

## FPA HONORS 2010 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

By Dina Pinos

It was a night to remember. This year's annual gathering of the FPA Scholarship Fund Annual Awards Reception held at the elegant Roosevelt Hotel was indeed a night to remember! Onset by the warmer weather, spring in New York is always a special occasion with nightly festivities in most of the city's hotels; commemorations, galas, university graduations and farewells.

This year's reception was held at the midtown hidden gem, the Roosevelt Hotel where five scholarships were awarded to outstanding foreign students enrolled at graduate schools of journalism in the United States. Bill Keller, the New York Times Executive Editor was the keynote speaker addressing a gathering of over 200 guests consisting of FPA members, supporters of the Scholarship Fund, university deans and faculty members as well as two past winners.

Prior to the dinner, guests mingled on the Terrace of the Hotel reminiscent of traditional European flair with its painted vaulted ceilings and grand staircases. Cocktails and canapés were



Photo by John Rizzo

served as we gathered to mingle with each other, though most importantly, to meet the five scholarship awardees who were easily identified donning their white rose. Once inside the grand dining area, guests were awed by the elegant décor of the table settings offset by a gorgeous flower arrangement on each table. A lucky winner at each table was invited to take the basket of flowers home.

The camaraderie and excitement of the evening permeated the gathering of guests confirming that the Annual Awards Reception is certainly the highlight of the Foreign Press Association. The FPA Scholarship Fund was initiated in 1993 on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Foreign Press Association. Since then, over 100 scholarships have been awarded to foreign students who then either return to their countries

of origin, remain in the United States or travel to other lands in the pursuit of their journalistic dreams.

Suzanne Adams, this being her 17<sup>th</sup> Awards reception, is the force behind the evening's fund-raising for the FPA Scholarship Fund. She addressed the attendees, graciously thanking the sponsors and the FPA Scholarship Awards Selection Committee. As the evening proceeded with the speeches from the scholarship awardees, university faculty, The New York Times' Bill Keller, it certainly became clear that the quote, "No profession in the modern world is as important as that of a journalist."

First Prize was awarded to Clair MacDougall, from Melbourne, Australia. Prior to studying journalism at Columbia University, she lived in New Delhi, India where she worked as an intern reporter at the India Express. She also worked as an editor at an agri-



Bill Keller and Suzanne Adams

Photo by John Rizzo

Continued on Page 2.

*Continued from Page 1.*

cultural weekly in Australia's Wagga Wagga. Claire stated, "I originally wanted to come study in the United States which is the birthplace of modern journalism; a country where democracy and journalism are fused together, where journalists and their noble profession can also change the world. And despite the changing media landscape with the new technologies, the core values of journalism remain the same." She plans to travel and work in West Africa as a foreign correspondent with her FPA funds. She hopes to draw media attention to that part of the world and change the way western audiences perceive it.

Second Prizes were awarded to Oyvind Gustavsen and Shreeya Sinha. At 16 years of age, Norwegian Oyvind Gustavsen was hired by the national daily paper, *Vart Land*, their youngest employee in their news department. Serving in the Norwegian Army, he was appointed to the Press and Information Office at NATO's Joint Warfare Center dealing with the latest news from Kosovo. During his internship as a correspondent for the Norwegian daily *Dagen*, he was based in Jerusalem, covering the so-called Second Intifada. Although he was delayed in Norway due to the Icelandic volcano eruption, he was on the ball, sending drafts to make sure that he graduates. Oyvind said, "I have always had a curiosity for everything that is different - exploring indigenous communities from around the world, including political activism in native America today. And I will continue to go off the beaten path again to Siberia to visit the rural areas of the most isolated people in the world today to see how their life has changed." We were delighted to welcome Oyvind's parents.

Shreeya Sinha, a multimedia journalist, raised in India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, and Bangladesh has interned at CNN International Business Unit, where she helped produce a daily show, *World Business Today*. She uses social media platforms to report and raise awareness for the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to report psychological trauma in gangs in Harlem and the

Bronx. "I would like to give journalism a sense of idealism by covering stories that shed light on media's dark stories. With my FPA award, I intend to go back to India to work with Media Storm on the issue of violence against women. There are 62 million missing women in India, victims of domestic and social abuse. Where are they?" She would also like to start a nonprofit organization and investigate the story of India's partition.

Third Prizes were awarded to Priti Patnaik and Daria Solovieva. Priti Patnaik, a business journalist with the *Economic Times* from New Delhi enrolled in New York University's Business and Economic Reporting Program to sharpen her financial writing skills. She has since interned at *Breaking Views* and *The American Lawyer* reporting on bankruptcy and anti-trust. Earlier this year, she worked at *Debtwire*, part of the *Financial Times* Group which provided great exposure to niche reporting on distressed debt. Priti stated, "I am very excited to be a journalist now in these more modern times. As an economic journalist in New Delhi, stories needed to be backed by numbers and statistics. We are now in an exciting transition of how to influence the politics of the information flow. Will we become slaves in this new technology or better journalists?" It was a pleasure to greet her parents.

Daria Solovieva was born in Russia and since 2005 has written on Russian and international affairs for the *World Politics Review*, *Russia Profile*, and *Economist* magazines. She has traveled to Mogadishu to cover Somalia's humanitarian conflict for the *Economist*. In 2008 she joined the *Wall Street Journal* bureau in Moscow, and covered the ever changing country. Daria said, "I am very excited about receiving this award. This summer I will be interning at *Bloomberg News* and then I will be going to the Middle East to cover the news in this volatile region.

Our distinguished keynote speaker, Executive Editor of the *New York Times*, Bill Keller, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989 for his reporting on the breakup of the former Soviet Union. He delivered a very engaging speech regarding the state of journalism today. He ad-

ressed the question, "Why does journalism matter?" He referred to himself as an optimist in the world of journalism where even at his own paper, the Web site is booming. They are doing some hiring, and advertising sales are up. Signs suggest that newspapers can survive. He assured the audience, "The *New York Times* is not going away soon."

Mr. Keller decided to read an amusing letter to the audience that he decided to write to his successor, advising him about the changing world of journalism. He would leave this letter in his desk, along with a bottle a whiskey. Listing a number of pertinent lessons in the letter here are a few to remember – First, in this job, be humble about who gets to be called a journalist. Freedom of the press belongs to anyone who has the internet. This is called the democratization of journalism and the new social media partnership is keeping news stories alive. Second, as there is hardly any place that is off the grid anymore, never put anything in an email that you might not want to be on *Gawker.com*. And third, as heads-up advice to all writers, who are paid or not, "You can cover life if you have lived it!" The evening came to an end as photos were taken and guests and awardees mingled among old and new friends.

## HELLO SUZANNE,

*I'm doing well - working on multimedia projects with the Washington Post. I usually go out and shoot videos, work on special projects for the weekend section and generally edit some pieces that go online.*

*I am planning a trip to go to Nepal for some reporting -- the Maoists are planning a massive protest that looks ugly, and the country is set to pass a new constitution, which hasn't even been written yet. As soon as I figure out some travel funding, I will be heading out.*

*Will you be in New York this summer? Would love to meet you for lunch or dinner when I'm up there.*

*My parents ask about you when I call them -- they had an amazing time at the award ceremony and still brag about it with their friends :)*

Anup

**Ed. Note:** Anup Kaphle was the First Prize winner of the 2008 Scholarship Fund Awards.

## LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### CLAIR MAC DOUGALL

I would like to thank the Foreign Press Association of New York for this scholarship and for nurturing students from abroad who are looking to study journalism in the U.S. and become foreign correspondents. With this generous scholarship I hope to travel to West Africa to freelance articles, photography and video with a colleague of mine from Columbia University. We hope to draw attention to some of the issues in the region and change the way that Western audiences perceive it.

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### OYVIND GUSTAVSEN

The FPA 2010 award dinner was a thrilling experience for me! I feel both honored and humbled by the event. One should not underestimate the power of encouragement. For me personally, receiving the award and hearing so many good words about my professional performance truly inspired me to venture out on new assignments with a refreshed sense of self-confidence. The excellent speech by executive editor of the New York Times, Bill Keller, made me reflect upon the important mandate of the press in holding accountable people in power, including the cost of performing this task well. My utmost gratitude goes out to the Foreign Press Association for believing in me and supporting me as I search for truth that can bring change.

I plan to spend the award money on a reporting trip to some of the world's most isolated people groups, in northern Siberia. The erosion of their traditional lifestyle is dramatic, yet hardly anything is reported on it. I believe insight into the current situation of ethnic minorities in Russia is vital for any political or social action.

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### SHREEYA SINHA

Over 50 million girls are killed in India just for being female. According to women's rights groups, about 7,000 women are killed because of dowry and 3 to 5 million female fetuses are aborted every year. From womb to tomb, these women, lucky enough to be born, must risk discrimination and death.

A day after I graduate with an M.S. in Journalism and honors from Columbia University, I will set out to India to report on violence against women for MediaStorm, where I will work this summer. While in India, I also hope to start a non-profit called the Partition Memory Project where Indians and Pakistanis can record and memorialize

the human story behind the partition that is being lost every single day as our grandparents pass away. The Foreign Press Association has given me a chance to not only spotlight human rights abuses around the world but also given me a sense of idealism where long-form storytelling can thrive in this changing media landscape. Thank you.

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### DARIA SOLOVIEVA

Thank you for this honor and the interest the Scholarship Committee of the Foreign Press Association has shown in my work.

These are quite uncertain times for young journalists as leading media institutions struggle for survival and relevance in a digital age. Increasingly, many of my colleagues find more opportunities and professional mobility in the private and government sectors. I am particularly grateful for your encouragement of nuanced international coverage, which faces increased pressure and competition from 24-hour wire services.

Following a summer internship at Bloomberg News in New York I will be based in the Middle East, where I plan to study Arabic and report on energy issues.

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### PRITI PATNAIK

I am delighted to receive the Foreign Press Association scholarship. It is recognition of my potential as a journalist. I am honored to be a part of this distinguished community. As a business journalist in Delhi working for financial dailies, I seldom had time for reflection. But the past two years in New York has redefined my purpose. My quest, going forward would be to analyze the impact of economic growth on human rights. Coupled with my understanding of economics and years of reporting experience, I will now be able to look at issues more objectively, considering both economic and social imperatives. Does Big Business always mean more opportunity for excluded communities? Are intentions of governments often well-meaning? Greater expenditure by the State, does not always translate to better services for the poor. Notwithstanding the brouhaha over growth in emerging economies, I would like to be the healthy skeptic, questioning the implications of such growth.

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## SINCERE THANKS

The overwhelming success of the FPA Scholarship Fund is due entirely to the support of our Corporate Contributors. We are extremely grateful for your continued dedication to this outstanding program.

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

I am grateful the Executive Committee of the Scholarship Fund for their assistance and for their commitment to our wonderful program.

**BILL BLASE**  
**ALAN CAPPER**  
**ANDREW FRANK**  
**NANCY KAMEL**  
**SIMON LOCKE**  
**AGNES NIEMETZ**  
**ROBERTO SOCAS**

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## SELECTION COMMITTEE

By Suzanne Adams

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my appreciation to our members who served as judges to ensure the success of the FPA Scholarship Fund Awards. We have noticed that each year brings more submissions from students than previous years.

The major requirement in the application process was for each student to submit an OP-ED article of 750 words in which they were asked to discuss the following topic:

*In Chris Anderson's new book, "Free: The Future of a Radical Price" he states that newspapers need to accept that content is never going to be worth what they want it to be worth and they will need to reinvent their business. "Out of the bloodbath will come a new role for professional journalists," he predicts. "There will be more of them, not fewer, as the ability to participate in journalism extends beyond the credentialed halls of traditional media. But they may be paid far less, and for many it won't be a full time job at all. Journalism as a profession will share the stage with journalism as an avocation." As a student of journalism, how do you relate to this hypothesis?*

For the many hours they spent reading, re-reading, and evaluating submissions from students at graduate schools of journalism in the United States, I offer my sincere thanks to the Scholarship Awards Committee:

**Bill Blase**  
**Alan Capper**  
**Yolanda Gerritsen**  
**Randy Hecht**  
**Roberto Socas**

## WELCOME ABOARD

**ERIKA CLARK**  
*Freelance Photographer*

**PAM SNOOK**  
*Bloomberg News*

## CHRONICLE

**MARIO FRATTI** was honored for his lifetime achievements by the Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee. We are so proud of Mario who is an internationally acclaimed playwright, drama critic and journalist. As you probably know by now, Mario received numerous awards for *NINE* including a Tony.

**FLINT GENNARI** is the winner of the 2010 *FUJI MASTERPIECE AWARD*. The winning photograph depicts the Grand Rabbi of Williamsburg celebrating with the Grand Rabbi of Borough Park at a gathering before the wedding of the latter's granddaughter. The photo has been described as Rembrandt-like. Bravo. Flint.

We offer our sincere condolences to **KINUE IMAI WEINSTEIN** on the death of her Mother in Japan. She had a full and rich life and she passed away a few months before her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**ZYGMUNT MALINOWSKI** is not only one of the contributors to *An Invisible Rope: Portraits of Czeslaw Milosz*, his portrait of Milosz is on the cover of the book. Czeslaw Milosz, a Nobel Prize recipient in Literature in 1980, was an esteemed member of the Foreign Press Association.



## LETTER FROM IRAQ: MARIWAN HAMA-SAEED

Hi Suzanne,  
 How are you doing? How is life in NYC? I am sorry for being totally out of touch. Life is good here, but very busy. I have taken a few projects with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, such as editing a bi-monthly newsletter about freedom of the press in Iraq and launching a Web Academy for the organization. The Web Academy is like an online university where journalists can learn about journalism. We have not launched the Academy as yet, but I am in the process of writing manuals and recruiting journalists. I

will be training them for several months. It is more like virtual tutoring and mentoring. In addition to these projects, I will be the editorial supervisor for the Kurdish version of a newspaper that the organization will publish during Iraqi elections that are supposed to be held in early March, 2010. I also write and consult for the Kurdish press and I recently wrote a piece for the BBC online about the execution of Chemical Ali.

**Ed. Note:** Mariwan was a 2008 Scholarship Fund recipient.

## REMINDER

If you have not paid your dues for the current year, we urge you to do so. June 30th is the deadline for payment.

Your membership is the strength of our organization.

## GONE FISHING

The Editorial Staff of the FPA wishes all of you a wonderful summer. The next issue of the newsletter will appear in the Fall.



## IMPRESSUM

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