

FOREIGN PRESS SCHOLARSHIP FUND HONORS 5 AWARD RECIPIENTS

It was indeed a night to remember. In a room with more sparkle than a Kanye video, five foreign students of journalism received FPA Scholarship Awards and Keynote speaker, Lester Holt, knocked it out of the park with a rousing speech.

This year's reception was held at the midtown gem, the Roosevelt Hotel. Lester Holt, weekend anchor for the flagship broadcast "NBC Nightly News" addressed a gathering of close to 200.

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 served as we gathered to socialize with each other, though most importantly, to meet the five scholarship awardees who were easily identified donning their white orchids. Once inside the grand ballroom, 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 21st 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. A sad and unexpected moment occurred when Suzanne announced that she was retiring at the end of June. This news was received with a standing ovation for Suzanne.

As the evening progressed with the speeches from the scholarship awardees, university faculty, keynote speaker, NBC's Lester Holt, 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 Matteo Lonardi from Italy, a student at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Also from Columbia University J School was one of our second prize winners who is from Egypt. Yun Lu (Yolanda) also was awarded a second prize. From China, Yolanda was a graduate student at New York University Carter School of Business

Journalism. Our third prize recipients represented South America and Africa. Mariana Marcaletti graduated from CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and James Gachau is a Doctoral student at the Phillip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. Five remarkable students representing five distinctly diverse areas of the world.

Our distinguished keynote speaker, Lester Holt, was wonderful. He focused upon the persecution of citizen journalists in oppressive regions of the globe stating, "The phrase 'kill the messenger' has become all too true". Moving on to the subject of media integrity, Holt said, "I come from a time when 'fair and balanced' was a job requirement, not a marketing slogan."

A sincere thank you to all of our sponsors and to Lester Holt. Here's to a prosperous future for all our scholarship recipients.

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

MATTEO LONARDI

I feel blessed for having been awarded this prestigious award. I want to thank the Foreign Press Association Scholarship Fund for giving me the possibility of pursuing my endeavors in Journalism. Suzanne Adams has done a terrific job making this possible for me and the other winners. I have been working for years as a freelancer and this prize will allow me to support myself and continue freelancing after graduation. I want all the members to know that this scholarship is a terrific opportunity and that it has the power to foster change in the media landscape today. You should all be proud for the opportunity that you are giving to young journalists like me.

Thank you.

YUN LU (YOLANDA)

I really want to take the time to thank the FPA again for all your hard work during the selection process and for organizing this fantastic scholarship dinner. I feel so blessed to be recognized by one of the most prominent organizations representing international journalists. The scholarship is really important for me to finish my business reporting education at NYU and will enable me to pursue my passion in multimedia journalism. Specifically, I would like to use the fund to take courses in data visualization and entrepreneurial journalism. Again I really appreciate the generosity of the FPA and I will continue to work hard to live up to your expectations. Thank you!

SALMA AMER

My generation of journalists often find it hard to pursue their professional dreams while earning a reasonable amount of money in this field. With new media disrupting the tradi-

tional hierarchy in the field, journalists have become not just writers and reporters, but social media managers, analysts, and creators of new technology catering to a pool of journalists eagerly waiting for the next new thing. I am thankful to receive the Foreign Press Association Scholarship Award, and I intend to use that money as a source of personal and professional funding for my upcoming projects between the United States and the Middle East. I began working with the Tow Center for Digital Journalism this month where I am expanding my line of work into data journalism with the use of sensory tools. This technology can be used to uncover the underreported environment and climate change happening all around us. I also intend on continuing to cover human rights, gender equality, political development, and areas of conflict.

JAMES GACHAU

I wish to express my most sincere gratitude for the honor the FPA has bestowed on me by awarding me a third-place prize in their annual Scholarship Fund competition. As a foreign student so far from my home country of Kenya, it is not easy to make ends meet.

Kenya conducted her national elections in March of 2013. The news media are perceived to have grossly censored themselves in their coverage of those elections to prevent a return to the post-election violence of 2007. Over a year has elapsed since then and this is the perfect time to investigate if indeed there was such self-censorship.

I have also proposed to the Philip Merrill College a course in Global Journalism that will be significantly better informed through ethnography

of Kenyan newsrooms.

The scholarship will help me embark on these two studies, and for this reason I am eternally indebted. Thank you, Suzanne. I will most definitely keep in touch. You have changed my life in a very significant way. How can I ever thank you enough.

MARIANA MARCALETTI

I would like to thank you enormously for funding with this fellowship my studies at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and I would like to express my appreciation for your generosity. I am honored to receive this world-renowned scholarship and grateful for the opportunities it will provide me.

I hope I can contribute to the shaping of a more complete vision of Latin America in the international world with this award, and I am making the most out of this experience in an intense and rewarding US school. During the summer, I will be interning at The Washington Post and I hope to expand the network even more there, joining efforts to bring together people with similar interests in the region.

I don't have words to thank all what you have done for me. I appreciate the warm comments, the feedback, and all the people who reached out to help me with mentorship and advice. I would love to stay in touch with you on a regular basis, let me know in which ways I can collaborate, I am more than happy to do so. The FPA community is a very welcoming and loving one.

Thanks again for this amazing opportunity, and for your investment in students like me.

THE TIME HAS COME



from Suzanne Adams

FOR THE PAST 21 YEARS I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SERVING AS THE DIRECTOR OF THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION. AT TIMES THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN CHALLENGING, AT TIMES HUMBLING, BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE. NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO TELL YOU THAT I WILL BE RETIRING AT THE END OF JUNE. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE VALUABLE RELATIONSHIPS I HAVE DE-

SELECTION COMMITTEE

by Suzanne Adams

I would like 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 seems to bring more submissions from foreign graduate 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 a specific topic:

Media organizations throughout the world are struggling to adapt to vast changes in the way that consumers access news and other information, with journalism increasingly migrating from print to online and taking advantage of social media opportunities. In approximately 750

words, assess how these changes have affected journalism in your own country, using specific examples where appropriate. In what ways have these changes enhanced and/or detracted from the ability to deliver news? Given these trends, where do you see journalism going in your own country over the next decade?

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

**BILL BLASE
SIMON LOCKE
ROBERTO SOCAS
LAURA THOMPSON**

SINCERE THANKS

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CHRONICLE

Congratulations to **Roberto Socas** who had the pleasure of attending the presentations of PHD's to both his son and daughter-in-law John and Jen Socas. Both he and darling granddaughter Arden were there to celebrate.

Best wishes to **Susan Robins** for a rapid recovery. Hope to see you soon as your usual vibrant self.

Michael-Ann Rowe, a food and travel journalist and FPA Executive Committee member has received an Emmy nomination for her food and travel documentary series, *Off the Beaten Palate*. PBS broadcast the series on Detroit Public Television, June 6th, 2013 and has had recurring broadcasts since. Her nomination is in the Documentary-Topical Category. The awards will take place on June 14th, 2014 in Detroit. Best of luck Michael-Ann!

So pleased to hear from **Sarah Bisconte** with wonderful news reporting on her outstanding progress and her amazing outlook on life. You are great.

We extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Mother of **Richard Torrenzano**.

Our beloved past President **Alan Capper** is still "incapacitated" but he is starting to make some significant progress. He would really be delighted to hear from you.

THANKS, JOHN!

It is difficult for me to find the words to express my sincere thanks to **JOHN RIZZO**. The photos he took at the Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner are fabulous. I know the students will cherish them, as will I. Not only is John an amazing photographer but he is a wonderful friend.

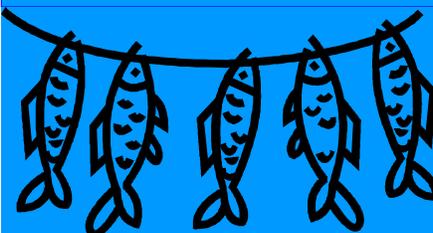
THE GATHERINGS

"The Gatherings" by German born New York artist David Stern (who witnessed [9/11](#) from his studio at 52 Greene) are prominently displayed at the 9/11 Museum's atrium. As much as the exhibition takes us back to the events of [9/11](#) 2001, the powerful monumental paintings take us back to the days following [9/11](#), the absence of a mourning ritual, the confusion and stunned solemnity of these days when we found comfort only in one another; a community of survivors.

For more information please contact the museum at [212-312-8800](tel:212-312-8800) or press@911memorial.org.

GONE FISHING

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



WELCOME ABOARD

MARI SAKAMOTO
The Asahi Shimbun/Japan

JULIDE TANRIVERDI
Geek, Die Welt/ Germany

FPA BENEFITS

Did you know that the new benefit from the NYU Dental Clinic includes free examination and X-rays for members and their families? Not only are NYU's Dental Clinic's fees well below average private practice fees, but **FPA members and their families** also receive up to a further 20% discount on the NYU Dental Clinics already below average fees.

Visit <http://www.nyforeignpress.org/benefits> for more information.

REMINDER

Final bills have been sent. If you have not paid your Membership dues for the current year, we urge you to do so.

Your membership is the strength of our organization.

IMPRESSUM

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