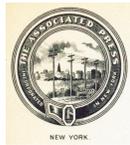

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2014 10:04 AM
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Connecting

April 26, 2014



Colleagues,

Please keep our Connecting colleague and former AP photo editor and executive

[Claudia DiMartino](#) in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her quest for a new lung, after coming very close on Friday morning at Columbia/New York Presbyterian Hospital. She shared that she was prepped and ready to go with a transplant, but the new lung was rejected just before she entered the operating room. She writes:

What a roller coaster!



Sometime in the next year or so I will receive a miracle of a new lung. I have a condition that slowly scars my lungs, making them less and less useful. It's not hereditary or environmental. It's just the way it is. My latest experience is not unusual -- to be called for a possible transplant and to come away two or three times without it. Mostly because the lung proves to be unsuitable either because of its condition or

because it's just not a good match to the recipient.

There were three people with whom I worked out at my special gym for folks doing pulmonary rehab. I'm the last of the intrepid group to be actively listed. One person has her double-lung transplant for more than a year now and the other was just transplanted with a single lung last month. Both are doing well, thank God. I'm scared but focusing on all the good stuff I'll be able to do again -- sing, dance, GO TO THE BEACH! Okay, under an umbrella, but I can still get my toes in the sand and jump in the water for that salty float.

Claudia is a photo consultant and earlier worked 10 years for Bloomberg News and 17 years for the AP in New York as multimedia project manager, photo-technology adviser coordinator and photo editor. She has been in the transplant program four years. If you'd like to drop her a note, her email is: cdgogirl@aol.com

Robert Meyers: Biking across America

[Robert Meyers](#) is set to depart Sunday on a cross-country biking adventure that will begin in California and end in Georgia, and our Connecting colleague shares this report with his colleagues:

With my Canondale 2000T outfitted for touring, I will head east for St. Simons Island, Georgia, in Glynn County, my mother's birthplace.

I expect to take about two months on this adventure and pass through Tucson, Austin, New Orleans, the Gulf Coast and around the Okefenokee Swamp. Retired AP photographer **Bill Haber** mentioned that there will be a memorial dinner in Dave Martin's honor at Molly's in New Orleans on July 11, which I would love to attend.



This is a trip I have been planning actively for two years, but thinking about all my life. In the 1980s, I did three supported tours in Georgia (Bike Ride Across Georgia BRAG) from the mountains to the sea (Savannah) including one with my father who was in his 60s. This Easter weekend he recalled how sore his butt became on the ride.

On an AP assignment at the French bicentenary/G7 Heads of State Meeting (this is what they called it, not a bicentennial) in Paris 1989, I shipped my bike ahead. I took the train from London with **Horst Faas** along with 10 crates of equipment which I had to shift from the train to a bus to a ferry in Dover, and again in Calais and Paris. I stayed in a wonderful student room which was a bed in a window opening across the Seine from Notre Dame owned by Paris Photo Chief Guy Kopelowitz for a few days after the assignment and then rode west along the Seine spending a night in Les Andelys and on to Dieppe and the ferry to Newhaven and a midnight train to London.

So this is not my first foray on a bicycle, but certainly the most ambitious.

I am taking advantage of a wonderful benefit I have earned by working

at Greenpeace for five years where I have been since retiring from the AP in 2007 after 21 years. I joined the AP in London in 1986, and transferred to the State Photo Center in Washington when it opened in 1997. I am the Greenpeace photo editor for the United States. I have a three month fully paid sabbatical for "personal development" so this is what I am doing. My work will be covered by my supervisor, Tim Aubry, former AP and former Reuters photographer and photo editor, with help from the International group in Amsterdam.

Like the late Horst Faas, I commuted to work on a bike in London mostly from Plaistow and Forest Gate to 12 Norwich Street, EC4. Horst had many a policeman chasing him through Hyde and St. James parks and he got at least one ticket, as bike riding is not allowed in the parks of London. If I left early enough I could ride to Stratford, along the canal through Victoria Park and up to Islington then down Rosebury Avenue to Holborn. If I didn't leave early enough I had the Mile End Road. I was hit twice in London, with injuries, but no broken bones.

Before AP, I did freelance photography in Kent and often rode to assignments by bicycle around Gravesend and Rochester. I commuted to the AP office on K Street NW, DC from home in Vienna for most of the 10 years I was there. I found the home we have lived in for 17 years by riding the bike trails out from DC. We're at mile 12.5 on the W.O. & D. With that was a camping/biking/driving tour of the U.S. in 1986 before we moved to England and then camping/driving/biking down the Rhine from Amsterdam to Kaiserslautern, and west across France along the Dordogne and three months riding around Paris on my short, unpaid, AP sabbatical while my wife job/house swapped. So a lot of miles. One wrecked bike, 5 stolen ones and a couple of others for mountain biking and loaning out to friends and family.

News about the AP

[Journalists react to AP's state-names change](#)

Poynter: On Wednesday, the Associated Press announced another style change that seemed to cause more teeth-grinding and head-shaking. Starting May 1, the news co-op said, we'll spell out state names within the bodies of stories rather than abbreviate them. In March, Poynter wrote about the news that the AP removed the distinction between over and more than. Here's how that one went over. I gathered some reactions across Facebook, Twitter and our comments section on the state names news.

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[AP creates new social media platforms](#)

[Jesse Holland](#) of AP's Washington bureau shares:

Looking for the best stories from AP's political coverage will become much easier during the 2014 and 2016 elections with the creation of new social media platforms in the Washington D.C. bureau.

With the launch of AP Politics on both Facebook and Twitter, political junkies will be able to follow the top races from around the nation in two easy, simple to follow locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/associatedpresspolitics>

https://twitter.com/AP_politics

Pulling from material gathered by the AP's journalists around the nation and curated by the WDC bureau, AP Politics on Facebook and Twitter will provide one-stop social media shopping for those who want to know all of the most important political news from around the nation.

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AP's Hutson, Ferguson at Oklahoma Hall of Fame induction

Former AP Oklahoma City bureau chief **Lindel Hutson** and former AP Topeka correspondent **Lew Ferguson** were on hand Thursday when nine journalists were inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame at a luncheon at the Nigh University Center at University of Central Oklahoma. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

Hutson and Ferguson are both members of the Hall of Fame, Lindel inducted in 2008 and Lew in 2009. Others with AP ties in the Oklahoma Hall are: Paul Miller, 1972; Ray Shaw, 1981; Stella Roberts, 1984; George Cornell, 1988; Gareth Muchmore, 1988; Edith Gaylord Harper, 1989; Ron Jenkins, 1997; Gaylord Shaw, 1997, and Anthony Shadid, 2012.



Welcome to Connecting

[Phil Dopoulos](#) - I was assistant to the longtime Greece correspondent and after two years, the local guy retired and I took over. Our longtime bureau at the time was located in Hotel Grande Bretagne and then we expanded staff (news and photographer) and moved out of the hotel into more suitable quarters. Several years later I was promoted to Athens chief of bureau and then my international travels to the Middle East and parts of Africa began. I've covered events in Cyprus, Syria, Jordan, the entire Gulf states, Sudan, Kenya and Iran. Along with an AFP and Reuters correspondent, I was at the airport when the Shah of Iran flew off to exile, Jan.1, 1979. My stint in Tehran was on and off from 1976 onwards, alternating coverage with other AP reporters. In addition to news coverage assignments, I was also responsible for the AP's news and photo contracts to the above mentioned countries. I was allowed to enter Tehran while the American hostages were held to sign contracts. During that time, my movements were closely monitored by the authorities. I'm a native of New Rochelle, New York, and graduated from Boston University in 1954. I served in the U.S.. Army with a 22-month stint in Japan. Upon returning home, I worked briefly in the news department of a New York radio station, Women's Wear Daily and a public relations firm, Later I joined the AP. Upon retirement in 1997 at age 65, I decided to stay in Greece and enjoy the "good" life at the time.

Stories of interest

[This Week in Review: Net neutrality under threat, and Aereo and the future of free TV](#)

This week's essential reads: The few key reads this week are Ryan Singel on the FCC's Internet regulation proposal, The New York Times' David Carr on the significance of the Aereo Supreme Court case, and The Guardian's James Ball on the new wave of explanatory journalism sites.

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[Wayne LaPierre: Media one of 'greatest threats'](#)

National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre said Friday that media bias is one of the gravest threats facing the country. Kicking off his group's annual meeting in Indianapolis, LaPierre accused the media of

covering up problems with Solyndra, Fast and Furious and Obamacare.

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[New numbers from The New York Times: A gold star for managing the digital transition](#)

Look at The New York Times Co.'s Q1 earnings report, released and webcast today, this way: The Times - for now - is doing an above-average job of managing the print-to-digital transition. Several pieces of data confirm that belief.

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[Justice Department urges SCOTUS to pass up reporter's privilege case](#)

The Obama Administration is urging the Supreme Court not to take up New York Times reporter James Risen's plea to consider overturning a ruling that he must testify about his confidential sources for his reporting about a Central Intelligence Agency effort to undermine Iran's nuclear program.

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[NBC News President Slams Media Coverage of David Gregory as 'Vindictive,' 'Untrue'](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Meet the Press host David Gregory has been the focus of turmoil since the Sunday morning NBC program suffered its lowest ratings since 1992 during the past year and was the subject of a meeting with network news president Deborah Turness in March. After that gathering, NBC "doubled down" on Gregory as host of the series, along with giving him additional duties on the network's news website.

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[As digital ad sales grow, news outlets get a smaller share](#)

Digital advertising in the U.S. accounted for \$42.6 billion in revenue in 2013, an increase of 16% over 2012, according to the financial analysis firm eMarketer. But while that digital ad pie is growing, the numbers show that news organizations are competing for an increasingly smaller share of those dollars.

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[Funniest Texts Between Parents And Their Children Ever Sent. You'll](#)

[Appreciate This!](#) (Lew Ferguson)

Almost all of us have sent a text or two we didn't mean. Here's some hilarious texts.

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[A man spent years taking photos of one small town, when you look closer, you'll see why](#)

Artist and photographer Michael Paul Smith has spent hours upon hours photographing one special town that he holds very dear to his heart. There is something that always drew him to it, and the images he created are simple, but stunning. They glow with small-town charm and innocence, reminiscent of days and decades past.

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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