



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Aug. 11, 2022

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin, which features previews of upcoming events, a review of a book authored by OPC member Jaime FlorCruz, news about club members in our People column, and more. At a glance, the contents below include:

- On Sept. 6: [The OPC Annual Meeting](#) (online)
- On Sept. 13: [‘How I Did It’: OPC And The Li Center At Columbia University Present: The Story Behind The New York Times’ ‘Civilian Casualty Files’](#) (online and in-person)
- On Oct. 11: [Book Night with Christopher Roush to Discuss ‘The Future of Business Journalism’](#) (online)
- A [review](#) of OPC member Jaime FlorCruz's book, by *The Class of '77: How My Classmates Changed China*, by OPC Past President William J. Holstein.

Happy reading!

Upcoming Events

Sept. 6: OPC Annual Meeting

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

The OPC Annual Meeting, open to all members in good standing, will be held online on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom.

RSVPs are mandatory, as only members in good standing (who are up to date with dues payments) are eligible to be at the annual meeting.

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on Sept 6.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 5 at noon Eastern Time.

The OPC is using the online voting website Balloteer again this year to host its secure election. Watch for an email from info@opcofamerica.org with your ballot link.

The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. There will be no paper ballots this year.

This year, the OPC will elect officers and nine (9) Active board members and three (3) Associate board members to begin two-year terms.

Results will be announced at the annual meeting.

[RSVP Now](#)



Sept. 13: 'How I Did It' - OPC and The Li Center at Columbia University Present: The Story Behind The New York Times' 'Civilian Casualty Files'

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Joseph D. Jamail
Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall, Columbia
Journalism School + Streaming via
Zoom

The Li Center, in collaboration with the OPC, goes behind the scenes of "The Civilian Casualty Files" in a conversation with Azmat Khan, the



lead reporter, and Luke Mitchell, her New York Times Magazine editor.

The event will be held in person and online. Click the link below to attend the Zoom. Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on Sept. 13.

More details about how to register to attend in person will be announced soon.

Columbia University is committed to protecting the health and safety of its community. To that end, all visiting alumni and guests must meet the university requirement of full vaccination status in order to attend in-person events. Vaccination cards will be checked upon entry to all outdoor and indoor venues. Masks are strongly recommended but not mandatory.

Based on thousands of pages of previously unreported Pentagon reports and five years of painstaking reporting from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, Khan's stories painted a damning portrait of American warfare. The reporting exposed the systemic intelligence failings that resulted in countless civilian casualties from U.S.-led airstrikes. And it described the web of impunity that provided cover to those responsible. The series won numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize, a National Magazine Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, and a Polk Award. This talk is part of an OPC series, called, 'How I Did It,' which convenes freelance journalists and their editors or producers to break down a major feat of reporting. It will be moderated by OPC Governor Ginger Thompson, who is the chief of correspondents at ProPublica and the winner of multiple journalism awards for her reporting from Latin America and from the U.S.-Mexico border.

RSVP Now

Photo: Ivor Prickett

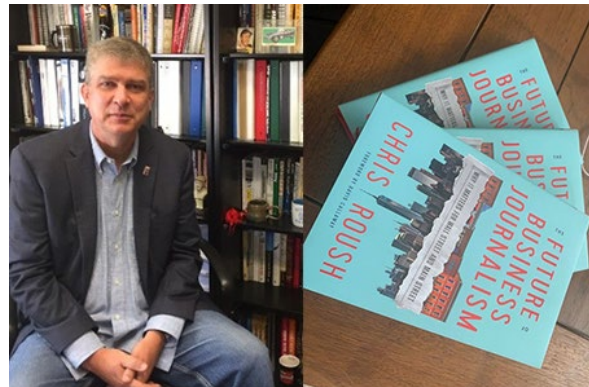


Oct. 11: Book Night With Christopher Roush to Discuss 'The Future of Business Journalism'

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

Business owners, consumers, and employees have long relied on the news to make financial decisions — what to buy, who to hire, and what products to sell. In the twenty-first century, that news has shifted. Only the big businesses and executives can afford expensive subscriptions, while most consumers and small business owners



are left scrambling to find the news they need to succeed and thrive.

In *The Future of Business Journalism*, veteran business journalist and professor Christopher Roush delves into how the crisis occurred, from the disintegration of the once-strong relationship between businesses and media to the media's focus on national coverage at the expense of local news. He reveals how these trends result in major "coverage deserts."

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on Oct. 11.

OPC President Paula Dwyer will moderate the discussion.

[RSVP Now](#)

New Book by Jaime FlorCruz Recounts 50 Years in China

Longtime OPC member Jaime FlorCruz visited New York in late July, gathering with a group of club members at the Bryant Park Café to chat about his new book, The Class of '77: How My Classmates Changed China, and to toast the efforts of OPC President Paula Dwyer and Executive Director Patricia Kranz in guiding the club through two years of the pandemic. Below is a review of FlorCruz's book by OPC Past President William J. Holstein, who also attended the gathering.

by William J. Holstein

When I was based in Beijing for United Press International in 1981 and 1982, those of us who lived in China had a joke about all the dignitaries and sages who would come to town. If some of them spent two weeks in China, they could write books about the place. They were so certain of their conclusions. But if they spent two months in China, the most they could manage was a magazine article because they would be forced to acknowledge their inability to peer behind the curtains. But if someone lived in China for two years, they couldn't write anything. They were just flat out confused.

So, it's nothing short of a miracle that Jaime FlorCruz has produced a book about his 50 years of living in China. He was a left-leaning Filipino student activist who went to China on a study mission in 1971, when the regime of President Ferdinand Marcos put him on a blacklist of dissidents, forcing him into a 12-year political exile. But he decided to study Chinese and immerse himself in Chinese culture. He enrolled at Peking University in the class that started in 1977, hence the book's name, *The Class of '77: How My Classmates Changed China*. FlorCruz was working for Newsweek when I arrived. He eventually jumped to TIME magazine and then CNN.

FlorCruz lived through incredible upheavals – the Cultural Revolution did not end until 1976 when Deng Xiaoping re-opened universities that had been closed

during the ideological struggle. FlorCruz did physical labor on a farm and on a ship. Then came the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre in 1989. The economy, meanwhile, exploded and China surged into the ranks of advanced industrial nations. Xi Jinping started consolidating power in 2012 and has created the world's first digital dictatorship while advocating for "common prosperity," one of the new rallying cries. It turns out that Xi is an old-fashioned Marxist who believes Communism will triumph over capitalism.

[Read More](#)



Left to right: Yvonne Murray, who was forced out of China with BBC correspondent and husband John Sudworth; Patricia Kranz; Deb Amos (foreground); Paula Dwyer; Jaime FlorCruz; Pete Engardio; Richard Bernstein; William J. Holstein; and Minky Worden. Photo: Stacy Mosher. The event was held at the Bryant Park Café in New York.



Left to right: Jaime FlorCruz, Richard Bernstein and William J. Holstein.



Patricia Kranz, left, and Paula Dwyer.

Welcome New Members

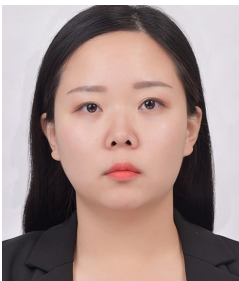
Jiahui Huang

Reporter
Eurasianet
New York
Active Resident, Young (29 or under)



Qinling Li

Freelance
Springfield, VA
Active Non-Resident, Young (29 or under)

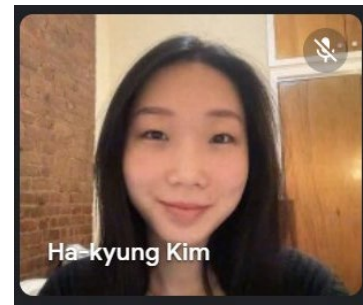


People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Ha-kyung Kim, the 2022 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner and an OPC Foundation fellow with The Wall Street Journal in Seoul, earned her first byline [on July 22](#): The piece, titled “South Korean Shipbuilder

Daewoo, Workers Reach Deal to End Strike,” covered a deal between one of the world’s largest shipbuilders and subcontract workers that ended a weeklong strike that cost about \$600 million in losses delayed deliveries of liquefied natural gas. Kim recently graduated from the Stern School of Business at New York University.



Sandali Handagama, the Jerry Flint Fellowship winner in 2020, was named deputy managing editor of the policy and regulations team at CoinDesk. Based in Italy, she oversees digital economy policy updates and news for Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



Max Strasser, the Alexander Kendrick Scholarship winner in 2008, will be the new editor of the recently renamed and redesigned Sunday Opinion at The New York Times. Strasser, who has been with the paper’s opinion desk for seven years, went to London at the start of 2018 to oversee its international coverage, leading a team of editors across three continents. For the past year, he was on the desk’s special projects team where he has been instrumental in projects like “Postcards From a World on Fire” and the recent “I Was Wrong” package from Times columnists.



UPDATES

OPC member and freelance journalist **Nicolas Niarchos** was arrested and detained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for five days in July while setting up an interview about alleged ties between mining groups and separatists in the country. In a statement [on July 20](#), Niarchos wrote that his passport was seized by the Agence Nationale de Renseignements and a photo of the passport was leaked on social media. He said neither he nor his Congolese colleague Joseph “Jeef” Kazadi, who was also arrested but detained for a longer period, were charged with a crime. He tweeted a photo of Kazadi [on Aug. 4](#) saying he had been freed after 22 days. “Journalism is not a crime, is is the fertile soil from which a democratic society can grow,” Niarchos said in his statement. A government official [told](#) Agence France-Presse (AFP) that Niarchos was questioned about his contact with armed groups, particularly the separatist group Bakata Katanga. Niarchos writes for The Nation and The New Yorker, which he [thanked](#) along with press freedom organizations who supported him and Kadadi during the ordeal.



Kathy Gannon, a longtime OPC member who recently retired as Associated Press news director for Pakistan and Afghanistan, was named among the 2022 Joan Shorenstein Fellows [on Aug. 4](#). In a release, the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy announced three fellows, including Phillip Martin, senior investigative reporter for The GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting and Seth K. Goldman, honors associate professor of communication at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Gannon will be researching conflict reporting, with a focus on international reporting on conflict in Afghanistan and its effects on policy and public perception.



OPC member **Nicholas Kristof** has [rejoined](#) The New York Times after stepping down as columnist for the paper in October last year to pursue the gubernatorial race in Oregon. His bid to appear on the Oregon ballot was [rejected](#) after state courts decided he did not meet residency requirements. A Times release about his return to the Opinion desk said that he would resume his column this fall after he completes a new book. Kristof worked as reporter, editor and columnist for Times for 37 years before his departure from the paper last year. He won two OPC awards during his career, including the 2011 Best Online Commentary. He won the 1989 Hal Boyle Award along with his wife Sheryl WuDunn for their reporting on the pro-democracy movement in China and at Tiananmen Square.



OPC member **Edith Lederer**, who has reported for The Associated Press more than four decades, spoke to AP colleague Allen G. Breed for [a July 25 story](#) about her role in breaking the so-called Tuskegee Study in which hundreds of Black Americans were denied treatment for syphilis and became unwitting medical research subjects. Lederer received a sheaf of documents from a friend and health researcher who had acquired 10 reports from the Communicable Disease Center about the study. The researcher, Peter Buxtun, reported the unethical study to superiors, but was shut down. He later passed them to Lederer, who did not feel prepared to take on the story herself, so in the press room of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, she passed the documents to a colleague with more investigative skills, Jean Heller. "I knew that I could not do this," Lederer said in the recent story. "AP, in 1972, was not going to put a young reporter from San Francisco on a plane to Tuskegee, Alabama, to go and do an investigative story."



OPC members **Ruchi Kumar** and **Hikmat Noori** filed a piece [on July 27](#) for NPR about the plight of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. The article for NPR's Goats and Soda blog spotlights a surge in rates of child, early and forced marriage since last year. According to UNICEF, even before the Taliban returned to power, nearly 28% of Afghan women and girls between the ages of 15 to 49 years were married before age 18.



An Afghan journalist interviewed for the story who was forced to flee, identified only by the initials F.J., told NPR that circumstances she left behind have left her in mental anguish. “I used to be the voice of Afghan women, and overnight, I became voiceless, with no rights, and no one to fight and defend my rights.” Kumar is a freelance journalist who reports on conflict, politics, development and culture in India and Afghanistan, and Noori is a freelancer who writes for The Guardian, Al Jazeera, NPR and Foreign Policy magazine, among others.

People Column Aug. 11

New Resources

RESOURCES

PEN America, the **Online News Association (ONA)**, and the **International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF)** have teamed up to provide videos and workshops titled Digital Safety Snacks to help journalists and others defend against online abuse and improve digital security. Two recent videos can viewed [here](#). [Read more here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

From Sept. 8 to Sept. 10, the **International Press Institute (IPI)** will host its annual world congress at Columbia University. The event will include panels and discussions on a wide range of topics with editors, journalists, publishers and media experts from the United States and around the world, with a focus on challenges facing journalism and strategies to address them. [Read more and register here](#).

From Sept. 12 to Sept. 15, **Women Photograph** will hold its 2022 Virtual Workshop. Registration is open to women and nonbinary photographers in any location. The event will include artist talks, sessions on safety, a technical day about workflow, and a session on funding sources for major projects. [Read more and register here](#).

On Nov. 10, the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** will hold its 2022 Tribute to Journalists. The event will be a hybrid of online and virtual attendance. [Read more and register here](#).

The Rory Peck Trust provides training and access to psychological treatment for freelance journalists to develop the skills to build resilience when exposed to conflict or covering traumatic events. The organization offers help from its Therapy Fund to cover the cost of professional psychological support. [Read more and apply here](#).

The International Journalists' Network (IJNet) posted a webinar on Aug. 2 on practical tips to collaborate on cross-border reporting. Panelists were winners of

the ICFJ-Hearst Foundations Global Health Crisis Reporting Grant. [Watch the video here.](#)

The Foreign Press Association (FPA) posted a discussion on Aug. 3 about the implications of Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and future of the country's relations with the U.S. The guest was Vincent Wei-Cheng Wang, a senior fellow in the Asia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and Dean and Professor of Political Science at Adelphi University. [Watch the video here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are open for the **McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship**, with grants up to \$15,000 and editorial support to produce "deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects." The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

- 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

