



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

# Press/Politics

Spring 2009

## Washington Post Reporters Win Goldsmith Prize

At the Goldsmith Awards Ceremony on March 17, Debbie Cenziper and Sarah Cohen were awarded the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting for their series in *The Washington Post*: “Forced Out: The Cost of D.C.’s Condo Boom.”

The prize honors journalism that promotes more effective and ethical conduct of government, the making of public policy, or the practice of politics by disclosing excessive secrecy, impropriety and mismanagement, or instances of particularly commendable government performance. Cenziper and Cohen exposed the cruelty of landlords who had been reducing the quality of their tenants’ living conditions to such a degree that the

tenants would be forced to move out. The landlords could then sell their rent-controlled apartment buildings for a profit. “We were able to establish a pattern of landlords trying to cash in on the real estate market in Washington and doing very, very cruel things to families,” Cenziper said. As a result of *The Post’s* exhaustive investigation, a wave of reforms swept the city’s regulatory systems. “The people helped by

this intense, expensive investigative effort were among the city’s most powerless,” said Alex S. Jones, director of the Shorenstein Center.

The winners received an award of \$25,000, and the finalists received a \$10,000 award, increased from \$2,000 in previous years. “The Goldsmith Prize finalists demonstrate that investigative reporting of the

highest quality is alive at newspapers of all sizes as well as in new Web-based news organizations,” Jones said. The annual Goldsmith Awards Program is funded by the Greenfield Foundation.

Alex S. Jones with Debbie Cenziper and Sarah Cohen, winners of the 2009 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting.



## Prior and Mayer Awarded Book Prizes



Markus Prior and Jane Mayer, winners of the Goldsmith Book Prizes. See page 2.

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Governors David A. Paterson and Jon S. Corzine at the NYC Briefing, p. 3.



## Spring Fellows, Faculty Join the Shorenstein Center

From left: Fellow Michael Traugott, professor of communication studies at the University of Michigan; Nicco Mele, Visiting Edward R. Murrow Lecturer; Fellows Maralee Schwartz, former reporter and editor at *The Washington Post*; Mitchell Stephens, professor of journalism and mass communications at New York University; and James O’Shea, former editor and executive vice president of *The Los Angeles Times*. (continued on page 2)

## Goldsmith Seminar Highlights Best Investigative Reporting



Goldsmith Seminar panelists (left to right): Jane Mayer, Alex S. Jones (moderator), Franco Ordoñez, Ames Alexander, M. L. Elrick and Jim Schaefer.

At the Goldsmith Seminar on March 18, the winners and finalists of the investigative reporting prizes participated in a panel to share their stories. Each of the articles uncovered corruption in places of power and exposed abuse of the vulnerable. Alex S. Jones moderated the discussion.

The winning series was “Forced Out: The Cost of D.C.’s Condo Boom” by Debbie Cenziper and Sarah Cohen of *The Washington Post*. Cenziper interviewed housing advocates who talked about the “very cruel ways that landlords were pushing families out of rent-controlled housing so that they could get out from under housing laws and convert to condominiums or sell their buildings for huge profits.” Cohen added that the families living in the harsh conditions were eager to talk to them: “It wasn’t a matter of finding secret people,” she said, “it was a matter of listening.” When Jones asked them about the status of investigative reporting at *The Post*, Cenziper said that despite the downsizing of newrooms across the country, investigative reporting at *The Post* is “going strong.”

Ames Alexander and Franco Ordoñez of *The Charlotte Observer* discussed their series “The Cruellest Cuts: The Human Cost of Bringing Poultry to Your Table” that revealed how a poultry-processing company ignored and threatened injured workers to create an illusion of safety inside its plants. The stories have led to congressional hearings, the indictment of a top company manager, more staff for safety regulators and new federal legislation to curb the underreporting of workplace injuries. Ordoñez found that

“these workers felt like it’s part of the deal to get exploited by this big American company.”

Jim Schaefer and M.L. Elrick of *The Detroit Free Press* discussed their investigation “A Mayor in Crisis” that exposed lies, false testimony and insider dealings of then-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his top aide as they attempted to cover up their romantic affair. As a result, Mayor Kilpatrick resigned from office, was charged with multiple felonies, sentenced to 120 days in jail, restitution of \$1 million to the City of Detroit and loss of his law license. Before the investigation, Kilpatrick was seen as “the future of Detroit — he was Obama before there was Obama,” Elrick said. In reading 14,000 text messages sent from the mayor’s phone, Elrick and Schaefer looked beyond the evidence of an adulterous affair and found evidence of criminal activity.

In “Message Machine,” David Barstow of *The New York Times* documented how the Pentagon constructed an elaborate apparatus to co-opt military analysts — mostly retired generals — to make its case for the Iraq War. He revealed talking points in high-level Pentagon briefings that were repeated in TV interviews. Many of these analysts had financial interests in military businesses benefiting from the policies they assessed. Barstow noted that the timing was ripe for this investigation, with the “gradual decline of independent, rigorous journalism...and the rise of the spin industry, which is becoming increasingly robust, sophisticated and intertwined with our government.”

*The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Patricia Sabatini and Len Boselovic, in “Degree of Influence: Academic Corruption at West Virginia University,” found that an M.B.A. claimed by the daughter of the West Virginia governor and friend of the West Virginia University president was, in fact, a false degree that was conferred by academic fraud, followed by a cover-up by WVU. As a result, WVU withdrew the M.B.A., and the furor prompted the university’s president, provost and business-school dean to step down. “She said that her word was better than a transcript, and that for anybody to question that she had a degree was offensive,” said Sabatini.

As the first Goldsmith finalist from an online news organization, *ProPublica*, Abrahm Lustgarten’s “Buried Secrets: Is Natural Gas Drilling Endangering U.S. Water Supplies?” exposed the potential threat to drinking water supplies from the largely unregulated business of drilling for natural gas. Lustgarten said that as he spoke with communities, “it really began shifting from a story about science and numbers on paper and regulations, into a story about how drilling was affecting people by not having water to bathe in, to cook with or to drink.” By “connecting the dots” he was able to report on the larger picture of the detrimental effects of drilling.

### Book Prize Winners

The Goldsmith Book Prize is awarded to the best academic and best trade books that seek to improve the quality of government or politics through an examination of press and politics in the formation of public policy.

The prize for best academic book was awarded to Markus Prior for *Post-Broadcast Democracy: How Media Choice Increases Inequality in Political Involvement and Polarizes Elections*. The prize for best trade book went to Jane Mayer for *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*. At the Goldsmith Seminar, Mayer said that in her research of the torture authorized by U.S. officials, she found “something incredibly deep about our values as a country.”

## Ifill Wins Goldsmith Career Award



Goldsmith Career Award winner Gwen Ifill.

**G**wen Ifill of PBS received the 2009 Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism and gave the keynote address at the March 17 ceremony. Moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week* and senior correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, she moderated the vice presidential debates during the 2004 and 2008 elections. She is the author of *The Breakthrough: Politics in the Age of Obama*.

Alex S. Jones introduced Ifill as having “made diversity normal on the longest-running prime-time news and public affairs program on television.” Jones said that during Ifill’s career as a journalist, “a revolution has taken place that has occurred quietly but powerfully,” in that women, minorities, young people and a truly diverse array are now normal in serious TV shows. Ifill was a leader in making that happen.

### AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE ASKING QUESTIONS, JOURNALISM WILL STILL BE VITAL.

In her address, Ifill looked forward to the future of journalism: “As long as people are asking questions,” she said, “journalism will still be vital.” She mentioned her high school guidance counselor who discouraged her from applying to Simmons College in Boston, where she went on to earn a degree and will be giving the commencement address this year. “If the candidates I profile in [*The Breakthrough*] have anything in common,” Ifill said, “it’s that people told them no, people told them to wait their turn.” Ifill herself has heard the same words, and has proven them wrong with her outstanding achievements.

## Shorenstein Center Hosts Briefing on Economy

**T**he Harvard Club of New York was the site of a briefing for journalists on the economy and New York, sponsored by the Shorenstein Center on February 19.

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine, governor of New Jersey; the Honorable David A. Paterson, governor of New York; and journalists from over 50 news organizations attended the briefing. Alex S. Jones, Shorenstein Center director, moderated the discussion.



Governor David A. Paterson, Governor Jon S. Corzine and Alex S. Jones.

In their respective talks, the two governors agreed that bold government action is needed to turn around the economic crisis. Governor Paterson observed that the then-proposed federal stimulus package “is as much psychological as it is fiscal,” and he predicted it would build consumer and stockholder confidence. The crisis signals an opportunity to analyze past actions, Paterson said, adding that “the regulation of money and the transparency of the movement

of capital is vital” to understanding the current situation. Paterson called upon the citizens of New York to engage in “shared sacrifice” to tighten spending and agendas to emerge from the economic downturn. Such action, Paterson concluded, “will be frightfully difficult but richly rewarding.”

Governor Corzine continued the discussion with an optimistic turn, noting that “within



Walter H. Shorenstein with Governor Jon S. Corzine.

the context of the challenges that we face today are great opportunities.” Enumerating several possible government investment projects, such as infrastructure, biotechnology and pharmaceutical research, Corzine argued that these projects would create jobs and provide a rich return on investment. As in restructurings of the past, Corzine said, the nation will emerge stronger if it can reduce costs and increase productivity. He concluded, “Then when the economy returns to its more stable state, the advantages flow for society at large.”

## Fellows, Faculty with Diverse Backgrounds, Common Research



**James O'Shea** served as editor and executive vice president of *The Los Angeles Times* from November 2006 to January 2008. He previously worked for *The Chicago Tribune* in many leadership roles, culminating in his position as managing editor (2001–2006). O'Shea joined *The Chicago Tribune* in 1979 from *The Des Moines Register* where he had been a reporter, editor and Washington

correspondent. He joined *The Tribune's* Washington bureau in 1982, where he covered both national budget policy and national security. O'Shea helped *The Chicago Tribune* develop *RedEye*, originally a weekday, quick-read newspaper distributed free in the Chicago area and now also available online. O'Shea is the author of two books, *The Daisy Chain*, about the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s, and *Dangerous Company*, co-authored with Charles Madigan. He is examining conflicts between editors and owners of newspapers.



**Mitchell Stephens** is the author of *A History of News*, an extended history of journalism that has been translated into four languages and was a *New York Times* "Notable Book of the Year." His latest book, *The Rise of the Image, the Fall of the Word*, a historical analysis of our current communications revolution, was published by Oxford University Press. Professor

Stephens is also the author of *Broadcast News*, the most widely used radio and television news textbook, and the co-author of *Writing and Reporting the News*. In recent years, he has written numerous articles on media issues and aspects of contemporary thought for publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Columbia Journalism Review*. His research project argues for a proposed change in the priorities of major news organizations providing more informed analysis on major events of the day.



**Maralee Schwartz** began her career as a journalist at *The Washington Monthly*. She joined *The Washington Post* in 1979 as a researcher on the national staff, eventually becoming a political reporter. During the 1992 general election, Schwartz moved on to the assignment desk, editing political stories, and on election night, was named congressional editor. After the 1996

election, Schwartz became national political editor, responsible for all national political coverage as well as coverage of the White House. In 2006 after more than 27 years covering national stories, Schwartz was named deputy business editor in charge of corporate governance, white collar crime and the markets. In the fall of 2007, Schwartz was a Fellow at the Institute of Politics. She was the Visiting Murrow Lecturer in the Practice of Press and Politics at the Kennedy School in the fall of 2008. She taught a course entitled "How Politicians Connect with Voters: The 2008 Presidential Campaign." Her research focuses on nonprofit journalism.



**Michael Traugott** studies the mass media and its impact on American politics, including research on the use of the media by candidates in their campaigns and its impact on voters, and the ways that campaigns are covered and the impact on candidates. He has a particular interest in the use of surveys and polls and the way they are used to cover campaigns and

elections. Traugott has consulted for a number of media and news organizations and the Voter News Service, the national exit poll operation. He is the author of 12 books and more than 75 articles and book chapters. In 2008, he revised *The Voters' Guide to Election Polls* with Paul Lavrakas, and he co-edited the *Sage Handbook of Public Opinion Research* with Wolfgang Donsbach. He is a Past President of the American Association for Public Opinion Research and just completed a term as President of the World Association for Public Opinion Research. His research focuses on polling and newsmaking in the 2008 campaign.

fellows

visiting faculty



**Nicco Mele** is teaching a course on the Internet as a mechanism for communication, with a special emphasis on its use in politics. He is the founder and president of EchoDitto, a leading Internet strategy consulting company. As the Internet operations director of Governor Howard Dean's presidential primary campaign in 2003, Mele managed all

technical, functional and design aspects of Gov. Dean's national web presence. Following the Dean campaign, one of EchoDitto's first clients was a then little-known state senator in Illinois, Barack Obama, who was running for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Mele is a co-founder of GeniusRocket.com, a crowd-sourced creative ad agency, and he is a co-founder of ProxyDemocracy.com, an online resource for proxy voting and shareholder resolutions. In the fall of 2008, Mele was a Fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics.

# Shorenstein Center Scholarship Recipients

Aram Hur is a second-year Master's student at the Kennedy School and an aspiring politics scholar. Her interest lies in the intersection of the press and politics, especially how the changes within media will affect power dynamic between politicians and the public. As a former journalist, she sees the media "not simply as a mediator, but as an active player in politics," and is a firm believer that it can significantly influence policy outcomes.

## MEDIA AS AN ACTIVE PLAYER

Aram's interest in journalism and communication grew naturally out of her bicultural background. A native of Korea, Aram grew up moving between Korea and the U.S. every few years. In the process, she says she witnessed multiple U.S.-Korea relations events that received very different coverage in each country's media and arguably impacted the different policy stances. "I became curious about exactly how journalists fit into the political process

and how much influence they have." Before coming to the Kennedy School, Aram reported for CNN, *Time* magazine, and *Newsweek Korea*. She was also the news editor and staff reporter for her alma mater's newspaper, *The Stanford Daily*.

Aram came to the Kennedy School to build a broader understanding of the political process. She says the Shorenstein Center has been an invaluable resource. "The caliber of the people that this place attracts is simply amazing," she says. She notes working with Shorenstein fellows and attending the brown-bag speaker series as highlights.

After the Kennedy School, Aram plans to pursue a Ph.D. in political science with a continued emphasis in press and politics. She believes she can have the most impact by being at the cutting-edge of the transformation in media and political communication and sharing her findings with



## Aram Hur

both the academic and practitioner communities. "I am grateful for the care that the Shorenstein Center's faculty and staff have given me," she says. "My biggest gift from the Kennedy School is the network of mentors and friends."



## Soomin Seo

is a journalist with a vision. Her passion for media that can "transcend a linear model and promote democracy" has taken Soomin from Korea to Africa to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A first-year student in the M.P.P. program at the Kennedy School, Soomin began

her reporting career in her home of South Korea, but periodically reported from North Korea where she was confined to a hotel with no cell phone and no Internet. She refers to her time there as a "privilege" and admits that it was her favorite place to work: "I didn't have an editor checking in an hour before a story was due!"

Reporting in South Korea was much different, Soomin says, as reporters are quick to embrace new media technologies in precarious political situations. Soomin mentioned how South Korea is a test case for new media research like that being done by Nicco Mele, Shorenstein visiting faculty.

Her experience in reporting the tense relationship between North and South Korea prepared her for a shift to covering militant movements in other Asian and African areas. "I got along with the rebels," she says, and found that she had her own

story to share about overcoming poverty and conflict. In Darfur and Nigeria, Soomin met with little resistance as a journalist, mostly out of people's curiosity: "I was the first female Asian reporter most people had ever met."

The Shorenstein Center has played a crucial role in her studies, Soomin says. She appreciates the Center's "culture of giving" and its interest in Asian affairs. "The Shorenstein Center is more than just a journalism school," she says, "it shares my passion for discovering what the media can do for society."

Soomin previously reported for *The Hankyoreh*, an independent South Korean newspaper, as well as *The Korea Times*, BBC Radio, *The Straits Times* and the feminist journal *IF*, the first Korean magazine championing a feminist agenda.



Left: Congressman John Lewis delivers the 19th annual T.H. White Lecture at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.



Congressman Lewis with Harvard Kennedy School students.

# Congressman John Lewis Delivers T.H. White Lecture

Just two weeks after the historic election of Barack Obama to the U.S. presidency, Congressman John Lewis delivered the 2008 Theodore H. White Lecture at the Kennedy School. Shorenstein Center Director Alex S. Jones said Congressman Lewis had the “distinction of being the only person to win the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for Lifetime Achievement...for a *lifetime* of courage.”

“I know that I am supposed to deliver a lecture,” Congressman Lewis began, “but I think what I have to say tonight will be more like a testimony.” In an emotional reminiscence, Lewis recalled his days in the segregated Deep South. The son of sharecroppers, he described his political awakening listening to the words of Martin Luther King Jr., the peaceful 1965 march he and hundreds of others attempted to make from Selma to Montgomery

that ended in violence. He recalled how “the American press has been a sympathetic referee in the struggle for social justice.” Obama’s election was the product of a “peaceful

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THE AMERICAN  
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—————

revolution,” Lewis said, and called on all those present to continue that work. Acknowledging the reporter for which the lecture was named, Lewis said, “If Teddy White were here tonight...he would say that the struggle, the desire, the urge to create a more perfect union or to build what we in the civil

rights movement call a beloved community did not start with this election and it will not end here today.”

The next morning, the T.H. White Seminar continued the conversation with a panel including Congressman Lewis; Lawrence D. Bobo, W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University; Alex Castellanos, Republican media strategist; Maralee Schwartz, former political editor of *The Washington Post*; and Cynthia Tucker, editorial page editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Jones moderated the discussion, asking the panelists how the Obama election changed America as a country and as a society, and where that change would take us.

The transcript of the lecture and seminar along with a video recording of the events are available at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).



T.H. White Seminar participants (left to right): Congressman John Lewis, Alex S. Jones (moderator), Maralee Schwartz and Lawrence D. Bobo.



Alex S. Jones with David Nyhan Prize winner Bob Herbert.

## Bob Herbert Receives David Nyhan Prize

Preceding the T.H. White Lecture, the David Nyhan Prize for Political Journalism was awarded to columnist Bob Herbert of *The New York Times*. Alex Jones said that David Nyhan would have loved Bob Herbert’s “absolute determination to represent the interests of the powerless.”

# New Website, New Features

The Shorenstein Center announces the re-launch of its updated website. With a fresh, clean new look, the site is easier to use and full of new content. Subscribe to our RSS feeds, search our expanded archives and learn more about recent and upcoming events.

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



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The 2009 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting has been awarded to Debbie Cenziper and Sarah Cohen of *The Washington Post* for their series "Forced Out." The ceremony also featured the award of book prizes to Markus Prior and Jane Mayer and a keynote speech by Career Award winner Gwen Ifill of PBS. [MORE ▶](#)

**RECENT EVENTS**



**Fast forward**  
 In her talk "The New Administration and Change," Robin Sproul of ABC News examined what Barack Obama had achieved so far and what Americans could look forward to. "There were seven bills signed in first 50 days," Sproul noted, contrasting this with the single bill signed by George Bush in the same period. [MORE ▶](#)

**Personalities of the White House**  
 In "Covering Obama World," Jodi Kantor of *The New York Times* looked at some of the new administration's key players, including advisor Valerie Jarrett and envoy Richard Holbrooke. The first "fixes problems" and the second "sees power like artists see color," Kantor said. [MORE ▶](#)

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**RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS**

**New papers**

- Former fellow Sandra Nyaira: *Mugabe's Media War: How New Media Help Zimbabwean Journalists Tell Their Story*
- Former fellow Rory O'Connor: *Word of Mouse: Credibility, Journalism and Emerging Social Media*
- Former fellow Eric Pooley: *How Much Would You Pay to Save the Planet? The American Press and the Economics of Climate Change*

**New books**

- New book with contributions from former Shorenstein fellows and visiting faculty: *New Models for News*
- Shorenstein Center Advisory Board member Richard Tofel: *Restless Genius: Barney Kilgore, The Wall Street Journal, and the Invention of Modern Journalism Enrichment*

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**IN THE NEWS**

- Former fellow Rick Hertzberg in *The New Yorker* on Obama's address to Congress: "Taking the Job"
- Former fellow Cristine Russel: "Globe Kills Health/Science Section" and "A Twitter Enthusiast's Lingering Love Affair with the Daily Paper."
- Alex S. Jones in *Le Monde*: "Le New York Times: debut dans la tourmente"
- Marvin Kalb on Guantanamo in *GlobalPost*: "Is Barack Obama Missing a Golden Opportunity?"
- Richard Parker reviews *The Case for Big Government* by former fellow Jeff Madrick
- Associate Jonathan Moore in *The Boston Globe*: "A New Paradigm for U.S. Foreign Policy"
- Former fellow Mark McKinnon in the *Daily Beast*: "Dear Mr. President, Have the Guts to Be an Optimist"

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**Coming Up**

Brown-bag lunch with Connie Schultz, columnist for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.  
 Weds., April 1, 1 p.m.,  
 Kalb Seminar Room,  
 Taubman 275



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Subscribe to the Shorenstein Center RSS feed and get instant updates about our events and publications. Choose updates from our Calendar, Recent Events, In the News, Publications or Everything, which includes all of the above, plus news on site updates.

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## Coverage

Read more in-depth coverage of Shorenstein Center events, publications, award ceremonies, lectures and seminars. If you miss a brown-bag or forum event, you can find a brief recap of the talk along with an audio recording, photos from the event and links to related websites.

## 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. Find information about Goldsmith winners and T.H. White Lecturers.

## Spring Brown-bag Series Looks at Present, Future of Media

The Shorenstein Center's brown-bag lunch series has featured a range of speakers that have looked at the economy, the future of the media, the new Obama administration and much more.

Barack Obama's presidential campaign was no doubt transformational, but will his presidency be just as transforming? **Adam Nagourney**, national political reporter at *The New York Times*, addressed this question by outlining just what made the Obama campaign so innovative. Instead of seeing states only as red or blue, they looked at the map in a new way — and as often as not, came out on top.

The first brown-bag lunch of the spring semester featured **Joe Nocera**, business columnist for *The New York Times*. In his talk "The Economy: Where Are We Headed?" Nocera called the U.S. economic crises "the great unwinding" that would change the behaviors and beliefs of a whole generation. For Nocera the most discouraging side of the economic crisis is that no one has yet come up with a solution. Even President Obama "doesn't have a clear idea of what he believes," and so has not taken a confident step forward with a proposal.

**Ken Auletta**, who writes the "Annals of Communication" column for *The New Yorker*, spoke on "The Future of the Media," and urged journalists to look forward and remain optimistic in uncertain times. Newspapers have been struggling to find the way forward, Auletta said. While they could significantly reduce their expenses by going online only, he observed that they are not able to make up lost advertising revenue from the print edition with online ad revenue.

The American Enterprise Institute's **Norman Ornstein** addressed the question of how long Obama's honeymoon would last. He described Obama's "natural executive ability" that will help him when support for

his reforms lags. While Obama's strengths haven't erased governmental dysfunction, Ornstein stepped back and put things into perspective: "Three weeks into the presidency, Barack Obama has signed a sharp expansion of children's health insurance, a law providing for greater equality for women in the workplace and the largest economic package in the history of the country. That's not half bad."

Continuing to look at the changing face of the media and its effects on policy, **Jacob Weisberg**, editor-in-chief of *Slate*,



Changing the focus from the media to politics, **Jodi Kantor**, Washington correspondent for *The New York Times* and "proflist" of the Obama administration, sketched out two key personalities: senior advisor Valerie Jarrett and special envoy Richard Holbrooke. She also looked at how Obama's self-confidence "allows him to take audacious steps forward" as he "piles chip after chip on the table."

Bringing another perspective on the Obama administration was ABC News Washington bureau chief **Robin Sproul**. The "velocity" of change has raised questions of "speed versus focus," she said, but the feeling within the administration is that "this is a moment of opportunity." "Seven bills signed in the first 50 days," Sproul said was a sign of big change in Washington, especially when compared to the first 50 days of the Bush administration, in which there was one bill passed to congratulate Ronald Reagan on his 90th birthday.

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist **Connie Schultz** of *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* shifted the focus from east-coast politics to midwest working-class stories with "The Politics of Covering Regular People." Reporting on ways that workers

warned that the press is continuing to lose its important presence as the fourth estate. "The independent check on government power is as or more important than the issue of an informed public," Weisberg said.

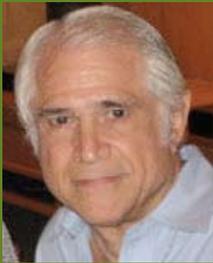
**David Carr**, media columnist for *The New York Times*, similarly predicted a "forest fire" for many newspapers, yet described himself as "bullish about our long-term prospects." Efforts such as *GlobalPost* are "tremendously exciting," Carr said, but when it came to helping people truly understand the world, Carr felt that one delivery method had all the others beat — print.

are exploited or mistreated, she has found that "most people want to make a difference, but they don't know how." By telling the stories of those who do not have a public voice, Schultz is able to mobilize public action and raise awareness of otherwise invisible complaints. Explaining why she began covering working-class people in the Midwest, Schultz said, "I come by it honestly — these are the people I come from, and they are so often misrepresented."



Audio recordings of these discussions are available at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).

## Seth Mydans Awarded 2009 Shorenstein Prize



Seth Mydans

The 2009 recipient of the Shorenstein Prize for Reporting on Asia is Seth Mydans, who covers Southeast Asia for *The New York Times* and *The International Herald Tribune*

from his base in Bangkok, Thailand. Since taking up the post in 1996, he has covered the fall of Suharto and rise of democracy in Indonesia; the death of Pol Pot, the demise of the Khmer Rouge and the trauma and slow rebirth of Cambodia; repeated

attempts at People Power in the Philippines; the idiosyncrasies of Singapore and Malaysia; the long-running political crisis in Thailand and the seemingly endless troubles of Myanmar.

In the 1980s he covered the fall of Marcos and struggles of Corazon Aquino in the Philippines and was in Burma for the massacres that led to the emergence of Aung San Suu Kyi and the current junta.

Mydans worked for a construction company in Vietnam during the war after graduating from Harvard, and has followed the Vietnam story since then, through the exodus of refugees, to their resettlement in

the United States, to the shaping of a new postwar Vietnam.

Awarded every year by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and Harvard's Shorenstein Center, the prize honors a journalist not only for a distinguished body of work, but also for the particular way that work has helped American readers understand the complexities of Asia.

The Shorenstein Prize award ceremony featured a panel discussion titled "Cambodia: Past, Present and Future." Listen to an audio recording of the panel at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).

## Kennedy School Scholarships

If you or someone you know are interested in applying to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, please consider the following scholarship opportunities:

### 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 non-profit, government agency, or political entity) for three years after graduation.

### William A. Starr Innovations Fellowship

The William A. Starr Innovations Fellowship was established to support students who are working to promote innovative solutions

and imaginative thinking as leaders in journalism and public service. The fellowship is awarded to a journalist in a degree program who demonstrates original, non-traditional thinking in policy analysis and public service.

### Lewis Freedman Scholarship for Broadcast Journalism/Frederick Roy Martin Scholarship

The partial tuition Lewis Freedman Scholarship was established in 1993 by Lewis Freedman to encourage journalists to expand and deepen their knowledge of public policy issues. The Frederick Roy Martin Scholarship was established in 1995 through the estate of Nancy Martin. The income from these two endowed funds supports degree program students in journalism or broadcast journalism.

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

## Fall Fellows Papers Available Online



Sandra Nyaira

**Sandra Nyaira** shares her experience as a Zimbabwean journalist and discusses the importance of new technology in her paper *Mugabe's*

*Media War: How New Media Help Zimbabwean Journalists Tell Their Story.*

**Rory O'Connor** looks at the impact of emerging online media and social trends in his discussion paper *Word of Mouse: Credibility, Journalism and Emerging Social Media.*

**Eric Pooley** analyzes U.S. press coverage of the cap-and-trade debate in his discussion paper *How Much Would You Pay to Save the Planet? The American Press and the Economics of Climate Change*, published by the Center in January 2009.



## Sheffield Selected for Middle East Journalism Program



Carrie Sheffield

**K**ennedy School student Carrie Sheffield will be traveling to Egypt and Qatar for three weeks in June with other journalism students from top universities in the U.S., along with the American University in Cairo and Qatar University.

The project is jointly funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, Qatar University and USAID.

## News21 Students Dive into Journalism

**N**ews21 is an innovative journalism internship program. Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, News21 is in its fourth year of providing a platform for innovation and experimentation.

In 2009, 93 students from 12 universities will form the News21 team. The Shorenstein Center selected four Kennedy School students for News21: Kai Carter, Victoria Criado, Kelvin Sun and Anna York.

The News21 students are auditing spring courses at journalism schools and will spend the summer at Columbia University, the University of Southern California and the University of North Carolina, working on stories that address the broad theme of “The American Tapestry: Exploring the Demographics of a Changing Nation.”

## Flores to Participate in ABC News’s Summer Institute

**K**ennedy School student Angela Flores has been selected by Carnegie and ABC to participate in the Summer Institute at ABC News this year.

Angela and three other students from U.S. journalism schools were selected to work with Brian Ross and ABC’s investiga-

tive reporting team for 10 weeks over the summer.

HKS students who have participated in the program in years past include Steve Grove, now the political director for YouTube; Mansi Mehan; and Hsing Wei.

## Spring 2009 Courses



Thomas E. Patterson

Political Institutions and Public Policy: American Politics

**Thomas E. Patterson**

Press, Politics and Public Policy

**Alex S. Jones**

Media, Politics and Power in the Digital Age

**Nicco Mele**

Intensive Writing for Politics and Policy

**Luciana Herman and Greg Harris**

20/20 Vision and Information Policy: Considering the Public Interest

**Nolan Bowie**

Public Opinion, Polling and Public Policy

**Bob Blendon**

Running for Office and Managing Campaigns

**Steve Jardig**

The Making of a Politician

**Steve Jardig**

Democratic Governance

**Pippa Norris**

Citizen Politics

**Pippa Norris**

Political Institutions and Public Policy: Comparative Politics

**Matthew Baum**



Matthew Baum

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**Nancy Palmer**

Executive Director

**Matthew Baum**

Kalb Professor of Global Communication

**Robert J. Blendon**

Professor of Health Policy and Management

**Nolan Bowie**

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**Richard Cavanagh**

Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

**Marie Danziger**

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**Greg Harris**

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Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

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Associate

**Marvin Kalb**

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**Alexander Keyssar**

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**Leighton W. Klein**

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**Alison Kommer**

Staff Assistant

**Heather McKinnon**

Staff Assistant

**Nicco Mele**

Visiting Edward R. Murrow Lecturer on the Practice of the Press and Public Policy

**Jonathan Moore**

Associate

**Pippa Norris**

Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics

**Richard Parker**

Lecturer in Public Policy

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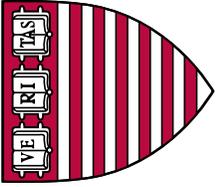
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