



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Dec. 7, 2021

Greetings!

We hope you'll enjoy this installment of the Bulletin, which is full of updates on club activities and events coming up soon. This week's features include:

- A reminder that the OPC Annual Awards is now open for entries through Jan. 31 (Jan. 10 for the Cornelius Ryan book award).
- [On Wednesday, Dec. 8](#), the OPC is sponsoring a panel in Paris on US-European relations.
- Also [on Dec. 8](#), The A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance is hosting a program on safety for journalists working in Afghanistan, Haiti and Myanmar.
- A recap of the OPC-organized meeting [on Nov. 30](#) about Afghan journalist diaspora.

Plus, club member updates in our People section, journalist resources and opportunities to explore, and more.

Happy reading!

A banner for the OPC Annual Awards. The background is a dense, colorful web of thin lines. In the top left, the OPC logo (three globes) and text 'Overseas Press Club of America' are in a pink circle. Next to it is a blue starburst with the text 'Honoring the Best in International Journalism'. The main text 'CALL FOR ENTRIES ANNUAL AWARDS' is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. In the bottom left, it says 'Enter Online: www.opcofamerica.org'. On the right, a blue box contains text about submission eligibility and deadlines. A yellow box highlights the eligibility period.

OPC
Overseas Press Club
of America

Honoring
the Best in
International
Journalism

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES
ANNUAL AWARDS**

Enter Online:
www.opcofamerica.org

We invite you to submit entries for international coverage in Newspapers, News Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography.

Eligibility Period:
January 1, 2021 -
December 31, 2021

General Deadline:
January 31, 2022
Cornelius Ryan Award Deadline:
January 10, 2022

Applications are now open for the OPC Annual Awards honoring the year's best in international journalism across 22 categories. Click on the button below to read more and submit entries. Please help us spread the word about this call for entries on your social and professional networks.

[OPC Annual Awards Submission Page](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 8: OPC Panel in Paris - Are the US and Europe Drifting Apart?

Time: In Paris, doors open at 7:00 p.m. Central European Summer Time.

Via Zoom, the program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Place: American Library: 10 Rue du Général Camou, 75007, Paris (and streamed online)



The OPC and the American Library in Paris are closing out a big news year with a panel of journalists. With Germany and France both in political churn, one issue hangs over the EU: Will its unquestioned alliance with the U.S. survive? Each is cutting its own path on everything from nuclear subs, Big Tech, climate, and

China. Can this marriage be saved?

Panelists:

- **Liz Alderman**, chief European business correspondent for The New York Times.
- **Ulysse Gosset**, foreign affairs correspondent for BFM-TV.
- **Michaela Wiegel**, correspondent for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.
- **Vivienne Walt**, OPC Governor and Paris correspondent for TIME & Fortune.
- **Stanley Pignal**, European correspondent for The Economist.

The moderator will be **David A. Andelman**, Past OPC President, CNN columnist and former CBS News Paris correspondent.

[Click here to watch the program on Zoom](#)

[Click here to RSVP to attend in Paris](#)



Dec. 8: ACOS Alliance Virtual Safety Coordination Meeting 2021 'Crisis, Safety and Responsibility: Spotlight on Afghanistan, Haiti and Myanmar'

Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, 3:00 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time (program time will be about 75 minutes)

Place: Online via Zoom

2021 has shone an intense spotlight on the safety of journalists living and working in Afghanistan, Haiti and Myanmar, with large numbers forced into exile and hiding because of their reporting.

What is the reality for journalists who continue to report from their home country? What more can be done to support their safety? And how can editors continue to get stories out while ensuring the safety of local journalists and contributors. In a panel organized by the A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance, journalists and editors will share their experiences, views and recommendations.

Crisis, Safety and Responsibility
Spotlight on Afghanistan, Haiti and Myanmar

ACOS ALLIANCE
VIRTUAL SAFETY COORDINATION MEETING · 2021
Wednesday 8 December
10am EST | 3pm GMT

Aye Min Thant
Features Editor, Frontier Myanmar

Najiba Noori
Video Journalist

Ralph Thomassaint Joseph
Director of Publication, Ayibopost

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

Sponsored by: **The New York Times**

Speakers:

Aye Min Thant, features editor, Frontier Myanmar

Najiba Noori, video journalist

Ralph Thomassaint Joseph, director of publication, Ayibopost

The moderator will be **David Rohde**, executive editor for news at The New Yorker and co-founder of the ACOS Alliance.

[Read More and RSVP](#)

Is the U.S. Failing the Afghan Journalist Diaspora?

The U.S. departments of State and Defense are failing to follow through on resettlement of tens of thousands of Afghans, including journalists who adopted American-style media practices during the 20-year U.S. presence in Afghanistan, a coalition of organizations coordinated by the Overseas Press Club of America has concluded.



More than 90 days after the collapse of the Afghan government, the State Department has largely stalled visa approvals for Afghan journalists who wish to emigrate and for thousands of Afghan journalists in third countries seeking entry into the U.S.

For hundreds of Afghan journalists already on U.S. military bases inside the U.S., visas and work permits have been painfully slow to materialize. “The immigration business is a mess,” said Tom Willard, consultant to the Pajhwok news agency, one of the dominant news organizations in Afghanistan.

There are several different categories of refugee visas – Special Immigration Visas (SIVs) are the most highly sought after. There are also Priority 1 and Priority 2 visas, as well as parole visas for urgent humanitarian or public-benefit reasons. Several members of the OPC’s Afghan coalition reported in a video meeting on Nov. 30 that the State Department is accepting only SIV visas bearing a special foil of approval, Green Card holders and U.S. citizens.

[Click here](#) to read a summary of the first OPC-organized meeting about Afghan

journalists on Nov. 12.

[Read More](#)

Photo, above right: taken by an OPC contact who wished to remain anonymous.

Welcome New Member

Joseph Cox

Senior Staff Writer
VICE Media
Brooklyn, New York
Active Resident, Young (30-34)

Shen Lu

Reporter
Protocol Media, LLC
New York
Active Resident, Young (30-34)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Sarah Trent, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2020, wrote an article published [on Nov. 15](#) in The New York Times about a Philippine marine conservation effort led by women. She wrote about the political and personal fight to support the Maite Marine Sanctuary, a zone within the species-rich Coral Triangle where fishing is forbidden, writing about a recent study that found overall when women lead conservation efforts “indicators of success like solidarity, rule compliance and forest and fishery regeneration often go up, even as these women face doubt, discrimination and even threats of violence.” Her story is part of a special Times report on [Climate Solutions](#), which looks at efforts around the world to curb and adapt to harmful effects of climate change. Sarah had an OPC Foundation fellowship on the science desk at The Wall Street Journal.



After a year working as a reporter for The Moscow Times, **Uliana Pavlova**, the Theo Wilson Scholarship winner in 2017, has decided to go freelance full-time, mostly for The Associated Press and others.



UPDATES

On Dec. 1, in a grand ceremony at the Consulate General of France in New York, OPC Past President **David A. Andelman** was awarded the rank of *chevalier* (knight) of the

Légion d'Honneur, France's highest civilian decoration. The medal was presented by Jérémie Robert, France's consul general, on behalf of President Emmanuel Macron. In presenting the medallion, Robert said that “for your long standing friendship with our country and your lifelong commitment to promoting better understanding between the people of France and the United States, it is an honor to bestow the title of Chevalier in the Legion of Honor upon you.” Robert added that Andelman’s ties with France date back to the first term of President François Mitterrand in 1981 when Andelman took over as CBS News correspondent in Paris, encompassing more than four decades of reporting and commenting on France, its government and its people. Other celebrants including David’s wife Pamela Title and his longtime friend, Le Monde’s Patrice de Beer, pointed out that his ties go back decades earlier, de Beer and Andelman having first met at the tail end of the war in Cambodia in 1975. Title said that “walking through Paris with David is a stroll through the history and culture of a magical land, with the best possible guide.”



Valerie Hopkins, an OPC member and the winner of the 2013 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, landed a front page story for The New York Times [on Nov. 23](#) about Russian prosecutors’ attempts to shut down one of the country’s key human rights groups, Memorial International. Reporting from Moscow, she wrote that The effort is part of an ongoing campaign by the Kremlin to rewrite “the memory of one of the most painful times in Russia’s turbulent history: the era of the gulag, when millions of Russians toiled and died, mostly in the first half of the 20th century.” Hopkins also interviewed convicted Russian spy Maria Butina for an article in the Times published [on Nov. 19](#). Butina, who spent 15 months in U.S. prisons for working as an unregistered foreign agent during the 2016 election, is now a member of the Russian Parliament, supported by Vladimir Putin’s United Russia party.



Krithika Varagur, an OPC member and the winner of the OPC Foundation’s 2019 Sally Jacobsen Fellowship, has been working [since October](#) as a senior speechwriter at Fenway, a communications firm founded by President Barack Obama’s former chief speechwriter Jon Favreau and national security spokesman Tommy Vietor. Before October, she was the youngest staff columnist at The Wall Street Journal, writing the “At Work” column, about the “quirks, realities and frustrations of the workplace.” Varagur previously spent four years covering religion, politics, extremism and corruption in Southeast and South Asia for The Washington Post



and The Guardian, among others. She authored *The Call: Inside the Global Saudi Religious Project*, which she spoke about during an OPC book night [in May 2020](#) that was moderated by Christopher Dickey.

OPC member **Amanda Florian** wrote a piece for Discover Magazine [on Dec. 4](#) on research into why musicians, particularly vocalists, have an apparent knack for learning new languages. She wrote that researchers found musicians tend to pick up language quicker due to training and talent focused on sound, “most notably when it comes to pronunciation and accent because, like parrots, they mimic what they hear.” The research indicates that more wrinkles in a particular type of ridge on the surface of the brain dedicated to sound could be a key indicator of musical ability and aptitude for learning new languages.



In an opinion piece penned to The Globe and Mail [on Dec. 3](#), OPC member **Hikmat Noori**, an Afghan journalist who has reported on conflict, politics and culture in Afghanistan, called for the U.S. to provide more help to Afghan soldiers and others left abandoned by U.S. forces’ withdrawal this year. “For Afghan soldiers, who had been trained by their American counterparts and provided operational and moral support during the 20-year mission, it was as if ‘the rug was pulled from under them,’” he wrote. “It would be a disservice to roll them up in that same rug and bury them with the full weight of blame for the tragedy that has taken place in Afghanistan.”



The New York Times has announced that past OPC Award winner **Raja Abdulrahim** will join the paper’s Jerusalem bureau. She won the OPC’s 2012 Hal Boyle Award for her coverage of the war in Syria for the Los Angeles Times, which judges praised as “beautifully detailed stories from the conflict zone, giving readers a human portrayal of war.” She was also a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2014. A [Nov. 3 announcement](#) said that in the new post Abdulrahim will “roam widely, writing about Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, with a special focus on Palestinian affairs.”



Tony Cavin, an OPC Foundation board member and longtime journalist who spent two decades at CBS News, will take a new post at NPR as managing editor for standards and practices. As quoted in a note to newsroom staff [on Nov. 2](#), Cavin said on his application for the position that “standards are what distinguishes a serious news organization and makes it stand out from the ever louder din of competing voices on the internet. Standards are how we maintain the trust of our audience and trust is something we cannot afford to squander.” He was slated to begin on Dec. 6.



MEDIA NEWS

Amanda Bennett, a past OPC Awards judge who resigned from a top post at the Voice of America in June 2020 amid turmoil at the organization, [on Nov. 12](#) was named nominee for chief executive officer at the United States Agency for Global Media. She is an author, investigative journalist and editor who was named director of Voice of America in March, 2016 and stepped down last year when Congress confirmed conservative activist and filmmaker Michael Pack to be the head of the agency that oversees the government broadcast organization. Bennett was a member of the board of the Pulitzer Prizes and served as co-Chair of the Pulitzer Board in 2010.



People Column Dec. 7

New Resources

RESOURCES

On Dec. 9, the **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** is slated to release its annual report on journalists imprisoned and killed globally. A release announcing the report said “numbers have reached record levels in recent years and the report will reveal which governments are the worst jailers of reporters, the developments that led to their incarceration, and a series of regional and country-focused features by CPJ staff.” [Read more here.](#)

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** launched an app that allows journalists to communicate and document threats or risks that they encounter, and help them access available safety resources and logistics. The JSafe app is available in beta versions on both Android and iOS and can be downloaded directly from iTunes or Android stores. [Read more and download here.](#)

The **Journalist’s Resource** organization has posted two medical reporting tipsheets to boost accuracy of coverage of research and on the Food and Drug Administration’s accelerated approval process and drug costs in the United States. The latter discusses the approval of the drug Aduhelm earlier this year and ensuing House investigations into the agency’s expedited approval system. Reporting tips include resources for backgrounding drugs, finding approval deadlines, and how to navigate and search FDA data for story leads. [Read more here.](#)

A second **Journalist’s Resource** tipsheet provides advice on how to avoid mistakes in news headlines about health and medical research, including misleading phrases to avoid, communicating clearly about research limitations, and how to avoid misrepresenting correlations as causes. [Read more here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Dec. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** will host a webinar on the Omicron variant of COVID-19 with professor of virology Oyewale Tomori and bioinformatics expert Peter van Heusden. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **ICFJ** on Nov. 24 hosted a webinar on job hunting for journalists, with ICFJ community manager Paul Adepoju, with sources to find updated job postings and ways to advance a journalism career. [Watch the video here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association** held a discussion on Nov. 23 about reporting on upheaval in Afghanistan, with Hollie McKay, journalist and war crimes specialist who has been based in Kabul on and off over the last decade. [Watch the video here.](#)

The **CFWIJ** held a panel discussion on Nov. 5 on threats against women journalists and how to fight against them. The event was held in conjunction with the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists on Nov. 2. The organization recorded 149 cases between Jan. 1 and Oct 1, 2021, a 16.7 percent increase compared to 2020. Speakers included Albanian Post editor Blerta Ahmeti, CFWIJ research coordinator Die Morina van Uijtregt, and Blerjana Bino of SCiDEV, among others, with Alice Taylor of the CFWIJ serving as moderator. [Watch the panel here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are open for the **Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism** at Columbia University. The fellowship is open to full-time editorial employees of newspapers, magazines, wire services, digital media, television and radio news organizations, as well as to freelance journalists, from anywhere in the world. The application deadline for the 2022-23 academic year is Jan. 31, 2022. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** is calling for applications for the Kim Wall Memorial Fund, which will provide two \$5,000 grants to journalists "whose work embodies the spirit of Kim's reporting. The grant will fund women or non-binary reporters covering subculture, broadly defined, and what Kim liked to call 'the undercurrents of rebellion.'" The deadline to apply is Dec. 16. [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

