

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

Fall 2009

# Press | Politics

## Shorenstein Fellows, Faculty Ready for Fall

The fall semester at the Shorenstein Center will be an exciting place for research and reflection with a new group of Fellows and Visiting Faculty who will work and study at the Center throughout the semester. Pictured from left are Steve Williams, executive editor for the BBC’s Asia Pacific global channels; Loen Kelley, television producer; John G. Geer, professor of political science at Vanderbilt University; and Bill Mitchell of the Poynter Institute. The Visiting Murrow Lecturer is Dan Okrent, the first public editor of *The New York Times*.



“The Shorenstein Fellows this semester represent a diverse and highly experienced mix of professionalism and scholarship, and Dan Okrent — our visiting lecturer who is teaching

a course heavily weighted toward writing — is without question one of the best writers and editors in the country,” said Alex S. Jones, director of the Shorenstein Center.

Read more about the Fellows and Visiting Faculty on page 4.

## New Book by Shorenstein Center Director Alex S. Jones



*Losing the News: The Future of the News That Feeds Democracy* by Alex S. Jones. See page 2.

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Linda Douglass, Office of Health Care Reform at the White House and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will participate in an upcoming health care reform panel in Washington, D.C. See p. 3.



A.M. Rosenthal, former executive editor of *The New York Times*.

## Shorenstein Center Announces Rosenthal Program

The Rosenthal Writer-in-Residence Program, named in honor of A.M. Rosenthal, brings professional nonfiction writers to the Shorenstein Center to provide an opportunity for them to conduct research and work on a specific project, as well as interact with a community of scholars and students. “We are honored that Abe’s family and friends have chosen this new initiative as his memorial,” said Alex S. Jones, director of the Shorenstein Center. “He was a fierce believer in the power of writing and in democracy, and we will work to instill those values in the program.” (continued on page 5)

## Author Taylor Branch to Deliver 20th Annual Theodore H. White Lecture

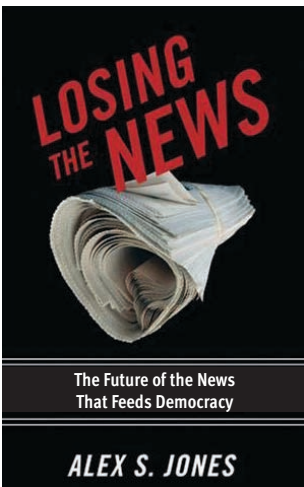


Taylor Branch will deliver the 20th annual T.H. White Lecture at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

Pulitzer Prize–winning author Taylor Branch will deliver the 20th annual Theodore H. White Lecture on Press and Politics on November 12 at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

Branch is the bestselling author of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954–63* (which won the Pulitzer Prize); *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963–65*; and *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965–1968*. His new book, *The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President*, is based on 79 conversations between Branch and Clinton, in the White House, between 1993 and 2001. Initiated by President Clinton, the project was intended to preserve an unfiltered record of presidential experience.

## New Book by Alex S. Jones Surveys Journalism's Future



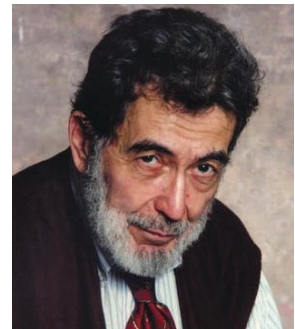
Shorenstein Center director and Pulitzer Prize–winner Alex S. Jones has a new book, *Losing the News: The Future of the News That Feeds Democracy*, published by Oxford University Press.

In *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review, Harold Evans writes, “Jones swiftly demolishes the notion that news is defined only by the hour of the day. Obviously we don’t want to be told what we know already, but significance may not be governed by the clock. The most valuable element in journalism is often enough not an episode that occurred today, yesterday or, horrors, the day before. It’s the creation of a new awareness provided by either months of investigation or relentlessly regular coverage.”

Visit our website at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org) to find links to reviews of the book and interviews with Jones on *Fresh Air* and *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

## Nat Hentoff to Receive David Nyhan Prize for Political Journalism

Preceding the T.H. White Lecture on November 12, the Nyhan Prize will be given to Nat Hentoff, a syndicated columnist for United Media. Hentoff writes regularly for *The Wall Street Journal* and for 50 years was a columnist for *The Village Voice*.



Syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff, formerly of *The Village Voice*.

## Salant Lecturer Will Be Jonathan Zittrain



This year the Salant Lecture on Freedom of the Press will be delivered by Jonathan Zittrain, a Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. The lecture will take place on October 22.

### What's new at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org) →

#### → LEARN MORE In the News

Find recent links to articles and stories written by former and current Shorenstein Fellows, faculty and advisory board members. Read book reviews, opinions and analysis of current events, and investigative reports by Shorenstein Center–affiliated journalists and scholars.

#### SEARCH Archives

Find it here. We've stocked up our archive pages with more material and information. Search former Fellows' papers and bios, find research on press and politics and learn more about past Shorenstein Center events, Goldsmith Prize winners and T.H. White Lecturers.

## Fall Brown-bag Lecture Series Brings Experts on Press and Politics to the Shorenstein Center



### CANDY CROWLEY

Senior political correspondent, CNN. "Obama: Down to the Nitty-Gritty."



### CLAY SHIRKY

New York University. "Internet Issues Facing Newspapers."



### DAVID LEONHARDT

*New York Times* Economic Scene columnist. "How Do We Grow From Here? The American Economy After the Great Recession."



### JIM HOGE

Editor, *Foreign Affairs*.



### ETHAN ZUCKERMAN

Senior researcher, Berkman Center for Internet and Society; co-founder, Media Cloud.



### MAJOR GARRETT

Senior White House correspondent for the Fox News Channel.



### JOHN F. HARRIS

Editor-in-chief, *Politico*.



### KATHLEEN PARKER

Syndicated columnist, *The Washington Post* Writers Group.



### CHRYSTIA FREELAND

U.S. managing editor, *Financial Times*.

## Shorenstein Center Scholarship

The full-tuition Shorenstein Center Scholarship in Press and Politics is awarded to an individual who has a proven interest in issues concerning the press and politics. The scholarship will support a student who wishes to pursue graduate study in the field of press, politics and public policy. As a demonstration of their commitment, successful applicants should be professionally employed in the field (as a journalist or in the field of communication for a nonprofit, government agency or political entity) for three years after graduation.

Applicants should contact Stephanie Streletz, associate director of Student Financial Services, Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-496-9078.

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org)

## Shorenstein Center Hosts Briefing for Journalists on Health Care Reform

On September 30 the Shorenstein Center hosted a briefing on health care reform at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Two panels explored the news coverage and public opinion of the health care debate.

The first panel, "News Coverage of Health Care Reform: Metanarratives and the Missing Narratives," included panelists **David Broder**, *The Washington Post*; **Linda Douglass**, Office of Health Care Reform at the White House and U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services; and **Dr. Timothy Johnson**, ABC News.

The second panel, "Health Reform: Public Opinion, Polling, Ad Campaigns and Grassroots Mobilization," included panelists **Robert Blendon**, Harvard University; **Theda Skocpol**, Harvard University; and **Kathleen Hall Jamieson**, University of Pennsylvania. Both panels were moderated by **Alex S. Jones**, director of the Shorenstein Center.





# Shorenstein Center Welcomes New Fellows and Faculty

## FELLOWS



**JOHN GEER** is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University. He earned his Ph.D. in 1986 from Princeton University and his BA from Franklin and Marshall College, with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1980. Geer has published five books and over 25 articles on presidential politics and elections, and recently served as editor of *The Journal of Politics*. His book *In Defense of Negativity: Attack Ads in Presidential Campaigns* won the 2008 Goldsmith Book Award. He has appeared on FOX, CNN, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, ABC and NPR, and has also written op-ed pieces for *Politico*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *Chicago Tribune*. Geer will look at the news media's coverage of attack advertising and what role this coverage may have in the recent increase in negativity in political campaigns.



**LOEN KELLEY** is the producer of "Justice," the first Harvard University lecture series offered to the public, both online and on the air. Twelve one-hour episodes will be broadcast in the fall of 2009 on PBS. Previously, Kelley had a 14-year career at CBS News where she covered high-profile criminal trials, Colombia's war on drugs and the 1997 handover of Hong Kong. During her 20 years in television with CBS, CNN, CNBC and WGBH, she developed two new television series and produced long-form documentaries, live daily business news, celebrity interviews, reality shows and breaking news events. In 2001 she received the Edward R. Murrow Award for best news documentary. Her research at the Shorenstein Center will focus on the evolving roles of television reporters as they adapt to the world of new media.



**BILL MITCHELL**, the Shorenstein Center's Sagan Fellow, is a faculty member at the Poynter Institute, where he leads a new program exploring emerging economic models for news. He writes the NewsPay blog for Poynter Online. Mitchell, who also heads Poynter's international programs, joined the Institute in 1999 to direct the school's website, a resource for journalists around the world. His Poynter teaching has included seminars in ethics, leadership and new media development in South Africa and Poland. Before joining Poynter, Mitchell worked as director of electronic publishing for *The San Jose Mercury News*, as Detroit bureau chief for *Time* magazine and in various reporting and editing roles for *The Detroit Free Press*, including city hall bureau chief, Washington correspondent and European correspondent. At the Shorenstein Center, he will examine frameworks for sustaining news in the public interest.



**STEPHEN WILLIAMS**, the Shorenstein Center's Goldsmith Fellow, is executive editor for the BBC's global channels in the Asia Pacific region, which extends from Iran through Central Asia to Afghanistan, China and Vietnam. He oversaw the launch in early 2009 of the internationally acclaimed BBC Persian TV, and he was the senior editor at BBC World TV. He was the BBC's producer in East Berlin before and during the fall of the Wall. He went on to be an overseas producer. His journalistic career began in South Wales in a newspaper group as a reporter. Williams moved to the role of regional radio news and sports reporter/anchor and finally to BBC television news headquarters in London in 1988. He is the senior executive overseeing the new TV channel, 10 radio channels and all their associated websites. At the Shorenstein Center, his research will focus on the media's impact on foreign policy.

## VISITING FACULTY



**DAN OKRENT** is the Visiting Murrow Lecturer on the Practice of Press and Public Policy. Before his appointment as the first public editor of *The New York Times* in the wake of the Jayson Blair scandal, he was editor-at-large at Time Inc., editor of new media for all Time Inc. publications and managing editor of *Life* magazine. Okrent was the first Hearst Foundation Fellow in New Media at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and was a Shorenstein Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School in 2006. His six books include *Great Fortune: The Epic of Rockefeller Center*, which was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in history, and *Public Editor #1*, an annotated collection of his *Times* columns. His forthcoming *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* will be published in 2010. He is teaching "Writing and Reporting on Politics and Policy."

## APPLY TO BE A SHORENSTEIN FELLOW

The Joan Shorenstein Center offers a one-semester Fellowship at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Fellows are domestic or international journalists, scholars and/or policymakers who are interested in the influence of the press on public policy and politics. The Fellowships offers a unique opportunity for scholars and practitioners to share their knowledge and expertise in a collegial and intellectually stimulating environment. The primary focus for a Fellow in residence is a paper on a topic examining and analyzing the influence of the press on politics and public policy in the domestic or international arena.

Applicants may download a copy of the Fellowship description and the Fellowship Application Form from our website, [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org). **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2010.**

## Goldsmith Awards

The Goldsmith Awards Program seeks to encourage a more insightful, spirited public debate about the interrelationship between government, politics and the press. The program is funded by an annual grant from the Goldsmith Fund of the Greenfield Foundation. **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2009.**

**THE GOLDSMITH PRIZE FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING** The annual Goldsmith Prize honors investigative reporting in a story or series of related stories that best promotes more effective and ethical conduct of government, the making of public policy or the practice of politics. The winner receives \$25,000.

**THE GOLDSMITH BOOK PRIZES** The book award consists of trade and academic categories, and a prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to a book in each category.

For additional information visit our website: [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).

## Rosenthal Writer-in-Residence Program at the Shorenstein Center *(continued from page 1)*

A.M. Rosenthal, former executive editor of *The New York Times*, was a passionate reporter and editor who had a profound influence on the shape of journalism. As an editor he oversaw the coverage of major news stories, including the Vietnam War, the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate scandal. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1960 for international reporting.

The program is generously funded by Shirley Lord Rosenthal, the Bialkin Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lauren, the Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Peter G. Peterson, the Rattner Family Foundation, Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert, Richard E. Snyder, the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation, James D. Wolfensohn and the Wolfensohn Family Foundation.

In addition to a writing project, the writer-in-residence will teach student workshops and participate in Shorenstein Center events. Candidates for the program should be writers with an established project and a solid history of published books or essays in the area of press, policy or public affairs.

Writers who wish to be considered for the Rosenthal Writer-in-Residence Program should send a one-page letter describing their writing project, along with their curriculum vitae, to Alex S. Jones ([alex\\_jones@harvard.edu](mailto:alex_jones@harvard.edu)), who will chair the selection committee.

## FALL 2009 COURSES



Nicco Mele, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy.

**Political Communication.** Considers the degree to which Americans' political opinions and actions are influenced by the mass media as well as the influence of public opinion on public policy.

**MATTHEW BAUM**, Kalb Professor of Global Communication

**Mass Media, Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy.** Investigates the various means through which the media and public opinion can influence U.S. foreign policy. **MATTHEW BAUM**, Kalb Professor of Global Communication

**Writing and Reporting on Politics and Policy: Understanding the Relationship Between the Press and Public Officials.**

Brings future policymakers to the journalistic side of the exchange to better understand the standards and goals of the journalists who will cover them in their future roles as advocates, administrators or elected officials.

**DAN OKRENT**, Visiting Murrow Lecturer on the Practice of Press and Public Policy

**Media, Politics and Power in the Digital Age.** Introduces students to the history of the Internet and the emerging technologies that are defining the Digital Age. **NICCO MELE**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

**The Arts of Communication.** Seeks to strengthen the capacity of each student's ability not only to analyze thoughtfully but also to communicate clearly and persuasively. **MARIE DANZIGER**, Lecturer in Public Policy

**Intensive Writing for Politics and Policy.** Focuses on the strategies and techniques behind great policy writing and on the skills and habits of excellent political writers past and present. **JOSHUA ROTHMAN, GREG HARRIS**, Adjunct Lecturers in Public Policy

**Running for Office and Managing Campaigns.** Designed to demystify the daunting political campaign process and operations for students who wish to run for political office or work in political campaigns. **STEVE JARDING**, Lecturer in Public Policy

**The Making of a Politician.** From media training, candidate presentation, debate prep and to how to write a speech that captures your audience, this course examines the intricacies of becoming a polished and accomplished public figure. **STEVE JARDING**, Lecturer in Public Policy

**New Media and Democracy.** Focuses on information, communication and new

media technologies, their industries and relationships to participatory democracy, civil society, informed citizens and economic justice. **NOLAN BOWIE**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

**Research Seminar: Politics and Advocacy.** Examines democratic politics and institutions such as campaigns, elections, advocacy, organizing, lobbying; and the press and its interactions with politics and public policy. **BILL PURCELL**, Lecturer in Public Policy and Director, Institute of Politics; **JEEYANG RHEE BAUM**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

**Democratic Governance.** Provides insights into why democratic governance matters and applies policy recommendations to specific cases. **PIPPA NORRIS**, Paul F. McGuire Lecturer on Comparative Politics

**Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Private and Social Sectors.** Introduces the theory and practice of entrepreneurial management in the private, public and social sectors. **DICK CAVANAGH**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy



Wooden boardwalks connect houses and community buildings in Newtok, Alaska, and keep residents from sinking into the muddy ground as they walk or ride around the village.

### News21 Intern Reports on Climate Change

Kennedy School student Anna York traveled to Newtok, Alaska, to see firsthand how the rising sea threatened the stability of the village and its residents. Her trip coincided with a visit by state and federal governments of the proposed new village site, nine miles north of Newtok across the Ninglick River.

To see other stories by News21 interns, visit [www.news21.com](http://www.news21.com).



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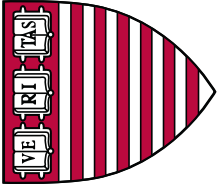
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