



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Sept. 10, 2021

Greetings!

Welcome back from summer break. While you traveled or just took a relaxing staycation, your club has been very busy. We held a virtual annual meeting on Sept. 9, at which we announced the results of our recent board elections (see below). We have seven new governors, each one with deep journalism experience and amazing star power. I want to extend them a warm welcome and I look forward to collaborating over the coming year.



I'm especially proud that we finalized plans to celebrate the legacy of the late Chris Dickey. Co-sponsored with Photoville, an exhibit of his photographs of Paris and other cities where he lived and worked will debut at Brooklyn Bridge Park on [Sept. 18](#). The OPC will separately hold a panel discussion on Chris's life and work [on Sept. 23](#). Please join us for one or both (details are below).

We were busy all summer on the press freedom front, especially concerning journalists in Afghanistan. Along with other media groups, we [appealed](#) to the U.S. Department of State to protect Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalists there. We [pressed](#) Group of 7 nations to do more to protect Afghan media. And we [publicized](#) information on resources in the U.S. and other countries that could help secure passage out of Afghanistan for journalists.

At our annual meeting, I mentioned some highlights from the past year, some of which bear repeating in case you missed the event. As you can see, COVID-19 didn't pin us down:

- We applied for and received \$100,000 from the Ford Foundation to make micro-grants to freelancers in distress because of the pandemic.
- We created a video that explains what the OPC does and the benefits it offers.
- We created a China working group as a quick-response team to address press freedom issues in Hong Kong and China. This group led our efforts to jawbone the International Olympic Committee to include press freedoms in its negotiations over coverage of upcoming winter games in Beijing.
- We held panel discussions on such topics as China's increasing restrictions on press freedoms and the forces behind the influx of Central American migrants into the U.S.
- We held numerous book nights with noteworthy journalists and authors.
- We broadened our outreach to, and joint efforts with, other journalism organizations.
- We digitized our membership directory and hired Backstage Library Works to scan the club's archive of Bulletins and Dateline magazine.
- Since COVID-19 forced us to cancel our annual awards dinner, we held Zoom discussions with nearly all the winners of our 2020 journalism awards.
- And last but not least, Scott Kraft did his usual masterful job managing our journalism awards program, coordinating OPC members and recruiting others to make up the more than 100 judges needed for this massive effort.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the many board members who volunteered their time to make all these programs possible. Behind the scenes, however, executive director Patricia Kranz and our tech guru and Bulletin editor, Chad Bouchard, worked tirelessly to keep the OPC humming day in and day out. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to both for all they do.

Happy reading,
Paula Dwyer
OPC President

OPC Welcomes Newly Elected Governors During the Annual Meeting

On Thursday night, with about 45 participants attending, the OPC held its Annual Meeting online for a second time since last year, and announced results of this year's election for the Board of Governors. With more than 80 ballots cast, the club voted in seven new governors and re-elected six members who have served on the board for the past two years.

OPC President Paula Dwyer welcomed new Governors: Raney Aronson-Rath, the executive producer of PBS' FRONTLINE; Anup Kaphle, executive editor of Rest of World, a digital publication that focuses on technology in the non-Western world; Ginger Thompson, chief of correspondents at ProPublica; Daniella Zalcman, photojournalist and founder of Women Photograph, a non-profit that works to elevate the voices of women and nonbinary visual journalists; Melissa Noel, a freelance multimedia journalist in New York City; Jodi Schneider, political news director at Bloomberg News, based in New York; and Beth Knobel, associate professor of Communication & Media Studies at Fordham University.

"I am so pleased with the experience, diversity and knowledge of our new board members," OPC President Paula Dwyer said in a press release to announce the election results. "Their collective wisdom will help the OPC better represent and serve global journalists, as it has for 82 years."

Governors serving a second two-year term are J. David Ake, director of photography and assistant managing editor at The Associated Press; Farnaz Fassihi, a reporter for The New York Times writing about Iran; Charles Graeber, an independent features writer, author and producer; Hendrik Hinzel, senior field producer at VICE News; Derek Kravitz, a project editor at Columbia's and Stanford's Brown Institute for Media Innovation, and investigations editor at MuckRock, the nonprofit public records journalism organization; and Bill Collins, communications consultant.

For a complete listing of the new 2021-2022 OPC board with photos and full biographies, [click here](#).

To learn more, read the OPC's press release via the button below. Please share the link on your social networks - the OPC is grateful for help in spreading the news.

[Read More](#)

OPC Membership Cards Now Available Only Upon Request

By Patricia Kranz

The OPC started emailing dues invoices earlier this week. Thanks to everyone who has already paid!

Please note that this year we are not automatically mailing the traditional wallet-sized paper membership cards to all members. We have, however, printed a small number of cards. If you wish to have one, please email info@opcofamerica.org after you pay dues and we will mail it to you.

We are pleased to continue to offer the OPC's photo press IDs. The wallet-sized cards are free. The large, government-style badge costs \$40. Please email patricia@opcofamerica.org if you wish to have either or both IDs, and attach a high-resolution, color headshot. If you already have an ID, there is no need to send another photo. You can pay for the large ID on this link: <https://www.opcofamerica.org/opc-press-badge>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 23: Foreign Correspondent, Photographer, Storyteller - The Life And Legacy Of Christopher Dickey

Join the OPC and Photoville for an online panel with former editor of Newsweek **Mark Whitaker**, journalist **Barbie Latza Nadeau**, photographer **Peter Turnley**, and CNN political analyst **John Avlon** as they bring to life the photography of Christopher Dickey, former OPC Governor and longtime member, and how his aesthetic defined reporting and writing. The legendary foreign correspondent died last year in Paris at the age of 68.

The panel will be held in conjunction with a [Photoville exhibit at the Brooklyn Bridge Park](#) to celebrate Dickey's life and work. The exhibit opens on Sept. 18 and will continue through Dec. 1.



The exhibit is presented by the OPC and the Christopher Dickey Family, curated by Sandra M. Stevenson, J. David Ake, Deidre Depke and Patricia Kranz.

[RSVP and Read More](#)





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. To create the safest environment possible, proof of vaccination and masks are required. Mark your calendars now!

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

[RSVP Now](#)

Press Organizations Seek Help Getting RFE/RL Journalists out of Afghanistan

Journalists from news organizations, press clubs, and press freedom organizations around the world are urging the U.S. State Department to help secure safe passage from Afghanistan for journalists at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Afghan service. The OPC, the OPC Foundation and 13 other organizations sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken to draw attention to the issue.

"Some 280 RFE/RL journalists and dependents were left behind during the US withdrawal despite their years of service to the United States and the specific threat they face from the Taliban.

"Already, nearly two dozen RFE/RL journalists have received visits by armed men asking about their activities. Others have been called to Taliban inquiries via public summonses pasted to their doors. Active searches for US-affiliated journalists are already underway in Helmand and Kandahar provinces, according to RFE/RL reporters.

We are asking you to use your good offices to ensure these brave reporters, producers, and editors are a successful part of whatever Plan C our government is assembling."

[Read More](#)

Civil Society and Media Organizations Call On The G7 to Protect and Evacuate Journalists and Media Workers in Afghanistan

On Aug. 23, ahead of the G7 summit on the situation in Afghanistan, the OPC, the OPC Foundation and nearly 60 other organizations called on G7 countries to make a clear and explicit commitment to taking journalists and media workers as an urgent and immediate priority, ensure their protection and evacuate them and their families. Click the button below to read the groups' 10-point list of requests to G7 nations.

[Read More](#)

Press Freedom Groups Condemn Effort to Silence Polish Broadcaster

The following statement, released on Aug. 10, was coordinated by the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR), a Europe-wide mechanism which tracks, monitors and responds to violations of press and media freedom in EU Member States and Candidate Countries.

The Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) today calls for swift and robust action by the European Union and U.S. to defend media freedom in Poland and counter the serious attack on the independence of the country's largest private television channel, TVN, by the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party.

[Read More](#)

The OPC Condemns Cyberattacks

on Journalist Farnaz Fassihi

The OPC on Aug. 9 strongly condemned a series of cyberattacks and violent threats on Farnaz Fassihi, an Iranian-American journalist who serves on the board of the OPC.



Fassihi is a reporter for The New York Times writing about Iran. She has received thousands of online attacks from some Iranian opposition groups and trolls. “Last week they circulated a death threat video against me with my picture, they doxxed my home address and called for people to find and attack me and rape me,” Fassihi told the OPC.

Fassihi called the attacks “a very coordinated and well-funded campaign targeting independent and influential women voices on the Iran debate.”

The New York Times put out a statement in support of Fassihi on Twitter on Aug. 6. “Farnaz has broken significant stories about Iran, its leaders and the lives of its people at a time when information from the country is so vital,” the Times said.

The OPC supports Fassihi and the Times in standing up for the rights of female journalists to work free of harassment. “We are proud to have Farnaz on the board of the OPC. These vicious attacks must stop,” said Paula Dwyer, president of the OPC.

Fassihi has also served as a judge of the annual OPC awards for several years.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Five Press Club Belarus Members Released, but One Remains in Jail amid Ongoing Press Freedom Crackdown

Five out of six Belarusian journalists and media workers who were arrested last December were released and charges against them dropped in August.

Yuliya Slutsкая, the founder of Press Club Belarus, its directors Syarhei Alsheuski and Ala Sharko, cameraman Pyotr Slutski were released from pre-trial detention in



Minsk on Aug. 19. Another defendant in the case, Dzianis Sakalouski, was released on Aug. 23. The group was detained as part of a crackdown on press amid widespread protests following a presidential election last August. They spent nearly eight months behind bars.

The case against them, which alleged tax fraud, was closed on Aug. 31.

However, one Press Club Belarus member, Ksenia Lutskina, is still detained on the basis of new criminal proceedings. Reporters Without Borders, better known by its French acronym RSF, [reported](#) on its website that unlike her Press Club colleagues, Lutskina refused to sign a request to President Alexander Lukashenko for a presidential pardon.

Lukashenko's regime dissolved Belarus's only independent journalists' association on 27 August after harassment and a police investigation that started in June.

Upon her release, the Press Club Belarus director Slutskaya [described](#) harrowing conditions during her detention, including a 36 hour interrogation, overcrowded cells, and an unclean and dangerous environment. The International Press Institute on Sept. 7 [named](#) her as the institute's 72nd World Press Freedom Hero.

[Read More](#)

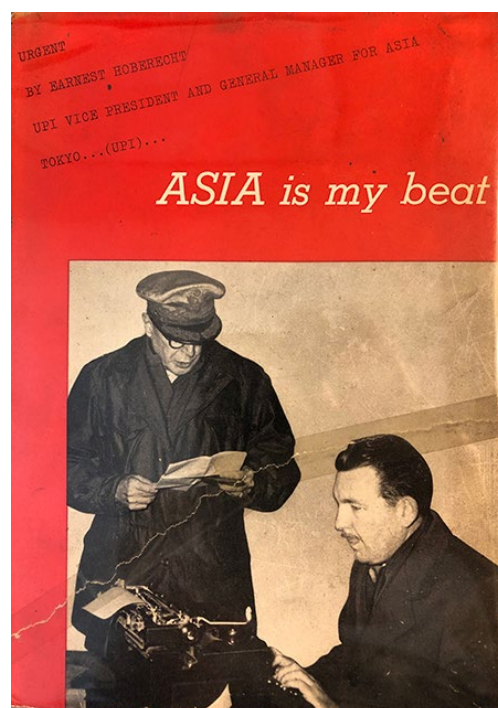
OPC Book Donation, Part IV: 'Asia is My Beat'

The following is another installment in a series of reviews by William J. Holstein of a collection of books that were donated anonymously to the OPC in April.

by William J. Holstein

When I was a young pup at United Press International in Hong Kong, the old-timers used to refer reverentially to Ernie Hoberecht (pronounced HO-bright) as if he were in the pantheon of the gods. I had no idea who he was and never met him.

So I was delighted that, as a result of an anonymous donation, the OPC recently acquired, *Asia is My Beat*, by Earnest Hoberecht. It was published in Japan, where



Hoberecht was based, in 1961, so it has had not wide circulation in the United States. James A. Michener introduces him as “America’s Greatest Writer.” Not bad for someone born in Watonga, Oklahoma.

If you don’t love Hoberecht’s opening passage, you may return to your sandbox. “The news business is the best business in the world,” he starts. “The best job in the news business is to be a foreign correspondent. The best place to be a foreign correspondent is in Asia. This makes me one of the luckiest people in the world.”

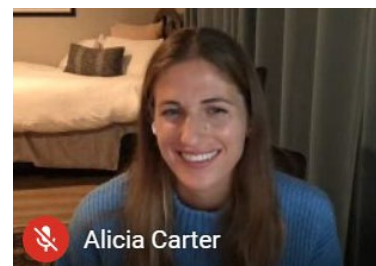
He goes on to add: “Foreign correspondents and war correspondents are the watchdogs, the seeing eyes, the seekers of truth for those people who have to stay home and depend on somebody else to go out and report back on what’s happening.”

[Read More](#)

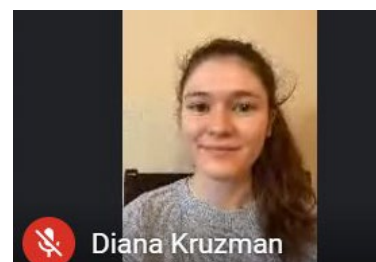
People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Alicia Carter, the 2021 Walter & Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner, is starting as an adjunct professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, her alma matter, teaching Introduction to Digital Storytelling. She also signed on as a senior video producer for Lowe’s Home Improvement, tasked with telling stories about how we live. This summer she went to Puerto Rico to cover COVID-19 vaccine distribution in hard-to-reach communities. The article and two photos were first published with [Kaiser Health News](#) and then distributed to [U.S. News & Report](#) and The Chicago Tribune, among others. Carter also went to Alaska with the Alaskan non-profit Alaska Wildlife Alliance to photograph the salmon-run with commercial beach fisherman, known as set netters.

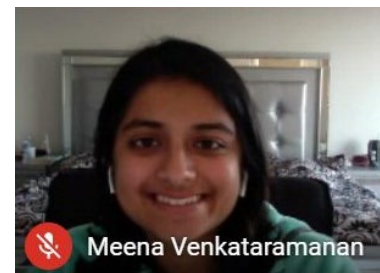


Diana Kruzman, winner of the Harper’s Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone in 2021, went to Kyrgyzstan and produced at least two stories that have not yet been published. One is for Deutsche Welle and the other is for Earther. Her reporting covered how climate change raises the risk of contamination from nuclear waste in the region, and how the world’s last exporting mercury mine continues to operate despite effects on the environment and health.



Meena Venkataramanan, the 2021 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner, is wrapping up her

summer in Washington, D.C., where she has been covering national politics for [The Los Angeles Times](#). She moved to D.C. right after finishing an internship at The Arizona Republic covering [national politics](#) and [COVID-19](#) from Phoenix. Venkataramanan also completed a yearlong editorial fellowship at [Harvard Magazine](#).



Jimin Kang, the 2021 Rick David-Deb Amos Scholarship winner, completed her OPC Foundation fellowship with the Reuters bureau in Sao Paulo and is soon headed to a two-year master's program at Oxford University. Her favorite bylined stories include a profile piece about a Black man in Rio [struggling amid racial division](#), and a story about Brazil's Mundurucu tribe [battling against mercury contamination](#) in the Amazon rainforest.



Doyin Oladipo, the 2021 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner, interned at Reuters in Washington D.C. on the U.S. Foreign Policy team. She also has an internship planned with Bloomberg before starting her OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Dubai.



Arno Pedram, the 2021 Flora Lewis / Jacqueline Albert-Simon Scholarship winner, filed a story [on Sept. 7](#) for The Associated Press from Paris covering the trial of 20 men accused in the Islamic State's 2015 attacks on Paris that left 130 people dead and hundreds injured. Pedram was an intern with the AP bureau in Paris.



Sarah Trent, the 2020 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, has been doing her OPC Foundation fellowship on The Wall Street Journal's health team. Among the stories she reported is one about the [impact of the declining salmon population](#) on Northwest tourism and one [outlining heat waves in the U.S.](#) in 2021.



Kantaro Komiya, the 2020 Stan Swinton Fellowship winner, has joined Reuters as a reporter in the Tokyo bureau covering Japanese economic policy. This followed his OPC Foundation fellowship in Tokyo with The Associated Press where he covered and photographed the 2020 Olympics. His first bylined story for Reuters covered the [fall of Japan's core consumer prices](#).



Olivia Carville, the 2018 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, has joined the Bloomberg investigations team in New York City. She had been a reporter on the Bloomberg wealth and technology teams.



Serginho Roosblad, winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone in 2017, [produced his first video](#) as an Ida B. Welles fellow at The Associated Press. It tells the story of Michael Williams who was jailed for a year based on artificial intelligence evidence. The AP story was [reported on](#) by **Garance Burke**, who won the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship in 2004.



In a Guardian story supported in part by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, **Neha Wadekar**, who won the Reuters Fellowship in 2016, wrote about the [ISIS-led crisis in Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique](#). Wadekar did her OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Nairobi.



Neha Therani Bagri, the Jerry Flint Scholarship winner in 2016, has an article in TIME magazine [for Sept. 5](#) about India's anti-immigrant crackdown. Now based in Mumbai, Bagri had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The GroundTruth Project.



J.p. Lawrence, the H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2015, was able to evacuate Kabul on a plane alongside U.S. embassy staff. In a piece filed [on Aug. 17](#), Lawrence recounted a harrowing departure, writing that after the Taliban took Kandahar and Herat, the second- and third-largest cities in the country, he tried to book a ticket out of Kabul but discovered that all commercial flights had been bought up. "We contacted the U.S. Embassy, who said we could leave on one of their flights," he wrote. "Sad farewells after living in Kabul for years peppered our final days. Goodbyes that didn't feel good afterward. The week that Kabul fell, people's



faces revealed not only sadness and worry, but also hopelessness. They couldn't leave by land because the Taliban had taken all the border crossings. And leaving by air cost more money than most could afford. They were trapped." [Here is another one of the last Afghanistan-based stories](#) he co-wrote for his employer, Stars & Stripes. A military veteran, Lawrence had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Uganda.

Carol Kuruvilla, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2011, had an article in the Guardian [on Aug. 15](#) about efforts to bridge gap between white and Black Christians.

UPDATES

OPC Past President **Marcus Mabry** has [moved to a new post](#) as CNN's senior vice president of content strategy and global programming for the network's Digital Worldwide division. In the new position, Mabry oversees the digital programming team, "connecting CNN's journalism to global audiences through the CNN.com homepage and mobile and off-platform alerting and publishing, to support engagement across all aspects of CNN's global digital businesses, including CNN.com, CNN Audio, CNN Underscored and CNN+." Mabry has been with CNN since 2016, when he took leadership of the mobile programming team.



OPC member **Sewell Chan** has [moved from his job](#) as editorial page editor for The Los Angeles Times to become editor in chief of The Texas Tribune, starting on Oct. 18. Chan has been the editorial page editor overseeing the editorial board and opinion section at the Times since April 2020. He told The New York Times in an interview that he relished the opportunity to work for "a very different kind of institution in a very different state and, yes, the chance to lead an organization, which I think will be really exciting."

Separately, **Chan** also [got a mention](#) in the announcement of a special Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) award recognizing the LA Times' editorial [apology and reckoning](#) with its history on race. In a release about the Special Citation for Excellence in Journalism, Chan said that the [project](#), announced last year on Sept. 27, came about "in part because courageous journalists in our newsroom insisted that we scrutinize and accept responsibility for past failings. The process was at times painful; it was also essential. The project was an important step — but just one step — on the journey to building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive newsroom, one that reflects and serves all of Southern California's communities." OPC member and head awards judge **Scott Kraft** has served as managing editor of the paper's newsroom during the Times push to reform and become more diverse.

OPC First Vice President **Azmat Khan** [on Aug. 27](#) was named as the inaugural director of the newly launched Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia. She will also be tenure-track faculty at the school along with the new role. A release about the new post said the center will support

“fellowships, scholarships for international students and curricular activities that will help enhance the school’s global perspective. It will also present programs about global journalism to the profession and the public.” Khan has taught conflict reporting as a visiting professor at Columbia and has won awards for her work, including the 2017 Ed Cunningham Award, which she shared with colleague Anand Gopal for their New York Times Magazine investigation into uncounted casualties from U.S.-led coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.



Kiana Hayeri, who won this year’s Robert Capa Gold Medal Award, filed an extensive photo essay and cover story for The New York Times Magazine [in August](#), titled “What Will Become of Afghanistan’s Post-9/11 Generation?” The piece included text and additional reporting from colleagues **Azmat Khan**, Christina Goldbaum and David Zucchino. The photos were from an assignment Hayeri had been working on that she [said in a Facebook post](#) she never got to complete, but “refused to give up hope.” In June, she set out to document the country’s young generation who grew up after the American invasion in an increasingly open society. “Pulling this cover story together while pulling myself and my colleagues out of the rubbles, would have not been possible without tireless help and reporting” of Khan and her colleagues, she wrote. Hayeri won the Capa award for her images and reporting on the Herat Women’s Prison in western Afghanistan.



OPC Governor **Derek Kravitz** has [started working](#) on a project named MuckRock, a non-profit, collaborative news site described as a place for journalists, researchers, activists, and citizens to request, analyze, and share government documents, “making politics more transparent and democracies more informed.” [On Sept. 8](#), Kravitz tweeted that he had spent his first day with the project, and would be working to expand the Brown Institute project Documenting COVID-19 “for a much bigger mission and mandate.



OPC Governor **Liam Stack** filed a piece for The New York Times [on Aug. 20](#) about allegations that Roman Catholic Church priests at multiple levels of the church’s hierarchy were using the gay dating app Grindr. A report in July led to the resignation of Jeffrey Burrill, the former general secretary of the U.S. bishops’ conference. A second allegation said unnamed people in rectories in the Archdiocese of Newark used the app, and another claimed that in 2018 more than 30 mobile devices broadcast Grindr data signals from within areas of Vatican City where tourists are not allowed. Stack reported on the allegations, their reverberations within the church, and on the technical sophistication and resources needed to gather that evidence, which was published in a conservative



Catholic media organization, The Pillar.

OPC member **Kathy Gannon** continues to file stories for The Associated Press from Kabul. [On Sept. 7](#), she wrote about the Taliban's announcement of an all-male interim government for Afghanistan comprised of leaders from their past hard-line rule and the conflict with the U.S.-led coalition, "a move that seems unlikely to win the international support the new leaders desperately need to avoid an economic meltdown," she wrote. Gannon, who is senior correspondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan for the AP, lit the Candle of Remembrance during the 2015 Annual Awards Dinner and was the keynote speaker at the OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon in 2016. She survived a shooting attack while covering elections in Afghanistan in 2014.



OPC award winner and CNN chief international correspondent **Clarissa Ward** reflected on her experience covering the war in Afghanistan and her final days in Kabul before the Taliban returned to power. Ward, who was one of the most visible reporters during the U.S. troop withdrawal, recounted in a video interview from France, quoted in [a Sept. 6 piece](#) for The New York Times, how a two-week reporting trip to Kabul last month had turned into three weeks, and surprisingly "we would be there for the fall of Kabul, and the fall of Kabul would take place in a matter of hours, with hardly a shot fired on a sort of quiet Sunday afternoon." She and her crew moved to a fortified compound in the city by Aug. 14, and then two days later she reported from outside the U.S. Embassy among Taliban celebrating victory. She also spoke in detail with Fresh Air host Terry Gross [on Aug. 16](#) about her final days in the city and concern about the country's future. Ward was part of a team that won the 2016 David Kaplan Award for coverage of the Syrian Civil War.



OPC member **Mark Clifford** was quoted in a New York Times piece [on Sept. 5](#) about the closure of Next Digital, Jimmy Lai's Hong Kong media company that published criticism of China for decades. The company has stated it can no longer operate amid an ongoing media crackdown. Clifford, an independent nonexecutive director of Next Digital, told the Times that "when you abuse state power and freeze bank accounts and throw people in jail — the editor in chief, the chief executive, the founder — it smacks of a banana republic." Lai faces a trial later this year for a fraud charge related to the company's headquarters as well as other charges under the national security law alleging collusion with foreign powers to call for American sanctions against Hong Kong.

Barbara Demick's bestseller, *Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town*, has been [released](#) in paperback. The book, first published in July 2020, profiles a Tibetan town that was a longtime base for resistance against China. Demick was a longtime correspondent for the Los Angeles Times in Beijing. She won the 2005 Joe and Laurie Dine Award and has served as OPC awards judge over the last several years.



OPC COVID-19 micro-grant recipient **Elisabetta Zavoli** shared some welcome professional news, including [receiving an Earth Journalism Network \(EJN\) grant](#) for documenting a project in the Mediterranean researching underwater sound pollution, joining the [Her Wild Vision Initiative](#), a global database of women and women-identifying photographers and filmmakers working on environmental issues, and receiving a [National Geographic COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#) grant for documenting the pandemic impact on freelance workers of performing arts in Italy.

John Sudworth, BBC correspondent who left China in March with his wife, **Yvonne Murray**, amid concerns for their safety, was [named](#) as the BBC's new North America correspondent and will be based in New York. Murray, a reporter for Irish public service broadcaster RTÉ, [spoke](#) on an OPC panel in June to discuss mounting pressure and intimidation against foreign reporters based in China. Sudworth and Murray had been [harassed](#) through the visa process and other means for some time and left amid escalating threats of legal action in state-sponsored media for their reporting, including Sudworth's stories about alleged forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang's cotton industry. After living in China for nine years, they moved with their three children to Taiwan and are preparing for the move to New York.

MEDIA NEWS

In an [investigation](#) into the death of Reuters photojournalist **Danish Siddiqui** in Afghanistan, the news organization found that he was injured and then killed after he was left behind in the confusion of retreat. Siddiqui was embedded on the front line of clashes between Afghan Special Forces and the Taliban. The Reuters report, which was prepared by journalists not involved in the assignment or decisions on the ground, revealed that Siddiqui's communications with Reuters and accounts from an Afghan Special Forces commander show he was first injured by shrapnel from a rocket, evacuated to a local mosque, and then killed. The revelations have prompted questions inside the agency about whether Reuters provided enough security for Siddiqui while was on assignment. "Siddiqui's death underlines the risks faced by journalists, both in the international media and in local outlets, when covering conflict and political strife," the authors said. More than 600 journalists have been killed since 2010, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, with 35 of those deaths occurring in Afghanistan as of early August. Of those, 28 were local journalists. Siddiqui won a 2017 OPC Citation for Excellence and a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for coverage of the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. Siddiqui was an Indian national and had been a Reuters journalist since 2010 and covered events across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, including wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



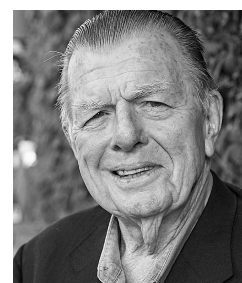
PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Emily Thompson Smith, an OPC award winner and former member, died [on Aug. 27](#) at the age of 72. Her reporting career focused on environmental issues, spending 15 years at BusinessWeek as correspondent, Boston Bureau Chief and

Science and Environment Editor in New York. Smith won the OPC's inaugural 1992 Whitman Bassow Award for environmental coverage for reporting titled "Growth vs. the Environment," on what judges called "the emerging concept of sustainable development." She was also part of a team that received two National Magazine Awards in the 1990s.



Renowned war correspondent **Joe Galloway**, who covered the Vietnam War and was author of *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young*, died [on Aug. 18](#) in North Carolina at the age of 79. He worked for 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International and later wrote for U.S. News & World Report and for the Knight-Ridder newspaper chain. He played a key role in scrutinizing the George W. Bush administration's claims that Iraq had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction to justify the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. In Vietnam, he was embedded with American troops and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire.



Neal Conan, a journalist and OPC Citation for Excellence winner who worked in many positions at NPR during a career that spanned more than three decades, died [on Aug. 10](#) after battling brain cancer. He was 71. Conan followed former All Things Considered host Robert Siegel to NPR when the two started there in 1977, with Conan serving as a line producer. Conan served as NPR correspondent in New York and London. He covered the first Gulf War in Iraq, hosted live programs and worked as executive producer, foreign editor, managing editor and news director at the network. Conan received a Citation for Excellence in the 1972 category of best radio documentary on foreign affairs for A Month of Bloody Sundays, broadcast by Pacifica-WBAI, which he co-produced in Northern Ireland with Paul Fischer about violence between Protestant and Catholic combatants.



People Column Sept. 10

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **OPC** shared a list of resources for journalists working in Afghanistan who are trying to flee, including links to U.S. State Department programs, as well as visa and immigration information for Pakistan and Canada. The resource page also includes contacts for the **Journalists in Distress group (JID)** that provides direct

assistance to journalists and media workers. [Read the resource page here.](#)

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) has also posted a resource page outlining ways to support Afghan journalists. [Read the article here.](#)

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** has updated its safety tipsheet for journalists working in areas affected by natural disasters and extreme weather. The resource includes sections on flooding, wildfires, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides/mudslides and extreme heat. [Read the tipsheet here.](#)

The Rory Peck Trust assembled a new resource for journalists needing legal assistance. [Read more here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

From Sept. 15 to Sept. 17, the **International Press Institute (IPI)** will host its 2021 IPI World Congress in Vienna, an in-person and online event centered on “how we advance, protect and sustain a journalism that lights up the world with its power of storytelling.” [Read more and register here.](#)

The [Totem Project](#) and the [consortium CAPIR](#) have launched a full curricula of 11 online courses, in Spanish. The consortium CAPIR aims at “strengthening media in Latin America and the Caribbean to counter evolving threats and conduct fact-based reporting that speaks truth to power.” Made for journalists in the Latin American region, these courses are self-paced and free. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Center for Business Journalism** is seeking applications for its Fall 2021 Fellowships. Fellowship stories must have an economic or financial angle, but you don’t need to be a business reporter to apply. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. Applications for the Spring 2022 Fellowships will be due March 31, 2022. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Think Different Global, a project dedicated to educating people about United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) using the tools of education, art, media and events, is calling for applications for its fellowship program. The deadline to apply is Sept. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program** is open for applications for awards that include opportunities for professionals, artists, and scholars at all career-levels. Applications are due by Sept. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) is providing three types of grants for freelance journalists, staff reporters and media outlets to support investigations for print, online or broadcast stories, books, documentaries or podcasts. The next application deadline is Sept. 13, and the FIJ reviews proposals three to four times a year. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting** is offering global reporting grants to support “in-depth, high-impact reporting on issues that are often overlooked in the media.” The deadline is rolling. [Read more and apply here.](#)

CNN has posted a release indicating it plans to hire hundreds of journalists for its new streaming service, CNN+. [Read more here.](#)

Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) is offering an IRE Journalist of Color Investigative Reporting Fellowship for U.S. journalists of color who want to improve their investigative skills. The year-long program provides assistance to attend a Data Journalism Bootcamp, the NICAR Conference, the IRE Conference and more. The deadline to apply is Oct. 11. [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](#).
- The **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

