just over three years. One journalist, Ángel Gahona, was shot and killed while reporting on an anti-Ortega demonstration. Foreign journalists have had their accreditations canceled or have been expelled.

All this has taken place as President Ortega cracks down on political opponents ahead of the November presidential election. The pace of intimidation and violation of press freedoms and human rights has increased in intensity as the election approaches.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has warned that “a climate of fear” makes it unlikely that a free and fair vote will be held. “This crisis not only shows no signs of being overcome, but it has worsened alarmingly,” she said. The UNHCR has documented 34 cases of intimidation, threats, criminalization and smear campaigns against journalists and media outlets perceived as loyal to the political opposition.

[Read the Full Letter on the OPC Website](#)

FCCC Offers Help to Journalists Traveling to China To Cover the Winter Olympics

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China is offering to help any journalist who plans to travel to China to cover the Winter Olympics starting in February 2022 in Beijing. “The FCCC, with its network of 300 correspondents, diplomats and academics from more than 40 countries, stands ready to offer its members’ wealth of experience to assist colleagues in navigating the intricacies of working in China so that we may all provide objective and accurate reporting about one of the world’s most influential nations,” the club said. “Our goal is to help you hit the ground running.”

There are many unknowns about how China will grant visas and whether it will allow any degree of freedom of movement for journalists covering the Olympics. The government has in the past year forced out many U.S. and British correspondents, as an OPC program on June 15 documented. The OPC is in communication with the International Olympic Committee seeking answers about the rules that will govern coverage.

“Our strategy is to position ourselves as a resource for the incoming journalists covering the Olympics who may not be very aware of reporting conditions in China,” the FCCC said. It noted that journalists traveling in sensitive regions such as Xinjiang Province are now regularly subjected to harassment.

[Read More](#)

IAPC Freedom of Speech Award 2021 Honors Yuliya Slutskaya

Yuliya Slutskaya – a recognized journalist, longtime media editor, founder and president of the Press Club Belarus – is the laureate of the 2021 IAPC Freedom of Speech Award. She is awarded in recognition of the defense of the right of journalists to practice and the right of citizens to have access to reliable information in Belarus. Yuliya Slutskaya and three staff members of Press Club Belarus have been in custody for six months as political prisoners.



For more than five years, the Belarus Press Club has openly supported the media community in the country, promoting higher standards of journalism and providing a platform for discussion and debate. Hundreds of lectures and master classes have been held under its auspices, with many international experts offering their knowledge and time to help develop media talent and freedom of expression in Belarus.

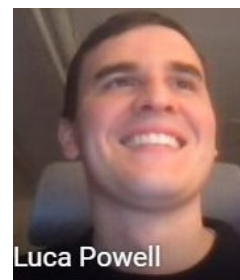
[Read More](#)

People by Chad Bouchard

Thank you to members for sending in your field reports, photos, or links to published pieces to info@opcofamerica.org. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

SCHOLARS

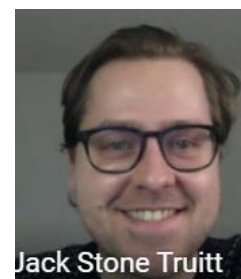
Luca Powell, the 2021 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, has been chosen as a 2021-2022 Report for America corps member. He will spend the year as an investigative data journalist reporting for the Traverse City Record-Eagle in Traverse City, Michigan. His focus will be using data to tell stories of local and state issues and trends. Powell joins two other OPC Foundation scholars who are members of the current Report for America corps: **Anna Kaiser**, the 2021 Sally



Luca Powell

Jacobsen Fellowship winner, who is part of a team focusing on economic mobility in Dade County for the Miami Herald; and **Annie Rosenthal**, the Jacobsen winner in 2020, who is the border reporter at Marfa Public Radio in Marfa, Texas.

Jack Stone Truitt, the 2021 Schweisberg Scholarship winner, has landed a digital internship with Nikkei Asia in New York City. Nikkei Asia is published by Nikkei Inc., the world's largest financial newspaper with a daily circulation exceeding three million.



Genevieve Finn, the 2020 Richard Pyle Scholarship winner, is one of 12 journalists chosen to attend the 2021 Data Institute, an intensive virtual workshop from the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, ProPublica and OpenNews on how to use data, design and code for journalism. The program will run from July 12 to July 16. Finn has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Mexico City which she hopes to begin after a master's program at Trinity College, Dublin.



After more than four years at the Fuller Project, **Sophia Jones**, the 2012 Reuters Scholarship winner, is joining the Starling Lab, a new research center based at Stanford and the University of Southern California, as executive editor of a new journalism program. The program will explore how innovative tech can support investigative journalism on human rights violations and war crimes. She will continue to be based in Barcelona and will work with tech experts, investigative journalists and newsrooms as they build out and utilize tools in the field to securely capture, store and verify sensitive digital records. The OPC Foundation funded Jones' fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Ramallah in 2012.



After nearly 12 and a half years as correspondent for Reuters in Budapest, **Marton Dunai**, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2003, has joined the Financial Times as a correspondent in Hungary and Southeast Europe. His hunting area, he noted, will involve some of the most interesting corners of 11 countries, small and large power collisions in Europe.

AWARDS

OPC member **Jaime FlorCruz**, who worked as a foreign correspondent in China for about 40 years, was named one of ten laureates of the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU) for 2021 [on June 29](#). The ten recipients, one of which is Imelda Marcos, are awarded for their efforts to promote mutual understanding between the two nations across various means, including mass media. FlorCruz, identified in a release as founding president of the



Peking University Overseas Students' Alumni Association, was awarded for his "major contributions." The awards will be given in a ceremony on Aug. 6.

UPDATES

Pete Hamill, a newspaper icon and former OPC member who [died last August](#) at the age of 85, was honored [on June 23](#) in his birthplace of Park Slope, Brooklyn, with a ceremony to name a street in his memory. The event marked what would have been his 86th birthday with street signs carrying his name at 12th Street and 7th Avenue. Hamill was a prolific journalist and author who worked in various roles at the New York Post, New York Daily News and Newsday. He was an OPC member from 1999 to 2009. His wife, Fukiko Aoki Hamill, is a member.



OPC member **Judith Matloff** filed a story for The Daily Beast [on June 19](#) cautioning those who find themselves in violent situations to rely on the advice of the Hippocratic Oath and "do no harm." In the piece, titled "Don't Be a Good Samaritan Unless You Know What You're Doing," Matloff recounts a recent experience getting caught in a fog of pepper spray from thieves while shopping in Manhattan. Out on the street, a well-intentioned bystander offered milk to wash away the irritant, and another offered seltzer – both of which Matloff says can increase irritation or risk of infection, or damage the eyes. The incident reminded Matloff, who teaches conflict reporting at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, that untrained Samaritans can do a lot of harm. She listed the following advice to amateurs: don't apply the Heimlich maneuver to choking victims, smack them on the upper back instead; don't try to use a belt as a tourniquet without proper training; and don't put a severed finger directly on ice – put it inside plastic and then surround it with ice on the outside.



A documentary directed by OPC member and filmmaker **Madeline Gunderson** was released on Vimeo for rental [on June 24](#). *A Valley Divided* centers on the fruit-growing region of Yakima Valley in eastern Washington state, where populations are increasingly majority-Latino, but elected representatives are still overwhelmingly white. A summary of the film says that

a 2020 lawsuit against Yakima County alleges its voting system dilutes the agency of Latinos, violating the state Voting Rights Act, and calls for ranked-choice voting to better reflect constituents. The film uncovers decades of political discrimination and “holds up a mirror to the larger story of a changing United States.” The film was [screened](#) at the NYU News and Documentary Student Film Festival on May 8, at a Yakima Parks event on May 16, and at the Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla on June 23.



On July 2, OPC member **Kenneth R. Rosen** launched a newsletter titled “War, U.S.A.,” which he said is “about conflict in the broadest sense: the difficulties we face at home and the ones we engage with abroad.” In an email to the OPC, he said he hopes to learn and share more about changes in the United States “as we draw down our military engagements abroad.” Rosen is also calling for contributors and suggestions for coverage. [Subscribe to the newsletter and find out more here.](#)



Aurora Almendral, an OPC member and award winner based in Southeast Asia, wrote a piece for The New York Times published [on June 24](#) about the climate impact of cargo ships, and efforts to use wind power to reduce their carbon footprint. She wrote that global shipping produces 2.9 percent of global carbon-dioxide emissions, almost equivalent to that of South America. Almendral spoke with a trade association with 40 member companies now working on wind-propulsion, or “modern sail” technologies.



OPC member **Jessica Obert** wrote a piece for The New Humanitarian [on July 5](#) about COVID-19 in Haiti, one of only a handful in the world that has not started a vaccination program. Despite a recent fourfold uptick in weekly coronavirus deaths, Obert wrote, Haiti is still awaiting its first vaccine delivery from the international COVAX program, an effort meant to provide equal access to coronavirus treatment worldwide. She contrasted that with the Dominican Republic, the other half of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, where vaccines have reached nearly 35 percent of the population.



Megha Rajagopalan of BuzzFeed News, one of the winners of this year’s Kim Wall Award, was a guest on the Longform Podcast [on June 30](#) to discuss her coverage of Uyghur detention camps in Xinjiang, China. That reporting, carried out with colleagues Alison Killing and Christo Buschek with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, won the Kim Wall Award as well as a Pulitzer Prize. Rajagopalan details the reporting process during the interview, which involved the use of satellite images and 3D imagery to uncover a massive

industrialized internment system.

MEDIA NEWS

An article for the Columbia Journalism Review by OPC member **Kristen Chick** [on July 6](#) details a pattern of complaints against New York Times international picture editor **David Furst** before his departure from the paper in April. Chick's piece references a 2018 human resources probe into employee complaints, among other incidents, and spoke with photojournalists who described unusually hostile and capricious behavior, particularly toward freelancers. Furst served as governor of the OPC from 2017 to 2019.

People Column July 9, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The Journalist's Resource has posted an article listing nine tips for effective collaborations between journalists and academic researchers. The advice is based on years of collaboration between reporter Rachel Dissell and sociologist Rachel Lovell. Tips cover how to move beyond the limited interaction of conventional interviews, building trust, assigning clear roles, and coping with the emotional toll reporting and researching can take. [Read the tipsheet here.](#)

During the month of June, the **Coalition For Women In Journalism** documented 77 cases of violations against women journalists, including murder, abduction, detentions, and physical assaults in the field. [Read the full June report to find out more.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

PEN America, the Global Cyber Alliance and the **Freedom of the Press Foundation** are co-sponsoring a free summer bootcamp on how journalists, writers, and media orgs can protect their digital safety and fight online abuse. Upcoming sessions are on July 14, 21 and 22. [Read more and register here.](#)

On June 17, the **Foreign Press Association (FPA)** hosted a discussion with Oriana Skylar Mastro about her article for Foreign Affairs on the chances of Beijing invading Taiwan. Skylar Mastro is a Center Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and a Senior Nonresident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. [Watch here.](#)

On June 24, the **FPA** hosted a discussion with journalist and author Lisa Napoli to explore the origins of NPR and CNN and how they made 24-hour rolling coverage a standard of news delivery. Napoli is the author of "Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR" and "Up All

Night: Ted Turner, CNN, and the Birth of 24-Hour News. [Watch here.](#)

On July 1, the **FPA** hosted a press briefing with political economist Mark Blyth on his thoughts about what he said is the inevitability of Scottish independence, given the Scottish vote to stay in the European Union and the UK's economic shortcomings. [Watch here.](#)

On July 2, the **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)** hosted a webinar on advice for how to pitch stories to organizations that fund various reporting projects. Speakers were Aldana Vales, IJNet managing editor; Steve Sapienza, senior strategist for collaborative news partnerships at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting; and Lars Boering, director of the European Journalism Centre. [Watch here.](#)

On June 28, **IJNet** hosted a panel discussion on India's devastating second wave of COVID-19 and the state of journalism there today, with Safina Nabi, a Kashmir-based independent journalist and Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting grantee. The panel was held in partnership with PROTO — a “social enterprise targeting better outcomes in civic media through collaboration and research.” [Watch here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation (NIHCM) has launched its 2021-2022 round of grants to fund health reporting, educational opportunities for health care reporters and support for documentary films and their public engagement campaigns. This year the organization is providing a total of \$1 million in grants. Winners will be announced this fall. Applicants are required to submit a letter of inquiry by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 12. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Investigative Journalism for Europe (IJ4EU) organization is calling for submissions for cross-border investigative journalism in the European Union. IJ4EU's Investigation Support Scheme will provide grants of between €5,000 and €50,000 to cross-border teams that include at least one news outlet or investigative journalism organization, or a staff member of one of these. The deadline for applications is July 14. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **2021 Rory Peck Awards** are open for entries until Aug. 4. Across four categories, the Awards honour quality and impact of work but also take into account individual endeavour and journalistic integrity. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) is calling for applicants for its Freelance Fellowships. The program provides cash awards to assist independent journalists with investigative projects. The top three winners will receive \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively, as well as a one-year IRE membership. The deadline to apply is Aug. 9. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is calling for applicants for its federally funded Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, an international exchange program that offers democracy activists, journalists, civil society

leaders, and scholars from around the world the opportunity to spend five months in residence at NED, in Washington, D.C. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1. [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

