

LESTER HOLT, KEYNOTE SPEAKER FPA AWARDS DINNER 2014

Lester Holt is the weekend anchor for the flagship broadcast "NBC Nightly News," and is also the co-anchor of the weekend edition of "Today." Holt was named Principal Anchor of "Dateline NBC" in September 2011. In addition, he serves as fill-in anchor and correspondent for "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams" and the weekday "Today" program. He also contributes to MSNBC, NBC's 24-hour cable news network.

He joined the NBC News family in 2000 and has reported from many of the world's hot spots. In 2003 he reported from the Kuwait/Iraqi border as US forces prepared to launch their invasion of Iraq. In 2006, he reported from the front lines in Lebanon on the war between Israel and Hezbollah and from London on the terror threat to U.S. bound-airliners from the UK. In early 2010 Holt traveled to Haiti where he reported on the immediate aftermath and response to the devastating earthquake. In early 2011, Holt reported from the streets of Cairo on the latest political and civil unrest in Egypt. In March 2011, Holt travelled overseas to cover the earthquake and nuclear crisis in Japan. Other major international stories he has covered include the mysterious 2009 crash of an Air France jetliner over the South Atlantic.



Holt was also among the early wave of reporters to cover the oil leak disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. He was in the same region in 2005 when both hurricanes Katrina and Rita came ashore.

Before becoming co-anchor of "Weekend Today," Holt anchored "Lester Holt Live," a daily news show on MSNBC in which he covered breaking news and provided news updates and analysis. Holt has also served as the lead anchor for daytime news and breaking news coverage on MSNBC. He has served as a primary anchor for MSNBC's coverage of the biggest news events of the last several years, including Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war in Afghanistan, and he was the lead daytime anchor for MSNBC's coverage of

Decision 2000. Holt also served as anchor of "Countdown: Iraq," a nightly news telecast concentrating on the latest developments surrounding the war with Iraq, from October 2002 to March 2003.

The award-winning broadcast journalist came to MSNBC from WBBM-TV in Chicago, where he spent 14 years. His duties at WBBM-TV included anchoring the evening news. Holt not only worked at the anchor desk in Chicago, but he also reported extensively from trouble spots around the world including Iraq, Northern Ireland, Somalia, El Salvador and Haiti. He has contributed to the CBS News broadcast "48 Hours," earning a 1990 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award for his work on "48 Hours: No Place Like Home." In 2010, Holt was part of the "Today" anchor team that won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Morning Program.

Previously, he worked as a reporter at WCBS-TV in NYC from 1981-82. In 1982 he transferred to sister station KCBS-TV (then KNXT) in Los Angeles as a reporter and weekend anchor and returned to WCBS-TV a year later as a reporter and weekend anchor.

Holt studied government at California State University in Sacramento. He resides in New York City with his wife.

JOURNALISTS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

By Suzanne Adams

Two French journalists were kidnapped and then killed at the beginning of November in northern Mali. They had been interviewing a leader of a separatist group when gunmen forced them into a truck. Their bodies were found shortly after. There have been accounts of kidnapping of other journalists and the

French news media reported that more than \$34 million had been paid for the release of four Frenchmen.

Over the past 20 years more than 2000 journalists and media staff have been killed in the line of duty. They died because someone did not like what they wrote or what they said, or they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Every job has its risks, and journalists, whose

job is to bring into the open what perhaps someone wants hidden are at greater risk than most. The risks they face at present are amazingly high.

The *Committee to Protect Journalists* has written To Acting Egyptian President Mansour calling on the Egyptian government to release all journalists being held behind bars.

LETTERS FROM FPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Suzanne,

I hope this finds you well, and I do apologize it has taken me a while to write to you. I got back to New York last week after a long summer spent far, far away. At least now I have many exciting updates for you!

There has certainly been a fair amount of foreign reporting over the past few months. After I graduated in May, I left for China straight away. As a journalist, I was endlessly lucky to be allowed into Tibet which was a fascinating, although rather sad experience. I continued writing on the events there long after getting to Hong Kong, where I was interning with the South China Morning Post. That position too became very exciting indeed; as I started work the same day the Edward Snowden story broke in the city and worldwide. During my time there, I had the chance to travel to mainland China as well as South Korea.

After finishing the position in September, I went around Sri Lanka for a fellowship with the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) for almost a month to investigate allegations of war crime and human rights abuse. The island is stunningly beautiful but the situation there remains incredibly problematic after the war ended only four years ago. Traveling undercover as a "tourist" turned out to be a great decision (since I fortunately didn't get caught) and I was incredibly lucky to gain access to all sides of the conflict and a landmark election. Now I have returned with more material than I could ever have dreamed of and there should be some exciting stories coming out over the next few weeks. I'd be more than happy to tell you all about it

some day.

It's lovely to be back and be done with the traveling - for now, I'm sure it won't last long. I have been accepted to study a second master in international affairs at Columbia to start in January for ten months, and I think this would be very helpful for my future endeavors as a foreign reporter.

I can't even begin to tell you how grateful I am to you and to the FPA for making all of this happen for me. Without your support, I would never have made it this far.

I'm looking forward to staying in touch with you and keep you up to date with my plans. I can't even begin to tell you how grateful I am to you and to the FPA for making all of this happen for me. Without your support, I would never have made it this far.

Again, thank you so, so much for everything.

Kim Wall

Dear Suzanne,

Just wanted to say Happy New Year, and thank you for all your support of my career. I would not be where I am without your help and encouragement. I work at The New York Times at the moment, not as a staff, but a full-time casual video journalist, and very grateful for your support of my journalism path.

Wish you all in the best in 2014.

Sincerely,
Natalia Osipova

Dear Suzanne,

I hope you have been well!! It has been a long time.

I'm finalizing my plans for a series on the silent but massive land grab by Indian companies, supported by the Indian government, in East Africa over recent years, how it's impacting local populations, and how the race for resources and land between China and India -- both with voracious appetites -- is playing out in Africa. It's a complex subject, and will require me to spend significant time traveling to Ethiopia and Kenya, to start with, apart from China.

I wouldn't be able to work on this project, of which several major publications are interested in, without the FPA award, and the support I've received from the FPA family. It means a lot to me.

I'm currently with the Hindustan Times, India's second largest daily, in a roving role, but I am contemplating to take up a really fascinating offer from The Telegraph as a foreign affairs correspondent. I'm excited about the idea and just trying to work out how I should approach it.

I got engaged to my girlfriend earlier this month, and we're both pretty excited. She's a fashion designer based out of Bangalore, and we're both trying to figure out how to be in the same city.

How have you been? Will you be passing through India any time? It would be wonderful to meet up.

Your friend,
Charu Sudan Kasturi

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This is to advise you that the Election Committee met on December 20, 2013 to count the ballots for the 2014 Executive Committee. 62 ballots were received of which one was invalid.

The followings were elected:

President:

David Michaels

Vice President:

Claus Mueller

General Secretary:

Agnes Niemetz

Assistant General Secretary:

Hadar Harel

Treasurer:

Jan Latus

Assistant Treasurer:

Roberto Socas

The following candidates were elected to serve on the Committee: Kim Bode, Gabriel Levicky, Dina Pinos, Sebastian Piras, Michael-Ann Rowe, Anjali Sharma, Kinue Imai Weinstein

Alternate: Mario Fratti

SUNEDISON SHINES ON THE THIRD WORLD

By Ash Bradford

Imagine your great grandparents as children... your *great great* grandparents when they were kids. Think of the wonder which would have possessed them if they ever contemplated somewhere about the year 2014: flying cars and jet packs, recreational space travel, domesticated extraterrestrials - all those images that connote to the rhetoric of THE FUTURE.

If they were given a glimpse into our now, they'd see some of their visions realized - space travel and planetary exploration, genetic cloning and artificial intelligence - and further futuristic visions are to be realized just on the horizon as mankind shuffles forth. However, within the same breath of amazement, in equal measure, an opposing exclamation would surely occur - with all these accomplishments in the bag, how is it that so many

millions of people in the world remain impoverished, undereducated, suffering from ills easily remedied? How did man become so impressive yet so ignorant, so selfish yet self-destructive they may ask? In a new age of enlightenment why is it that so many people be left in the dark? This darkness is exactly what SunEdison, providers of renewable energy sources, intend to address: they're dedicated to lighting up rural villages and towns in third world countries by providing them with sustainable energy sources and to this date have created hundreds of solar plants across the globe. In this accomplishment, crop yield is increased resulting in greater food security, children can study as the sun sets and a vast improvement to the quality of life of innumerable people is achieved.

At The Grand Hyatt Hotel, SunEdison hosted the FPA in a briefing that centered on their cam-

paign in India. As a world-leading provider of solar solutions, SunEdison has designed and developed a PV solar-powered water pumping technology for irrigation, which was recently launched. These pumps increase irrigation reliability in India, as they power the pumps without the electricity grid, which provides electricity to areas previously in the dark. The pumps also increase grid reliability by replacing grid-powered irrigation systems, reducing strain on the grid. In their commitment to transforming lives through innovation, their solar water pumps empower farmers to grow cash crops that require predictable irrigation and enables them to utilize land that they previously could not irrigate.

SunEdison knows the power of the sun and they are committed to making its sustainable energy a significant part of India's, and the world's, energy future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

By Ash Bradford

As another long year waned, it was time to begin to wrap it all up at the FPA's annual general meeting and holiday reception on December 18th. Before indulging in the array of food and wine, it was straight down to business.

The event began in the lament of the absence of recent FPA President Alan Capper, who was unable to attend having just undergone heart surgery. His partner, Rachel Rowbury made an announcement on his behalf, passing on his well wishes for the holidays and bidding the committee a fond farewell. Presently, Alan's making a steady re-

covery in a rehabilitation facility and upon a full recovery he'll be in the wings as President Emeritus of the FPA, due to his 6 year service as president.

A new year often brings about changes, and 2014 certainly has something different in store for the FPA. The newly elected FPA president, David Michaels, took to the floor after being introduced and congratulated by director, Suzanne Adams. He roused the membership with a tenacious mission statement, in which he stated the need for direct action in addressing the challenges that the FPA may face in the future, and the development of the brand in context of the organiza-

tion's prestigious history was also stated as an immediate must.

David Michaels closed by paying gratitude to FPA director Suzanne Adams for her tireless effort and dedication to the organization with specific reference to the Scholarship Fund.

Final well wishes for the holiday season brought the annual general meeting to a close, after which the ample spoil of food and wine was descended upon and received by none better than myself - congratulations to our new president, and here's to a prosperous 2014 for all.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Suzanne Adams

Every year, early in January, my phone and email get busy with questions from around the world requesting information about the *Golden Globe Awards*. Of course, I refer them to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. On occasion, I am asked about the organization and I have always hesitated to say what I thought I knew about them.

But now the truth has been revealed and I am taking the liberty of quoting from an article in *The New York Times*.

"The awards are voted upon by the less than 70 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, some of whose members are foreign journalists, but many of whom write for obscure publications. The group has been criticized for being unwilling to open its membership to journalists from major publications abroad for and for being open to influence from Hollywood studios eager to cater to the group.

They state further, "The Hollywood Foreign Press Association earns millions of dollars from the telecast and the network benefits from lucrative advertising sales". Variety reported the Globes earns about four million for the non-profit foreign press organization.

So here's to the **Foreign Press Association of New York**, the oldest foreign press organization in the United States. Founded in 1918, we will celebrate our 96th anniversary on February 16th and the 21st Anniversary of the FPA Scholarship Fund.

Let our good name prevail.

SINCERE THANKS

The FPA Scholarship Fund is most grateful to the following members who have made a contribution to the "Fund." Please note that your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

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GoodNewsBroadcasts/China

SILVIA STEFAN
Romanian Television Society

GREG WYATT
Fantasy Fountain Fund

CHRONICLE

By Suzanne Adams

If only each of us had the "spunk" of **Sarah Bisconte** this would indeed be a happier world. Sarah had major surgery and is recovering nicely. It must have been all that Latino music that kept her going. Hope the progress continues. You are amazing.

Joan Ramirez, our very talented member is the author of an erudite book entitled *JAMIE IS AUTISTIC-LEARNING IN A SPECIAL WAY*. Well done Joan!

Best wishes are extended to our Past President **Alan Capper** is recovering from serious medical problems. You have our love and appreciation for all you have done for the FPA! I'm sure Alan would enjoy hearing from you. Why not send him a note or greeting card?

ALAN CAPPER
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New York, NY 10017

Best wishes are extended to **Kinue Weinstein** on the engagement of her lovely daughter, Naomi.

IMPRESSUM

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