



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Sept. 22, 2022

Dear Chad,

I'm delighted to report that the OPC came barreling out of summer with a very strong September program and more exciting things on tap for October.



As you may recall, we launched a "Meet the Winners" series of programs two years ago to feature the remarkable work of our award recipients during a year in which the pandemic forced us to cancel our annual dinner. The dinner is back, of course, but the series turned out to be one of those pandemic-inspired innovations that was just too successful to abandon. So, we reimagined and restructured it last year as a series called "How I Did It," pairing award-winning journalists with their editors or producers.

In this week's Bulletin, you'll find a recap of the latest "[How I Did It](#)" – a riveting session on the OPC- and Pulitzer-winning drone project featuring its author (and OPC vice president) Azmat Khan along with her editor, Luke Mitchell, and Ginger Thompson (an OPC Governor) in the moderator's chair. I urge everyone to check it out. Azmat and Luke take us behind the scenes of that project, with lots of lessons for all of us who aspire to do ambitious and consequential journalism.

It's been a busy month for Azmat, who heads up the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia. She also expertly moderated a fascinating [discussion](#) of online attacks against journalists with a panel of newsroom leaders, including OPC member Michael Slackman, as part of the International

Press Institute's World Congress.

This issue also includes a remembrance of [William Rukeyser](#), founder of Money magazine and managing editor of Fortune, as well as an OPC member and dedicated Foundation board member, who died at age 83.

Looking to October, I'd like to remind everyone about two important events: an online book night with Christopher Roush to discuss "The Future of Business Journalism" [on Oct. 11](#) and an online psychological safety training program for freelance journalists that the OPC is sponsoring in collaboration with the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma [on Oct. 12](#). Special thanks to OPC board members Sandra Stevenson and Marjorie Miller for working to make that happen.

Meanwhile, we received more than 100 applications for our program to provide grants to journalists in Ukraine whose ability to pursue their profession has been adversely impacted by the Russian invasion. (Thanks to OPC board members David Andelman, Vivienne Walt, Raney Aronson-Rath, Josh Fine and Beth Knobel for leading that effort.) Decisions on grant recipients will be made by early October.

It's a very exciting start to the Fall. We are always eager for suggestions for future programs and other ways we can help our colleagues working overseas. So please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us on the board.

All best,
Scott

New York Times Team Shares Insight About Investigations Into Airstrike Casualties

by Chad Bouchard

OPC Vice President Azmat Khan spent five years gathering string for an award-winning investigation that exposed the full scale of civilian tolls from U.S.-led airstrikes in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. But she told guests at Columbia

University on Sept. 13 that conviction, strategy and a well-researched pitch would help students find publishers for any good story idea.



The OPC, in collaboration with the Li Center, hosted a discussion about the process behind "The Civilian Casualty Files," a deep dive into how the military withheld the true civilian death toll and wielded a system lacking in transparency and accountability. Khan was joined by Luke Mitchell, her New York Times Magazine editor, and OPC Governor Ginger Thompson, who served as

moderator. Thompson 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, moderated the discussion.

The discussion was 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.

Khan's work has won OPC awards for 2021 and 2017, the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting, two National Magazine Awards, a Polk Award and the Hillman Prize for Magazine Journalism, among others.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

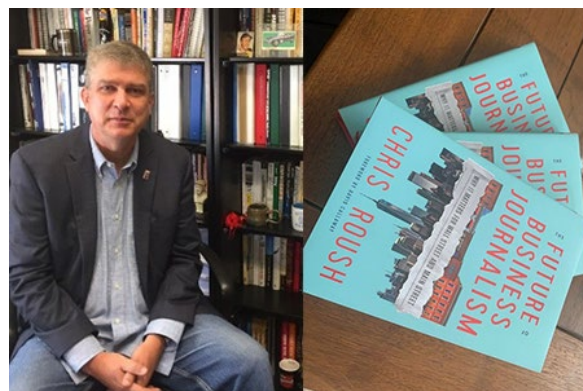
Upcoming Events

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 Past President **Paula Dwyer** will moderate the discussion.

[RSVP Now](#)



Oct. 12: OPC and DART Center Offer Psychological Safety Training to Freelance Journalists

TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

LOCATION: Online via Zoom



Freelance journalists are invited to an interactive, virtual session on psychological safety and resilience on Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The training, primarily for

freelance journalists working overseas, is jointly offered by the Overseas Press Club and Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. It is supported by the International Women's Media Foundation, Committee to Protect Journalists, Rory Peck Trust and ACOS, all organizations committed to providing programs and services to bolster the mental health and security of working journalists.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY TRAINING
FOR FREELANCE JOURNALISTS**

OCT. 12 FROM
12:00 P.M.
TO 1:30 P.M. ET



The 90-minute training will offer a model for understanding the impact of trauma and related stresses in journalism, as well as strategies for enhancing individual well being, giving and receiving peer support and building resilient teams.

The training is to be delivered by **Katherine Porterfield**, PhD, a clinical psychologist and senior trainer for the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, will include a slide presentation, interactive breakouts and ample time for Q&A and discussion.

[RSVP Now](#)

OPC Foundation Announces New Scholarship in the Name of Seymour and Audrey Topping

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is launching a scholarship award in the name of Seymour and Audrey Topping in

recognition of their global legacy as pioneering journalists. This annual award will serve to launch the careers of graduate and undergraduate university students wishing to become foreign correspondents, following the path that the Toppings helped trailblaze.



[Seymour Topping](#) died in 2020 and the family made a generous donation to launch this award. The Foundation is welcoming donations to fully endow the award and ensure it lasts in perpetuity.

The Toppings fell in love in 1946 in Nanjing, China where "Top," as he was widely known, after two years in the Pacific Zone as a World War II Army Officer, was covering the Chinese Civil War as a stringer for the International News Service. He crossed enemy lines during the decisive Battle of Huai Hai, China's Waterloo, to interview Communist leaders. He then went on to scoop the world press on the Communist Chinese victory as they marched into China's capitol. Audrey, daughter of a Canadian diplomat, was studying at Nanking University and broadcasting for the American Armed Forces Radio Station.

[Read More](#)

Photo above: Seymour and Audrey Topping attend an OPC Hong Kong storytelling night in December 2015.

Online Campaigns Represent a Profound Challenge to the Media

by William J. Holstein

Mainstream media organizations around the world – including America's most powerful newspapers – are experiencing a surge of coordinated social media attacks against their journalists aimed at discrediting or intimidating them. The attacks, combined with efforts by authoritarian governments to control information flows and paint media organizations as purveyors of "fake news," are so severe that many editors are worried that the very legitimacy of their organizations is being destroyed. The campaigns are overwhelmingly aimed at female journalists. And the industry has little idea what to do about any



of it.

Those were some of the sobering observations offered by a panel discussion at the 71st annual World Congress of the International Press Institute, held at Columbia University Sept. 8 through Sept. 10.

The panel was supported by the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism and featured The Washington Post Executive Editor Sally Buzbee, Michael Slackman, assistant managing editor for international at The New York Times, Kyiv Independent Editor-in-Chief Olga Rudenko, Editor of the Premium Times in Nigeria Musikulu Mojeed, and Editor of Dawn newspaper in Pakistan Zaffar Abbas. Azmat Khan, director of the new center for global journalism and the Overseas Press Club's first vice president, moderated the discussion attended by about 400 journalists from around the world.

[Read More](#)

Photo, left to right: Azmat Khan, Musikulu Mojeed, Olga Rudenko, Sally Buzbee, Zaffar Abbas and Michael Slackman.

People Remembered: William Rukeyser

The OPC and OPC Foundation are deeply dismayed to report that William Rukeyser, who founded Money magazine and served as managing editor of Fortune, died Aug. 16 in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the age of 83. The cause was lung cancer, his wife of 58 years, Elisabeth, said.



Bill was a veteran on the OPC Foundation board, an OPC member, and was one of the primary architects of the foundation's financial strategy. He created the structure for the reserved funds that allowed the foundation to grow and add more scholarships. He also was a generous donor and served as a liaison with the Princeton Press Club at Princeton University. In Knoxville, where he lived, he was a former chair of the board of directors of the University of Tennessee Medical Center. Joseph Landsman, President and CEO, described how Bill was known for his collaborative relationship between administrators and physicians and how he believed that nurturing and preserving a shared sense of purpose was the basis of the success of the medical center.

"Bill was such a major force on our board," said OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein. "We last saw him at a cocktail party for our winners in May, but he declined to take part in an online meeting of the Foundation's annual finance committee in July, citing medical issues. We never knew how seriously

ill he was.”

[Read More](#)

Photo: William Rukeyser, center right, chats with OPC Foundation scholars at a reception at the awards luncheon in 2018.

Welcome New Members

Kang-Chun Cheng

Freelance
Kenya
Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)



Shawn Deng

Producer
CNN International
Toronto
Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)



Jazzmin Jiwa

Columbia University School of Journalism
New York
Student



Anna Mutoh

Columbia University School of Journalism
New York
Student



Rachel Phua

Columbia University School of Journalism
New York
Student



by Chad Bouchard

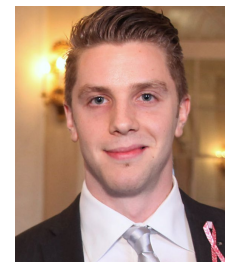
People

SCHOLARS

Fatima Bhojani, the 2015 Theo Wilson scholarship winner, wrote a piece for Foreign Policy [on Sept. 15](#) about the devastating effects of climate change in Pakistan. She wrote that monsoon floods in 2022 have submerged an area about the size of Italy, describing a cycle that begins with deadly heat waves and drought, then “more water than usual evaporates from the Indian Ocean and is eagerly embraced by a warmer atmosphere. When the seasonal monsoon hits, it hits hard, with rainfall three times the national average of the past three decades.” Bhojani said developing countries like Pakistan bear the brunt of climate crises caused by industrialized wealthy nations, exacerbating fragile situations such as food insecurity and political power struggles. Despite recent pledges from G-7 nations, “it’s not clear that the even loftier needs of climate mitigation and adaptation will be met for the countries, like mine, most in need.



Anders Melin, an OPC member who received a Reuters internship in 2013 from the OPC Foundation, moved from the U.S. to Malaysia in August to write for Bloomberg Wealth and Businessweek. [On Sept. 20](#), he tweeted that he’d filed his first byline out of Kuala Lumpur with a story about Southeast Asian governments floating new plans for visa programs that target professionals, retirees or other affluent people. “Several started taking applications, calling on tycoons, ‘rainmakers’ and digital nomads to consider a new harbor,” he wrote. A native of Sweden, Melin spent his 2013 internship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.



UPDATES

After years of development, a movie based on a book by OPC Governor **Charles Graeber** [premiered](#) at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) on Sept. 11. The film, based on Graeber’s book *The Good Nurse*, follows the story of a serial killer, Charles Cullen, played by Eddie Redmayne, who as a nurse murdered dozens – if not hundreds – of patients. It also stars Jessica Chastain as Amy Loughren, a nurse who helped police catch Cullen. Graeber [attended](#) the opening for *The Good Nurse* with his father, and [tweeted](#) photos with him and with Loughren and her daughter, saying “It’s surreal for them, me too.” The film, directed by Danish filmmaker Tobias Lindholm, will open more broadly in theaters on Oct. 19, and on Netflix on Oct. 26.



Evgeny Afineevsky, a filmmaker and OPC member, showed his documentary at this year’s TIFF. The film, *Freedom on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom*, is Afineevsky’s follow-up to his 2015 Oscar-nominated *Winter on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom*. A Hollywood Reporter piece covering TIFF

highlights [said](#) the new film “proved to be the definitive portrait, thus far, of the ongoing Russian atrocities — and remarkable resistance to them — in Ukraine.” It [premiered](#) on Sept. 7 at the 79th Venice International Film Festival. *Freedom on Fire* is still seeking U.S. distribution.



OPC member and filmmaker **Benedetta Argentieri** also [premiered](#) her documentary *The Matchmaker* at the 79th Venice International Film Festival this year. The film [follows](#) Tooba Gondal, a native Londoner alleged to have recruited teenage girls to become the wives of ISIS fighters. Argentieri interviewed Gondal in Syria before she was deported to France at the end of 2019.



OPC member **Mehr Sher**, an investigative journalist, has joined Report for America as a corps member and is now reporting on environmental issues at the Bangor Daily News in Maine. She has been working at the paper since August, filing stories on [shortcomings](#) of bottled water testing in the state, the ongoing [drought](#) crisis, and most recently [on Sept 15](#) on the impact of climate change on small scale wild blueberry farmers who lack access to a consistent water supply.



OPC member **Alice Driver** spoke as guest lecturer at Arkansas State University [on Sept 12](#) about immigration and femicide along the U.S.–Mexico border, a topic she has frequently covered over the last 10 years. Driver, a native of the Ozarks Mountains of Arkansas now based in Mexico, was [supported](#) by an OPC micro-grant in 2021 to help weather effects of the pandemic and to help her at the time to continue reporting on deaths of meat processing workers. She wrote a book about femicide in Mexico in 2015 titled *More or Less Dead* for the University of Arizona press, and a new book on labor rights and immigration, titled *The Life and Death of the American Worker*, is in the works. In a [2019 Q&A feature](#) for the OPC, she urged correspondents to “learn languages or take the time to understand the cultural context of events when they are reporting outside of their home country.”



Photojournalist and past OPC Award winner **Lynsey Addario** has [won](#) a 2022 Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF). She will be honored along with other awardees at the IWMF’s ceremony on Nov. 9. Separately, an exhibit of her work is currently on exhibit at the School of Visual Arts (SVA)



Chelsea Gallery [through Oct. 29](#). Addario, who has also won a MacArthur Genius Grant and Pulitzer Prize for her work, began her 20-year career in 1996, and has covered conflict in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Somalia, Syria, South Sudan and Ukraine. She won the 2010 Olivier Rebbot Award for her series on Afghan women for National Geographic, a Citation for Excellence for the same year in the Feature Photography category for covering maternal mortality in Sierra Leone for TIME, and in 2017 received a citation in the Kim Wall category as part of a team from TIME following a refugee family from Syria. The SVA event is part of the school's annual Masters Series Award and Exhibition, and was originally planned for fall of 2020. Admission is free and open to the public. SVA also hosted a conversation on Sept. 9 with Addario and Kathy Ryan, the director of photography at The New York Times Magazine.

Katie J.M. Baker, 2019 Whitman Bassow Award winner, has [joined](#) The New York Times as a correspondent covering social and cultural conflicts that divide the U.S. She previously worked as senior reporter on BuzzFeed News's national desk. Baker took part in an OPC program [in December 2020](#) about her award-winning reporting on a rights abuses exacerbated and ignored within the largest conservation organization in the world, the World Wide Fund for Nature.



People Column Sept. 22

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** has posted a Guide to Protecting Newsrooms and Journalists Against Online Violence. The guide includes case studies and details policies and best practices newsrooms can implement to better protect staff members who are targeted for doing their jobs. [Read the guide here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

From Oct. 10 to 14, the **Bronx Documentary Center** will hold a five-day photography book workshop with the award-winning Dutch photobook designers Teun van der Heijden and Sandra van der Doelen from the Amsterdam/New

York-based graphic design agency Heijdens Karwei. Organizers say that at the end of the workshop, every student will have a finished draft for their projected publication. Admission to the workshop is \$800. [Read more and register here.](#)

From Oct. 22 to 23 in Dallas, TX, the **National Press Photographers Association (NPPA)** will host the Women in Visual Journalism conference in person with programs for television reporters, photojournalists, online journalists, freelancers and documentary filmmakers. Registration is \$75 for NPPA members, \$100 for non-members, and \$20 for students. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** is calling for entries for coverage in Colombia, Kenya and the Philippines that uses World Health Organization's new media guide with best reporting practices on violence against children. The application deadline is Oct. 16. [Learn more about the best practices and submit a story here.](#)

The **McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship** provides 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.](#)

Applications are open for the **Tarbell Fellowship**, is a one-year program for early-career journalists "intent on improving the world." The fellowship incorporated speakers, feedback and mentorship. Fellows receive a stipend of up to \$50,000 to support placements at major publications and independent freelance reporting. The deadline to apply is Oct. 9. [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



Overseas Press Club of America | 40 West 45th Street, Club Quarters, New York, NY 10036

[Unsubscribe chad.bouchard@gmail.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@opcofamerica.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!