



# PRESS/POLITICS

News from the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy  
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

## From the Director



*Alex S. Jones*

When we gather in Cambridge this October 13 and 14 for the Shorenstein Center's twentieth anniversary, our theme for the week-end will be the Future of News—a subject of mounting anxiety bordering on panic.

Newspapers seem to have embraced the idea that their financial future will rest with creating new businesses that will attract people who don't want to read newspapers and may have no interest in news at all. This strategy may be successful for preserving the newspaper industry, but the public service role of reporting the news that has been an intrinsic part of a newspaper's mission is looking shakier by the hour.

Traditional media of all kinds are retreating from the job of covering news on politics, policy and other topics because some consider them boring—the kiss of death. What might be alternative ways to keep accountability news widely available?

Several models are emerging.

Chuck Lewis, the founder of the Center for Public Integrity, one of the nation's leading nonprofit reporting organizations, spent a semester as a Shorenstein Fellow exploring the potential for other nonprofit, philanthropic vehicles for doing the expensive, demanding work of investigative reporting. It seems certain that the nonprofit sector is going to

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## James Risen and Eric Lichtblau Win 2006 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting



*James Risen and Eric Lichtblau*

On Tuesday, March 14, the 2006 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting was awarded to James Risen and Eric Lichtblau of *The New York Times* for their December 2005 report on domestic spying. Risen and Lichtblau disclosed that the Bush administration had authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on the

international telephone calls and e-mail correspondence of people within the United States. Beyond raising the question of legality, this news intensified the debate, ongoing since 9/11, about the limits of presidential power during wartime. The

Goldsmith investigative reporting prize is awarded each year for the story that best promotes more effective and ethical conduct of government, the making of public policy, or the practice of politics in the United States at the national or local level. Risen and Lichtblau will share the \$25,000 prize.

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*Marvin Kalb*

Washington, has donated funds for a fellowship to further support the study of journalism's role in American democracy. The Kalb Fellowship will be awarded to a working journalist—preferably someone employed by a newspaper,

## Marvin Kalb Funds Fellowship

magazine, or network—whose reporting background has given him or her special insight into the mix of press and politics in the fashioning of public policy. The fellowship carries a stipend of \$30,000 for a full-time residential fellowship in Cambridge.

Those interested in applying for the Kalb Fellowship should contact Edith Holway, the Center's fellows and programs administrator.

## Goldsmith Awards, from page 1



**Nicholas D. Kristof**

The Goldsmith Book Prize is awarded annually to two distinguished contributions to the field of press and politics—one academic and one trade. This year, in the academic category, the prize went to James Stimson, Dawson Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for his book *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics*. The winner in the

trade category was Geoffrey Stone, Kelvin Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago Law School, for *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime*.

A Special Award of Recognition was presented to Nicholas D. Kristof, op-ed columnist at *The New York Times* for his series “The Genocide in Darfur,” which chronicles and brings much-needed atten-

tion to the nightmare unfolding in Sudan.

Rounding out the evening was a keynote address from Jim Lehrer, this year’s recipient of the Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism. Blending folksy humor and insight culled from three decades of experience, Lehrer had some reassuring words for embattled journalists contending with declining newspaper readership,

low ratings, the Internet, the blogosphere, and so on.

“That is absolute nonsense,” Lehrer said, insisting that traditional reporting is not a bit threatened by the explosion of alternative news sources.

“Whatever the route it may travel to the blogger, the screamer, the comedian, the search engine, the whatever, it has to start with one of us, one of us in the real news business,” he said. (Lehrer’s speech is reproduced in full on page 6.)

The next morning, Wednesday, March 15, the winners and finalists for the investigative reporting prize convened to discuss how their stories developed, what challenges they faced, and how they dealt with them. The finalists for the Goldsmith Investigative Reporting Prize were Joshua Boak, James Drew, Steve Eder, Christopher D. Kirkpatrick, Jim Tankersley, and Mike Wilkinson of *The Blade*, in Ohio; Marcus Stern and Jerry Kammer of the Copley News Service; Evelyn Larrubia, Robin Fields, and Jack Leonard of *The Los Angeles Times*; Susan Schmidt, James V. Grimaldi, and R. Jeffrey Smith of *The Washington Post*; and Dana Priest, also of the *Post*. Shorenstein Center Director Alex Jones moderated.

This year’s ceremony marked the fifteenth annual presentation of the Goldsmith Awards. The program promotes excellence in journalism and encourages a more insightful, spirited public debate about government, politics, and the press. The program is funded by an annual grant from the Greenfield Foundation.



**Dana Priest**

## Spring 2006 Fellows



**Kimberly Gross** is an assistant professor of media and public affairs at The George Washington University. She holds a

Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin. Her research and teaching interests include public opinion, media effects, and media coverage of minority groups. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Communication*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Political Psychology*. At the Shorenstein Center her research focused on the emotional reactions to local television news framing of crime.



**Charles Lewis** is president of the Fund for Independence in Journalism and co-author of five books, including the bestseller,

*The Buying of the President, 2004*. He founded (and served fifteen years as its executive director) the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative reporting organization. From 1977 to 1988 he did investigative reporting at ABC News and at CBS News ("60 Minutes"). In 1998 Lewis was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, and, in 2004, he received the PEN USA First Amendment Award. His research at the Shorenstein Center focused on nonprofit models for investigative journalism.



**Daniel Okrent** completed his term as the first public editor of *The New York Times* in May 2005. He was for many years an

editorial executive at Time Inc., serving variously as managing editor of *Life*, corporate editor of new media, and corporate editor-at-large. Okrent was founding editor of *New England Monthly*, where he twice consecutively won the National Magazine Award for General Excellence. He is also the author of several books, most recently *Great Fortune: The Epic of Rockefeller Center*, a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in history. His research at the Shorenstein Center was divided between an inquiry into the role of ombudsmen and a study of newspaper influence on public opinion in the 1920s.



**Robert Picard** is Hamrin Professor of Media Economics and director of the Media Management and Transformation

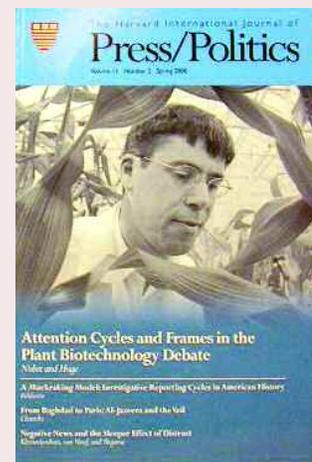
Center at Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University, Sweden. His research interests are economic operations of media markets, strategies of media firms, and government policies affecting economic aspects of media. Picard is the author of twenty books, including *The Economics and Financing of Media Companies*; *Joint Operating Agreements: The Newspaper Preservation Act and Its Application*; and *Media Economics*:

*Concepts and Issues*. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. His research at the Shorenstein Center was focused on value creation and the future of news organizations.



**Cristine Russell** is a freelance journalist who has written about science and medicine for more than three decades. She was

formerly a national science reporter for *The Washington Post* and, earlier, *The Washington Star*. She is vice-president of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, a past president of the National Association of Science Writers, and a contributor to *A Field Guide for Science Writers*. Russell serves on the USC Annenberg School for Communication board and on the board of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. She has a biology degree from Mills College. Her research focused on the future of science writing and how the news media covers controversial scientific issues for the general public.



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## Justice Breyer Speaks at Center Conference on Supreme Court Nomination Process



***Justice Stephen Breyer and Judy Woodruff***



***Jeffrey Toobin and Helaine Greenfeld***

What roles do the press, political parties and interest groups play in the Supreme Court nomination process? On March 24 the Shorenstein Center brought together some of the country's most prominent political activists, journalists, academics and government officials to discuss the ways in which a nominee's candidacy for the nation's highest court is influenced by the political process.

The day began with an historical overview of Supreme Court nominations. Discussants included Michael Comiskey, who moderated, Eleanor D.

Acheson, Lyle Denniston and Mark Gitenstein.

Judy Woodruff and Linda Greenhouse moderated a panel on the liberal and conservative response to the resignation of Sandra Day O'Connor and the subsequent nomination of John G. Roberts Jr. to the court. Panelists included Brad Berenson, Ron Brownstein, Stephanie Cutter, Doug Kendall, Manuel Miranda, Ralph Neas, Grover Norquist, Greg Stohr, Fred Thompson, and Seth Waxman.

Next, Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer took the floor. He spoke broadly about

the court's role in American democracy but declined to give his take on the nomination process (except as it pertained to his own nomination), suggesting it would be impolitic to do so. Nonetheless, he was emphatic about the need for the court—and each of its members—to operate with complete freedom, free from partisan influence.

"If you are the least popular person in the United States in a court of the United States, you would like a judge who is not moved by the fact that you happen to be unpopular. That's what judicial independence is. It's never perfect, but that's the ideal that you're striving toward," Breyer said.

The day ended with a lively discussion about the president's decision to nominate Harriet Miers and the subsequent appointment of Samuel Alito to the bench. Panelists included Nan Aron, Dan Balz, Rachel Brand, Walter E. Dellinger III, Helaine Greenfeld, Wade Henderson, Ted Olson, Sean Rush-ton, and Nina Totenberg. Jeffrey Toobin and Judy Woodruff moderated.



***Wade Henderson and Rachel Brand***

## Four Kennedy School Students Awarded News21 Internships

The Carnegie-Knight Initiative on the Future of Journalism Education is a partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the director of the Shorenstein Center, and the deans of four of the nation's leading journalism schools—the Graduate School of Journalism, University of California at Berkeley; the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University; and the Annenberg School of Communication, University of Southern California. The initiative aims to revitalize journalism education through

research, curriculum reform and an innovative summer internship program.

The universities have created News21 Incubators, annual national investigative reporting projects overseen by campus professors. News21 will emphasize innovative, hands-on journalism study and practice. Students will have the opportunity to create news products that are experimental in substance and style for mainstream and emerging news outlets. Four Kennedy School students have been selected to participate in the program, and each one has been assigned to a different journalism school and News21 team. Each News21

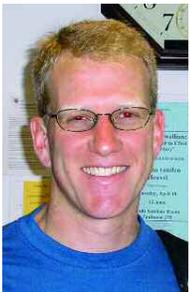
team will focus its reporting on a different aspect of the overarching theme of homeland security. The 2006 interns are Sebastian Abbot, Katie Connolly, Karen Harmel and Melanie Roe.

**Sebastian Abbot** will join the News21 team at Columbia this summer. Abbot has been a freelance journalist in Syria and Lebanon. He has also worked as a financial analyst for JP Morgan.

**Katie Connolly**, who is headed to Berkeley, has worked as a political researcher at the Australian embassy in Washington, D.C.

**Karen Harmel** is a former Fulbright scholar who has interned for Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Rep. Karen Thurman. Harmel will join Northwestern's News21 team in Washington, D.C.

**Melanie Roe** was born in Mexico and first came to the United States to attend Wellesley College. She worked on the Kerry campaign in 2004. Roe will be reporting on regional immigration issues with the News21 team at USC.



**Sebastian Abbot**



**Katie Connolly**



**Karen Harmel**



**Melanie Roe**

## Luncheons and Workshops



**Katrina vanden Heuvel**

The Shorenstein Center's popular brown-bag lunch series continued to attract top journalists this year. Speakers included Michael Isikoff, *Newsweek*; Karen Tumulty, *Time*; Suzanne Malveaux, CNN; Michael Massing, *Columbia Journalism Review*; Ann Cooper, Committee to Protect Journalists; Walter Pincus, *The Washington Post*; Ken Auletta, *The New Yorker*; Connie Schultz, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*; David Sanger, *The New York Times*; Todd Gitlin, Columbia University; Doyle McManus, *The Los Angeles Times*; Mark Jurkowitz, *The Boston Phoenix*; and Katrina vanden Heuvel, *The Nation*.

The Center continued its monthly luncheon series in Washington, D.C., with sessions on

blogging, intelligence and national security reporting, and journalists and the First Amendment. Journalists from numerous news outlets and media organizations attended.

Also this semester, the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and the Shorenstein Center co-sponsored "Human Rights and Media," a workshop consisting of a cross-disciplinary group of students, professionals and academics. Over one hundred and fifty people applied for twenty-five available slots in the workshop. In three separate sessions, fifteen Kennedy School students, ten journalists, and a number of guest speakers—filmmakers, architects, artists, and intellectuals—gathered together to consider new forms of collaboration and innovation between the media and the human rights community. The workshops were organized by Kennedy School students and partially funded by the Shorenstein Center's Jessie B. Cox endowment fund.

## 2006 Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism Acceptance Speech Delivered by Jim Lehrer on March 14, 2006

I am delighted about this award, and it is not false modesty when I say I accept it in the names of the people, hundreds of people past and present, who have worked on "The News-Hour."

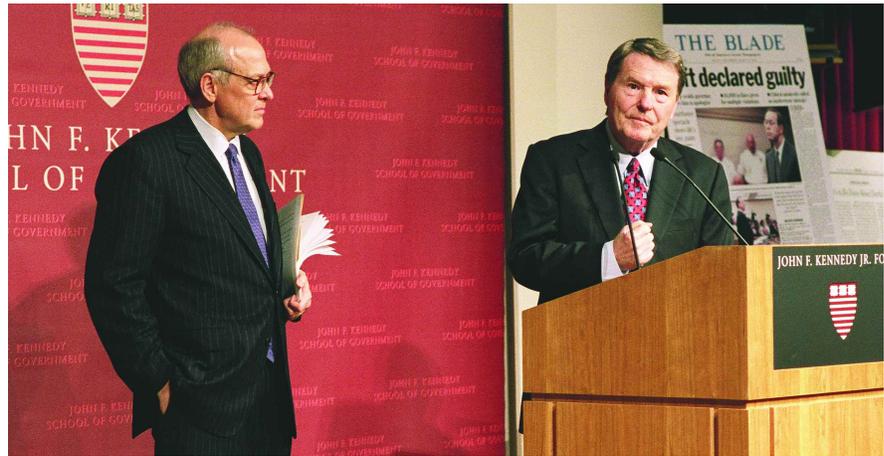
Journalism, broadcast journalism in particular, is the ultimate collaborative medium; it takes eighteen people just to make it possible for me to look out at a red light every evening and say: 'Good evening, I am Jim Lehrer.' So I accept this award for those eighteen people and the hundreds of others I have worked with in these now almost thirty years.

It *is* thirty years actually; it's not almost thirty years. In fact, your timing is absolutely terrific; we have just celebrated our thirtieth year. And as Alex said, it started in 1975. He left out the fact that when it started it had the worst title in the world. It was called "The Robert MacNeil Report." Can you imagine a worse title for a television program?

And after six months they consulted my mother and changed the name to "The MacNeil-Lehrer Report," and many wise people at the time said this was a crazy idea, because what we did was one story a night, for thirty minutes. And they said, "that's ridiculous; nobody is going to sit in front of their television set and watch a report on only one story."

We persevered, we hung in there, and in 1983, as Alex said, we went to an hour. It prompted one idiot TV critic to say, "Oh, my God, I thought they already were an hour long!"

But anyhow, we persevered and we are still there. And we are there mostly and primarily and always because of the hard



*Jim Lehrer and Alex Jones at the Goldsmith Awards*

work and talent of a group of very classy, important, professional journalists. But there are some basics that underline our operation. Several years ago I was asked by a journalism seminar out in Aspen if I had any guidelines that I used personally in the practice of journalism, and if I did, would I mind sharing them. Well, here is part of what I sent them:

- Do nothing I cannot defend.
- Cover, write and present every story with a care I would want if the story were about me.
- Assume there is at least one other side or version to every story.
- Assume the viewer is as smart and as caring and as good a person as I am.
- Assume the same about all people on whom I report.
- Assume personal lives are a private matter until a legitimate turn in the story absolutely mandates otherwise.
- Carefully separate opinion and analysis from straight news stories and clearly label everything.
- Do not use anonymous sources or blind quotes,

except on rare and monumental occasions. No one should ever be allowed to attack another anonymously.

- Finally, I am not in the entertainment business.

Those are our guidelines. And those guidelines, as they say at church, in the part of the country where Alex and I come from, that is the scripture from whence my brief message will come tonight. Because I believe several of them touch on some of the critical issues of our practice of journalism at the moment, a moment, by the way, that in many ways is a moment of absolute panic.

As Alex said, newspaper circulation and profits are down, so are the ratings of the nightly news programs. Sound the alarms: cable news and Internet bloggers and the satellite and other radio talk shouters, and the late night comedians, are teaming up with things called Yahoos and Googles and iPods and MP3 players and other strange things, to put us out of business.

I say to you tonight, that is absolute nonsense. Wait a minute, please. I believe, as somebody said before this, the only thing we have to fear is fear

itself. I think we need to look at a few basics. The bloggers are talkers and commentators, not reporters. The talk show hosts are reactors and commentators, not reporters. The comedians are entertainers and commentators, not reporters. The search engines search, they do not report. The iPods and MP3s are mere machines, as are cable television and satellite radio.

**Whatever the route it may travel to the blogger, the screamer, the comedian, the search engine, the whatever, it has to start with one of us, one of us in the real news business . . .**

All of them, every single one of them, have to have the news first to exist, to thrive, or to put it in another way, first there must be the news. David Letterman tells a joke about Dubai and the ports; nobody is going to laugh if they don't already know about Dubai and the ports. Jon Stewart reports a made-up news story about Danish cartoons; nobody is going to get it unless they know about the real news story concerning Danish cartoons. A blogger or a radio talker comes unglued about a shotgun accident or somebody named Michael Brown or Jack Abramoff or Barry Bonds or Donald Rumsfeld or Howard Dean or Governor Taft or Duke Cunningham.

They and their varied readers and listeners have to know who these people are and what the fuss is all about, or it isn't going to work. Whatever the route it

may travel to the blogger, the screamer, the comedian, the search engine, the whatever, it has to start with one of us, one of us in the real news business—one of us straight reporters, one of us journalists who was there, as Nick [Kristof] has been there in Darfur, or one who read the original document, as many in this room have done to win the awards they have won tonight and the recognition they have won and deserve, or the persons who did the original interview, did whatever it took to make it news in the first place, to bring it to the attention of all others in the information and reaction food chain.

There was a report out just yesterday from the Project for Excellence in Journalism, which was in the papers this morning, and it made this point dead on, saying that little if any original reporting is done by the bloggers or anybody else except the established news organizations. And you talk about the point that was made here just now, by the recognition of the six of you journalistic teams, and what came from that, all kinds of things came from that, and it started with you all, it started with reporting and it always starts with reporting.

What concerns me is there has been a growing tendency among some of us to stray from some of these basic principles that make us unique from all the others, to go with stories before they are quite ready, to spice them up a bit with



over-the-line commentary to raise the volume, and, worst of all, to make entertaining people one of our purposes.

I tell people all the time, if you want to be entertained, go to the circus, don't watch "The NewsHour." I never want anybody to confuse the news with entertainment or me with the clowns.

But there is even a very strong competitive reason for us to stick to our journalistic guns: because we have the field all to ourselves. None of these others can tell a joke or shout anything unless we have been there first. Now, that does not mean that we should not adjust to the new information environment. There are technology and cultural developments that are revolutionizing the way our good, solid, needed news is delivered and distributed.

Most newspapers are sticking with their core mission to report the news. But many of them, some of them in desperation, others in quiet acknowledgment of reality, are trying bold things with the Internet and other technologies to amortize their news collecting costs and

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## Spring Courses



**Alex Jones**, Laurence M. Lombard Lecturer in the Press and Public Policy, teaches a survey course on press, politics and public policy. Students

examine the lessons that can be learned from recent news coverage of such topics as the war on terror, the war in Iraq, the 2004 election, and the current political situation.



**Marie Danziger**, lecturer in public policy, taught the Arts of Communication. This course, geared toward potential leaders in politics and public

policy, aims to strengthen students' ability to communicate effectively in public—both in speech and in writing.



Religion, Politics and Public Policy is taught by **Richard Parker**, lecturer in public policy. Recent debates on stem-cell research and "family values,"

and earlier debates on abolition, sufferance, and temperance all have deeply religious dimensions. Yet the influence of religion in public life is largely unexamined. This course considers the shape of American religious beliefs today and probes how they continue to arise in law, politics, economics, the press, public morality, and social policy.

## Kaj Larsen Awarded Lithgow Summer Internship



**Kaj Larsen**, a master's student at the Kennedy School, has been awarded the annual Lynette Lithgow Summer Internship. He will work as an on-air correspondent for Current TV covering international issues. Kaj has worked as a production intern at NBC, and from 2000 to 2005 was a U.S. Navy SEAL. Last summer, he was embedded as a journalist with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan.

The Lithgow Internship was established in honor of the late Lynette Lithgow, a former Shorenstein Center Fellow and a BBC anchorwoman. The fund provides an opportunity for Kennedy School students to gain practical experience within the field of journalism.

The Shorenstein Center also granted an award to Kennedy School student **Roya Wolverson** for her summer internship at WBUR radio.



Professor **Robert J. Blendon** teaches Public Opinion, Polling and Public Policy. The course examines the influence and role of public opinion polling

in policy decision making, election campaigns, and journalism. Students learn the basic skills required to design, use, and critically interpret surveys measuring public opinion. Blendon also taught a second course, Political Analysis and Strategy for U.S. Health Care Policy.



McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics **Pippa Norris** taught Challenges of Democratization. The course examines how competition,

participation, and civil and political rights influence systems of democracy and takes a broadly comparative perspective, looking at both established and emerging democracies from all regions of the world.



**Fred Schauer**, Frank Stanton Professor of the First Amendment, taught Legal and Political Institutions in Development. This course focuses on the

legal and political aspects of international development, with a particular focus on the nature and varieties of legal and political institutions. Schauer also taught a course on evidence at the Harvard Law School.



**Tom Patterson**, Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press, taught a research seminar on press, politics and public policy, which examined the

intersection of these three areas. At the conclusion of the seminar students wrote a policy analysis exercise for a client. Research topics included the blogosphere and news coverage of global warming.

## CARNEGIE-KNIGHT TASK FORCE: Call for Research Proposals

The Shorenstein Center has taken a prominent role in a new initiative funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The initiative supports three distinct efforts to strengthen journalism education: curriculum enrichment (based at journalism schools at the University of Southern California; University of California, Berkeley; Northwestern University and Columbia University), News21 (an innovative student internship program), and the Carnegie-Knight Task Force on Journalism.

The Task Force component of the initiative is based at the Shorenstein Center. Its focus is on research and on creating a platform for Task Force members to speak out on journalism issues. Founding members include Shorenstein Center Director Alex Jones, and the journalism school deans at USC, Northwestern, Columbia, and Berkeley. Research funds are available through the Task Force to encourage the participation of scholars from other institutions.

Carnegie-Knight Task Force research funds are available for journalism research in three areas: government policy, applied research, and journalism education. Proposals that concern any aspect of these three areas will be considered.

The Task Force will take particular interest in proposals pertaining to the following four topics:

- Journalism-in-education (such as innovative ways to use news in middle school and secondary classrooms)
- News standards for new forms of journalism
- Innovations in journalism education (such as new methods of storytelling using new technologies and ways to integrate the larger university into journalism education)
- Regulatory reform in such areas as the impact on news of cross ownership and consolidation



In establishing this small-grants program, the goal was to assist faculty to meet out-of-pocket costs associated with the research. Faculty are already compensated in terms of salary by their universities for their research activities. Therefore, in order to stretch the research funds available to us, we are neither buying out faculty time nor providing supplemental faculty salary. (This policy also holds for those holding salaried positions in research institutes, think tanks, and the like, as well as freelance researchers.) However, wages for graduate or work-study assistants are available through the grant program to the degree that the researcher would otherwise have to pay these wages out of pocket. It is expected that no grant will exceed \$10,000 and that most will be considerably less.



*For details on how to apply, visit  
[www.shorensteincenter.org/carnegie\\_knight/research\\_fund\\_desc.shtml](http://www.shorensteincenter.org/carnegie_knight/research_fund_desc.shtml).*

## NEWSMAKERS



**John S. Carroll**

Knight Visiting Lecturer **John S. Carroll** delivered a compelling speech at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention on April 26 in Seattle, Washington. Carroll reflected on the myriad challenges facing newspaper-based journalism, as well as the journalism industry in general.

Amid ongoing speculation that technologies like the Internet and podcasting will one day put traditional newspapers out of business, Carroll pointed out that, for the most part, the information supplied by these alternative media tends to be derivative: "Newspapers dig up the news. Others repackage it," he said. In the event that newspapers do disappear, however, who will do the unglamorous job of "turning over rocks" and uncovering the stories that need telling?

At the heart of the matter, argued Carroll, are corporate ownership and the attendant demand for ever-increasing profits. Corporate superiors, naturally, emphasize the bottom line. But journalists believe they work for the reader, and the difficulty of serving competing interests inevitably interferes with their work. "It affects the way we see ourselves as editors and the way we behave," Carroll said. "It inhibits us when we should be bold."

Carroll has found several instances wherein local people seek to buy a paper back from its corporate owners in hopes of turning out a publication that better fulfills its obligation to the public. This sort of shift would be no cakewalk, of course. Indeed, the changes ahead could be either good or bad, but they *are* coming, Carroll warned. He cautioned journalists to "understand our position clearly, without illusion, because we have a mission ahead of us, and we need to be rigorously clear-headed." *The full text of Carroll's speech is available at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).*

**Marvin Kalb** continued his successful Kalb Report series this year; the show was seen by many via C-Span broadcast. Kalb's guests included Dan Rather; Judith Miller; Tom Curley; Tom Friedman; Ombudsmen Byron Calame, Deborah Howell, Michael Getler and Jeffrey Dvorkin; and Edward R. Murrow's colleagues Daniel Schorr, Richard Hottelet, and Don Hewitt, as well as Murrow's son, Casey Murrow.

**Pippa Norris**, Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics, will take a two-year leave from Harvard to take on a challenging new opportunity. She will become the new director of the Democratic Governance group at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York. The group promotes partnerships among nations in the process of developing democratic institutions. Its work involves strengthening parliaments; promoting sustainable electoral systems and processes; protecting justice and human rights; building stronger communities through decentralization, local governance and urban/rural development; and promoting governance to enable realization of the UN Millennium Development goals. [www.undp.org/governance](http://www.undp.org/governance)

**Bob Blendon**, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis at the Kennedy School, is the recipient of the 2006 John M. Eisenberg Excellence in Mentorship Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the health services research arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award is meant to honor an individual who has proven to be an outstanding mentor and resource for students, post-docs and junior faculty.

## Shorenstein Journalism Award Goes to *Newsweek* Reporter

The Shorenstein Journalism Award honors a journalist for a distinguished body of work that contributes to our understanding



*Gi-Wook Shin, Melinda Liu, and Alex Jones*

about the complexities of Asia. This year the award went to Melinda Liu of *Newsweek* magazine. Liu joined *Newsweek* in 1980. That same year she opened the Beijing bureau and, in 1998, was appointed bureau chief. She has reported extensively on international policy, both in the U.S. and abroad. As a foreign correspondent she has covered some of the top stories in recent history, including the fall of former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos and the

1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Among numerous accolades, Liu won the Overseas Press Club of America's Ed Cunningham Award in 1997 for the story "Hong Kong's Hand-over to China."

The Shorenstein Journalism Award is presented annually, jointly by the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Center at Stanford University and the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

## Fellows Share Research with Students

This semester, Shorenstein Center Fellows met with students in a series of informal discussions in which they offered glimpses into their respective professions and shared some of what their research has so far revealed. Media policy expert Robert Picard explored responses to media concentration, commercialism, and their effect on national identity in his talk "Media Policy in Europe and the United States." Science writer

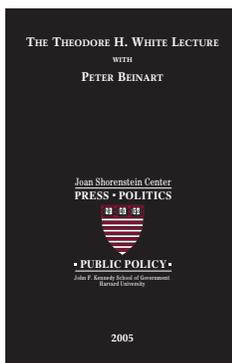
Cristine Russell's talk, "Public Science Wars: Science, Health and Environment in the News" considered how the news media can improve its coverage of science and public policy issues.

In "Why Americans Don't Like Journalists—and Why Too Many Journalists Don't Care," Dan Okrent, formerly of *The New York Times*, talked about his experience as the *Times*'s first public editor. Assistant professor Kimberly Gross focused

on "Race and the News Media." Bestselling author Charles Lewis shared observations about truth in journalism and the public's right to know in "If Given the Truth."

Knight Visiting Lecturer John Carroll talked with students about the effect of corporate control on journalism in "Newspaper Journalism in a Period of Media Upheaval."

## New on the Web



Three new working papers written by former Shorenstein Fellows, as well as transcripts of last fall's Theodore H. White Lecture and the 2006 Goldsmith Awards ceremony are available on the Shorenstein Center's website.

The following papers are available in portable digital file [PDF] format:

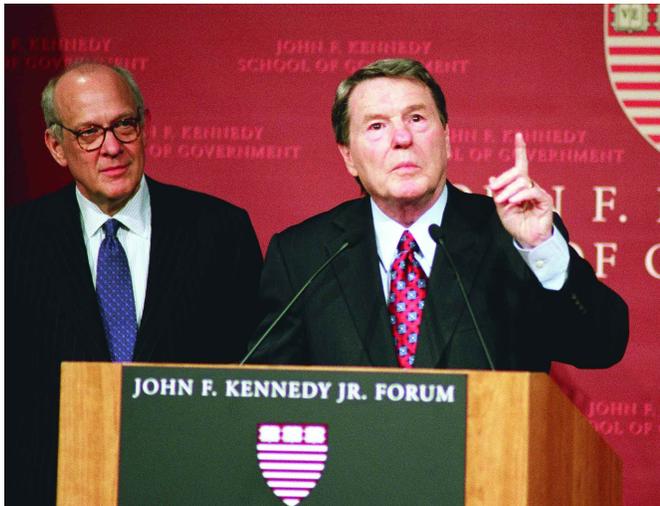
**David Anable.** *The Role of Georgia's Media—and Western Aid—in the Rose Revolution.*

**Julia Baird.** *Soft Power and Hard Views: How American Commentators are Spreading over the World's Opinion Pages.*

**Kevin T. Ryan.** *Army Manpower and the War on Terror.*

Video recordings and transcripts of our annual Goldsmith Awards ceremonies and our Theodore H. White Lectures can be found at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).

## Lehrer, from page 7



*Lehrer takes a question from the audience*

spread their reach beyond the traditional ink-on-paper newspaper delivered to the front door. Television networks and news programs, including ours, are making our segments on demand for iPods and all other kinds of pods. Partnerships between and among various media delivery modes are proliferating, more and more are coming, and that is the way it must be.

My point is simply that in the rush to modernize, to innovate, to survive in the new environments, that we don't lose sight of our purpose. That whatever the delivery system, the "information platform," as they are called now, we journalists are there to report and cover the news in a straight and professional way. Whether the news consumer is ultimately an old fogey reading the newspaper in a library in front of the fireplace or a fourteen-year-old getting the latest on a pink iPod with her name engraved on the case, the story, the first story, the straight news story, the investigative story, from which all commentary screams and jokes flow, originates in the eyes, ears, judgments and presentations of people who report the news for a living, if

not a calling.

And it's not only just about our reporting. There is also evidence that the role of the news gatekeeper is not only not going away, it's coming back big time. There is an increasing amount of news noise and noise about the news out there

in the blogosphere and the satellite, iPod and other spheres. People are busy, they want some professional, unbiased unagended assistance in sorting through it all, to help determine what is important, what is not so important, before they go off and read the editorial page or listen to the commentators or to be shouted at or to be entertained. That is what we journalists have always done.

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**I never want anybody  
to confuse the  
news with  
entertainment or  
me with the clowns.**

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There is no question that the nature, the machinery, and certainly the looks of the gatekeepers must change. But like it or not, there will always be a need for animals like television anchors who present the end result of the story sorting. They just won't always be old white men like me anymore.

A major problem we mainstream gatekeepers have now is a loss of substantial credibility and

trust that it takes to do our work effectively. Our arrogance, among other things, has gotten in the way. That is fixable, all of it is fixable. I happen to believe there is nothing wrong with the basic practice of journalism in America today that a little humility and a lot of professionalism and transparency couldn't cure—the very traits we want others that we report on to bring to the table.

That has to come along with the realization or re-realization that journalism is still about the story. Newspaper owners and network executives and Wall Street financiers must be in on it as well. They too must remember that Thomas Jefferson said our democratic society is dependent on an informed electorate, and that means being dependent on us, the journalists, to report the information from which opinions and informed votes flow. It also may mean leaving the huge profits to the search engines, as well as the shouting to the shouters and the entertaining to the clowns.

Again, I am delighted to be here to accept this award on behalf of my colleagues at "The NewsHour," and I would like to say, as a professional journalist, if you are to be known by the company you keep, please remember me always for the company I kept tonight with these fellow and sister journalists.

Thank you very much.

*For a complete transcript of the Goldsmith Awards ceremony go to [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).*

## Scholarships at the Kennedy School

Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government offers master's degrees in public policy and public administration. If you are a journalist interested in applying to the Kennedy School,



*Fellow Chuck Lewis with student Tim Coates*

please consider the following scholarship opportunities:

**William A. Starr Innovations Fellowship.** This fund was established to support students who are working to promote innovative solutions and imaginative thinking as leaders in journalism and public service. The fellowship will be awarded to a journalist in the MPP or MPA program who demonstrates original, nontraditional thinking in policy analysis and public service.

**Lewis Freedman Scholarship for Broadcast Journalism/Frederick Roy Martin Scholarship.** The Freedman scholarship was established in 1993 to encourage journalists to expand and deepen their knowledge of public policy issues. The Martin scholarship was established in 1995 through the estate of Nancy Martin. The income from these two funds supports students interested in journalism.

Applicants for these scholarships should contact Stephanie Streletz, associate director of student financial services, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-496-9078.

### Director, from page 1

play a critical role in underwriting the kind of work that used to be done by ambitious newspapers and broadcasters.

Another model that may have potential might be called the corporate social responsibility (CSR) approach, which is being championed by *The Guardian* in Britain. The concept of CSR is that corporations have an obligation beyond that owed to shareholders, and one that goes beyond what is required by law.

CSR is based on the premise that corporations have a duty both to act in a socially responsible manner and to fulfill their obligation to stakeholders. In the case of the media, there may be a responsibility to fulfill the news needs of readers and viewers. *The Guardian* this year published a "social, ethical and environmental audit," which publicly examined whether the paper was "living our values." *The Guardian's* audit was received by British journalists mostly with

hoots of derision. But in the United States many journalists viewed it as groundbreaking.

In the intensely competitive media marketplace, might such an annual audit of a news organization's commitment to news be a way of setting oneself apart? Might it not be—forgive me for putting it this way—a "branding opportunity"?

There is also the model envisioned by John Carroll, the Shorenstein Center's Knight Visiting Lecturer and former editor of *The Los Angeles Times*. He imagines a world in which newspaper chains will grow weary of profits that are stuck below the expected twenty percent and will sell their papers to new owners who will be satisfied with less profit and be more committed to public service.

There is a long tradition of rich, ambitious owners buying newspapers and operating them mostly for pride rather than profit. Eugene Meyer, Katharine

Graham's father, was a financier who bought the struggling *Washington Post* in 1933 and operated it at a loss for years. Might not there be dot.com billionaires or other wealthy types who see newspapers that way, or are inspired to create whole new ventures that do the things that newspapers have traditionally done, but without the ink and paper?

Of course, newspapers—where most of the nation's actual reporting is done—may find a way both to save themselves and their crucial mission, with new ventures that provide the cash to do serious reporting. One can always hope.

What seems undeniable is that news is entering an environment close to a pure open market, in competition with endless options and alternatives that are not news. This is the future of news, and it is very serious stuff. We hope you will be with us in October when we grapple with it.

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