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Connecting - October 13, 2015

1 message

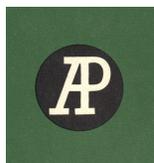
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Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 9:06 AM

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Connecting

October 13, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

To the Navy veterans among us, Happy 240th! As today's Today in History notes:

On October 13, 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

Here are stories of interest.

Paul

Iowa college establishes endowment fund for AP intern Armando Montano

GRINNELL, Iowa (AP) - A small private liberal arts college in Iowa has established an endowment fund in memory of a young alumnus who was also a news intern for The Associated Press when he died at age 22 in Mexico City in 2012.

Grinnell College announced Thursday night it's honoring Armando Montano's passion for writing through the creation of a fund in his name that supports multiple initiatives at the school. It will include a popular visiting writers program and the student newspaper, where Montano contributed stories before graduating in 2012.

A college spokesman says the family requested that the size of the fund not be released.

Montano, who grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado, arrived in Mexico City to work for AP shortly after leaving Grinnell College with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a concentration in Latin American studies.



His body was found in June 2012 in the elevator shaft of an apartment building near his home. The investigation into the circumstances of his death remains open.

His work for the news cooperative included coverage of African elephants being flown to a Mexican animal reserve and assisting in reporting about the fatal shootings of three federal policemen at the Mexico City airport.

Montano's parents created the fund through a bequest to the college of about 1,600 students in the small community of Grinnell, about 50 miles east of Des Moines.

"His passion, his ability to understand and learn, and his drive to write and report are what we celebrate with this fund," his parents said in a statement.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Connecting mailbox

Joe McKnight sparks more Old Miss memories

Carl Leubsdorf - On James Meredith and Ole Miss: I can supplement some of Joe McKnight's report, as I was in the New Orleans bureau the night James Meredith entered Ole Miss and wrote some of the AP's stories. It was a Sunday night, Sept. 30, 1962. I had covered much of the legal end of the case, in which the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which then comprised the entire Deep South from Texas to Florida and was based in New Orleans, had overturned the District Court decision (by Judge Harold Cox, a

JFK appointee close to Sen. James Eastland) denying Meredith entry.

A couple of week before Meredith was due to enter Ole Miss, AP had re-hired Van Savell, a young man in his early 20s who had initially been my temporary military replacement during my six months in the Army the previous summer. The correct thinking was that Savell would fit in with the students on campus. Also on hand there were the fabled Relman (Pat) Morin, one of AP's top big story reporters, and Edmond LeBreton, a native New Orleanian who then worked in Washington. Also, I believe, Bill Crider, then in the Memphis bureau but later in New Orleans. As Joe correctly noted, Sam Blackman was on hand in New Orleans, helping to supervise the night along with COB Ken Davis. I wrote a number of stories that night, rewriting material from Oxford, though my most memorable occasion came when LeBreton phoned in and, when I asked what was new, he told me had been shot, by buckshot in the back. A classic and classy AP veteran, he continued to file.

The major breaking news development of the evening was a riot that erupted after the US marshals had escorted Meredith onto campus (so the Sept. 30 date is correct). Former Major Gen. Edwin Walker, a noted conservative who had been retired by the Army several years ago for spreading right-wing propaganda among his troops, appeared on the campus, and according to Savell, led a charge of students against the US marshals. Tear gas was fired, and at least two people (one a French reporter) were killed. Savell was briefly arrested, but released.

In the aftermath of that night, Walker sued the AP for libel, and the AP moved Savell out of the line of fire to, I believe, Birmingham. (He later left journalism and ended up as a minister in Blythe, a small town in the California desert.) The case ended up in the Supreme Court, which ruled for the AP, saying that even if some of the details were wrong (he may have encouraged resistance more than led a charge), there was no malice involved. I was called at one point to give a deposition by Walker's lawyers; As I recall, they asked very little about my role, which included doing rewrite on some of the stories that ended up in the case, but seemed very concerned about some hearings Senator Eastland had held some years earlier on domestic Communist subversion, about which I knew nothing. (One of the Mississippi newspapers made a big thing of the fact that the US Communist Party, quite insignificant in those days, had endorsed the integration of Ole Miss.) They never asked questions that would have revealed I had been to the Soviet Union several years earlier, as a tourist. Finally, I recall that at least one of the AP

reporters in the bureau supported Walker's suit. When he retired, I declined to contribute to his retirement gift.

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Arlon Southall - Joe McKnight's piece on James Meredith in Monday's Connecting brought back memories. I was working in NY at the time and the NU bureau was overwhelmed and requested help. Myself and another operator, John Quirk, along with Sam Blackman were dispatched to help the overworked NU staff. I remember working 12 hour tours for about a week before returning to NY. One AP newsman from NU, I can't remember his name, got shot with buckshot in the butt in Oxford during the demonstrations.

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Keeping Up with the Joneses

George Zucker - When I was bureau chief in Nashville, John M. Jones was named publisher of The Greeneville Sun, a tiny newspaper in eastern Tennessee that his wife's family had owned since 1916. Jones and his sons were on the cusp of national celebrity. Excuse me if I elaborate on my own small role here.

After taking over the family newspaper, John M. called me in 1974 with a complaint. "Your AP rates are too high!" he said. "We need to talk!"

It wasn't the first time a new publisher looking to cut costs turned first to AP. So before I drove out to Greeneville, I checked The Sun's \$110 weekly AP tab. For six days of publication, it was less than \$20 a day -- mere pennies if figured by the column inch. I marked his front page with a crayon to show him that on the day I checked his paper, the AP copy that filled more than half his front page had cost him only \$7. And unlike the old days when wire copy had to be reset by a Linotype operator, his AP copy went directly into his typesetting equipment, also eliminating the need for proofreaders.

John M. was so impressed (I had gone through the entire paper marking each AP story and its cost), he wanted to know how AP rates were calculated. I told him that being a not-for-

profit news cooperative owned by its member newspapers, AP's rates were decreed by its Board of Directors, composed of publishers like himself from big and small cities. He warmed to my suggestion that he get involved in the process.

The next day I called Conrad Fink, our Board liaison in New York, and told him this newly named publisher wanted to have a say in AP's corporate affairs. Fink was always looking for good Board candidates from the smaller, rural markets to balance the influence of big-city publishers. Fink got John M. named to the Board's Nominating Committee, the first step in his long climb up the AP corporate ladder where he would eventually become the first Tennessean ever elected to the AP Board of Directors.

After I left Tennessee in 1975 for new AP adventures in Iowa and Nebraska, John M.'s son, Alex S. Jones, returned from the Navy and took over as editor of the family newspaper. Alex Jones would say later that he intended to make the family newspaper the New York Times of Tennessee, but instead he left The Sun in 1983 to work for The New York Times, where he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1987. In 2001, Gregg K. Jones succeeded his father as publisher of The Sun. John M. Jones Jr., is the editor.

The forgotten AP news chief (me) who was the start of something big here couldn't keep up with the Joneses. He retired in relative obscurity in 1998.

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In praise of the work of Jeff Barnard

Lyle Price - While I don't know Jeff Barnard personally, in seeing the Oct. 8 Connecting edition that included his bio and a tribute by the AP West Region Editor upon his retirement it is clear to me that it was no fluke that so many of his stories over the decades spinning tales about remote parts of Oregon wound up being published by the Seattle media 400 or 500 or so miles away. Obviously, his stuff caught wire editors eyes just as it did mine in reading the Seattle Times after my AP days in California.

Jeff's stories were invariably to my memory told with zest and every time I spotted his byline I would read his story for that reason alone. He had so many different datelines I took him to be a roving reporter rather than based at Grants Pass. I wonder if he didn't

have at least half of the stories that wound up being printed in Puget Sound having anything to do with Oregon.

His style in the stories I saw fit the approach that in my days in the Los Angeles bureau we called "writing for the A Wire" (and sometimes for the New York desk). That style is the opposite of writing for a local audience (which AP mostly doesn't do) or even the state wire. Besides Jeff Barnard, there have been only two non-California AP bylines I have ever looked for or read with regularity. One was Conrad Fink's stuff on the Tokyo Wire out of India, the other Eddie Gilmore out of London. The thing that distinguished both writers (and Jeff Barnard) was how well and informatively they told a story. It is not basically my belief there is basically more worth being written about in one place versus another---not Gilmore's England, not Fink's India, not Barnard's Oregon. What I think is at play is the ability of a staffer to sniff out something worth telling and then do a bang-up job doing so. And that ability is what makes for a fine journalist, in my book.

I pass all this on not as intentional flattery -- although well deserved -- but because I think one-person bureaus are unsung by and large in the grand scheme of journalism and that this staffer rose to the challenge in an exceptional way. BTW, It is also perhaps no coincidence that he was hired by then- Boston COB Mike Short, who got his start with AP in Los Angeles.

The man also deserves credit for catching a steelhead in his backyard, which as a salmon angler I can appreciate.

How data is reshaping elections coverage

By **BRIAN SCANLON**

AP's director of elections services describes the changes he's seen in the industry, and why data is so important for storytellers moving forward.

We see people everywhere using big data to analyze things, to predict things. Nowhere is this true more than elections, where we're receiving requests for granular data on past races, turnout numbers and other related statistics - the more expansive a dataset, the

better.

"Data has become essential to the 21st-century newsroom," my colleague Brian Carovillano said Wednesday. "The volume of data available grows exponentially each year, but this comes as many news organizations are grappling with challenges that make retraining staff and allocating resources more difficult than ever. Our goal is to help them be part of this revolution."



The benefits of more data include the ability to sort it in ways that reveal leads for investigative and other types of stories targeted to audiences' interests. We've seen this around AP when working with our member news organizations across the country on such data-driven projects as community flood insurance rates, commuting times in U.S. metro areas and oil and gas drilling on tribal lands.

That's why I'm excited AP will be increasing the number of these reports with new funding from the Knight Foundation. So if you have a research project you're working on, reach out to us. We may have some information that can really assist you in what you're looking to do.

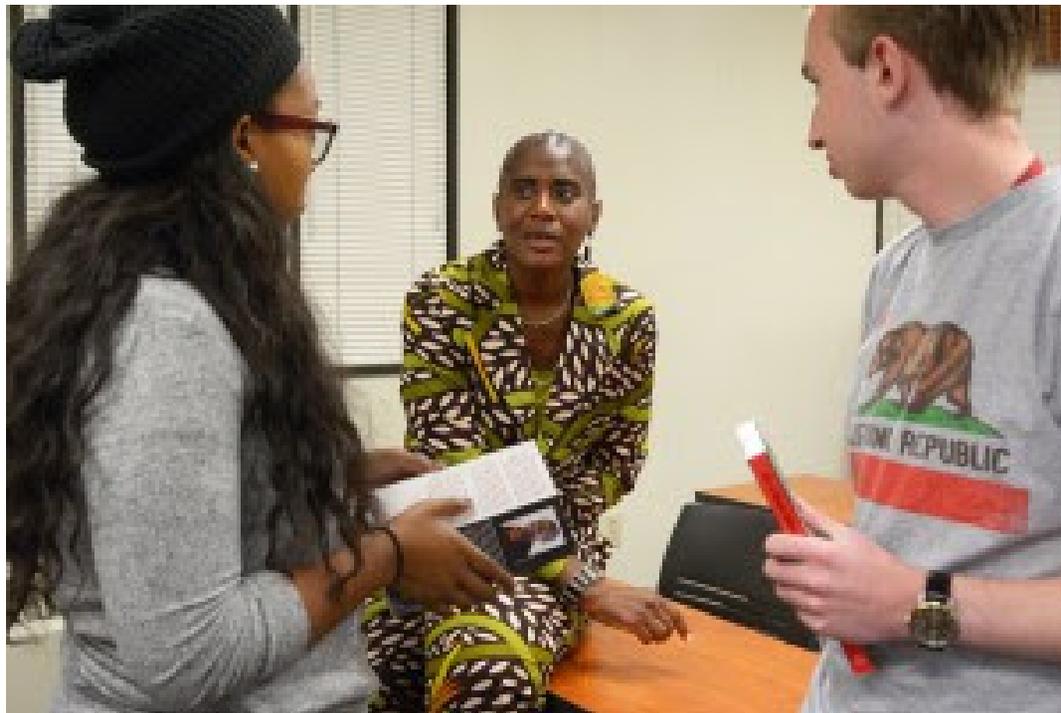
Another trend we're noticing is that as deadlines tighten - let's say it's election night - programmers and developers no longer want us to just give them everything and then sift through it. They want to be able to really look at very detailed, thin slices of information so they can cut down on processing time. So you have in one sense members wanting all the data we can provide, and in another wanting access to APIs to receive our race calls as soon as we enter them into our editorial system.

One of the biggest challenges we face in elections and at AP is making sure the approaches to innovation are wise ones. We want to direct the advances in data science to a place that values increased accuracy and ease of access rather than just being about the latest technology. We want to make sure that we insert journalistic discipline into the process and publish verified information to the world.

For more information on how we count the vote, our history of covering elections and to meet members of the team, visit us at ap.org/elections.

Brian Scanlon is AP's global director of vertical products and manages product offerings across elections, business and financial news, sports, lifestyles and entertainment. This includes managing all costs and revenues associated with the AP's products across these areas as well as conducting business development to expand AP's reach to new markets and new partners.

Freelancer, author Donna Bryson shares pointers in Indiana workshop



From left, Taylor Hurt, Donna Bryson and Austin Faulds chatted after the lecture. While on campus, Bryson also visited classes and conducted a roundtable discussion with students and faculty. (TianTian Zhang | The Media School)

By SAMUEL ROBINSON
Indiana University

Journalist and former foreign correspondent Donna Bryson gave tips to students on how to break into freelance journalism during a visit to campus last week.

Bryson, a former Associated Press bureau chief who's reported from South Africa and India, is herself a freelance journalist based in Denver. She's also the author of *It's a Black and White Thing*, which recounts how one South African university addressed race relations post-apartheid.

She said that freelance writers have to learn to pitch a story well if they're to stand out from the crowd.

"I still feel I'm learning all the time," Bryson said during a public workshop open to student journalists.

Bryson said that she's learned that having an idea for a story isn't enough. Freelance writers not only have to possess an idea, but also frame it to convince an editor it's right for the intended publication.

"There are a lot of good ideas out there," Bryson said. "But you have to convince your editor that you're the person for the story."

Bryson walked students through the process of making a pitch. With an idea in mind, Bryson said she sends emails to the editors of multiple publications to see if editors are interested in publishing the story. Sometimes, she receives replies in hours, and other times, it takes weeks.

"The pitching process can take months," Bryson said, "even to the point of changing the story."

She said that's because an editor might not respond to a pitch for a few weeks, and even if there is a response, the ongoing conversation between the reporter and the editor will extend so long that the story might change over time.

"Don't be timid," Bryson said. "If you don't hear back from an editor, it's not because your idea is bad. That's unlikely."

Because of the potential time frame, Bryson advised students not to pitch story ideas based on an event because an event could come and go by the time the editor approves a story idea. When editors do respond for story ideas, Bryson said rely rely on the reporter to deliver on the story.

"The editors will be taking your story to a story meeting with a calendar and dates," Bryson said. "And then they'll get back to you."

Bryson said freelancers can make themselves stand out if they're able to go the extra mile beyond reporting and take photos. It saves the publication money, and it'll likely earn the reporter more money.

"What do you pay?" Bryson said she asks publications. "What will you pay for some photos as well?"

Bryson said students don't need to follow her example of international reporting to be successful in the freelance industry.

"I was driven to go overseas because I wanted a challenge," Bryson said. "But a lot of people can find that challenge court reporting in Indianapolis."

Joe Coleman, a professor of practice teaching MSCH-J360 Best in International Reporting, said he invited Bryson to talk to students because her work covering racial injustice in South Africa partly mirrors journalism on racial issues in the United States.

"South Africa was one of the places I wanted to look at," Coleman said. "I thought this would be a good opportunity to look at racial turmoil in this country."

Coleman, former AP bureau chief in Tokyo, worked Bryson, and they collaborated on several international assignments.

In addition to the workshop, Bryson met with students in Coleman's class and talked about

her career over a brown bag lunch with students and faculty.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Stories of interest

How Tom Wolfe Became ... Tom Wolfe (Vanity Fair)



Michael Lewis delves deep into the archives of the legendary reporter turned novelist to discover what made the man in the white suit the voice of a journalistic generation.

BY MICHAEL LEWIS

I was 11 or maybe 12 years old when I discovered my parents' bookshelves. They'd been invisible right up to the moment someone or something told me that the books on them were stuffed with dirty words and shocking behavior—a rumor whose truth was eventually confirmed by Portnoy's Complaint. The book I still remember taking down from the shelf was Radical Chic & Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers. The only word in the title I understood was "the." The cover showed a picture of a bored-looking blonde housewife nestled in the lap of a virile black man. It seemed just the sort of thing to answer some questions I had about the facts of life. It didn't. Instead, it described a cocktail party given in the late 1960s for the Black Panthers by Leonard Bernstein in his fancy New York City apartment. I'd never been to New York City, or heard of Leonard Bernstein, the conductor of the New York Philharmonic, and had only a vague notion of who or what a Black Panther revolutionary might be—and none of that turned out to matter. The book started out with this weird old guy, Leonard Bernstein, rising from his bed in the middle of the night and having a vision of himself delivering a speech to a packed concert hall while being heckled by a giant black man onstage beside him. I remember thinking: How would anyone know about someone else's bizarre private vision? Was this one of those stories that really happened, like Bart Starr's quarterback sneak to beat the Dallas Cowboys, or was it made up, like The Hardy Boys? Then, suddenly, I felt as if I were standing in Leonard Bernstein's apartment watching his waiters serve appetizers to Black Panthers:

[Click here](#) to read more.

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McClatchy to shutter foreign bureaus in reorganization of D.C. operation

(Poynter)

McClatchy's foreign correspondents are headed to the U.S. as part of a broader restructuring of the Washington, D.C. bureau, the newspaper company announced Monday.

The announcement, made in a memo to editors from McClatchy news chief Anders Gyllenhaal, comes after reports that the company planned to close its foreign bureaus before the end of the year.

No layoffs or buyouts will result from the reorganization, Gyllenhaal told Poynter in an

email. Instead, the company's foreign correspondents will figure into a realigned editorial strategy. International reporting will be project based and less frequent.

In discontinuing its foreign bureaus, McClatchy is scaling back its international coverage in favor of an editorial strategy that emphasizes regional stories and political coverage. As part of the reorganization, McClatchy will organize a "strike force" dedicated to chasing down enterprise stories and establish a database team to work with the company's various newsrooms, according to the memo.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Susana Hayward.

Today in History - October 13, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, October 13, the 286th day of 2015. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 13, 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

On this date:

In A.D. 54, Roman Emperor Claudius I died, poisoned apparently at the behest of his wife, Agrippina (ag-rih-PEE'-nuh).

In 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1843, the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith (buh-NAY' brith) was founded in New

York City.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1944, during World War II, American troops entered Aachen, Germany.

In 1957, CBS-TV broadcast "The Edsel Show," a one-hour live special starring [Bing Crosby](#) designed to promote the new, ill-fated Ford automobile. (It was the first special to use videotape technology to delay the broadcast to the West Coast.)

In 1960, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon held the third televised debate of their presidential campaign (Nixon was in Los Angeles, Kennedy in New York).

In 1962, Edward Albee's four-character drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" opened on Broadway.

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes; survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead in order to stay alive until they were rescued more than two months later.

In 1981, voters in Egypt participated in a referendum to elect Vice President Hosni Mubarak (HAHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk) the new president, one week after the assassination of Anwar Sadat.

In 1990, Le Duc Tho (lee duhk toh), co-founder of the Vietnamese Communist Party, died in Hanoi a day before his 79th birthday.

In 2000, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Longtime American communist Gus Hall died in New York at age 90.

Ten years ago: British playwright Harold Pinter won the 2005 Nobel Prize in literature. Scores of Islamic militants launched simultaneous attacks on police and government buildings in Nalchik, a city in Russia's turbulent Caucasus region, leaving 139 people dead, most of them insurgents.

Five years ago: Rescuers in Chile using a missile-like escape capsule pulled 33 men one by one to fresh air and freedom 69 days after they were trapped in a collapsed mine a half-mile underground. U.S. authorities announced the arrests of 73 people accused of being part of a vast network of Armenian gangsters and their associates who allegedly used phantom health care clinics and other means to try to cheat Medicare out of \$163 million.

One year ago: President Barack Obama huddled with some of his senior national security aides and with top administration health officials for the latest assessment on the government's response to Ebola in the aftermath of a Dallas nurse's contracting the disease. Frenchman Jean Tirole (zhahn tee-ROHL') was announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize in economics for showing how to encourage better products and competitive prices in industries dominated by a few companies.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 78. Actress Melinda Dillon is 76. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 74. Actress Pamela Tiffin is 73. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 71. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 69. Actor Demond Wilson is 69. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 68. Actor John Lone is 63. Model Beverly Johnson is 63. Producer-writer Chris Carter is 59. Actor Reggie Theus (THEE'-us) is 58. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 57. Singer Marie Osmond is 56. Rock singer Joey Belladonna is 55. Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer is 55. NBA coach [Doc Rivers](#) is 54. Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYSS'-tal kee-MAH') is 53. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 53. Actress Kelly Preston is 53. Country singer John Wiggins is 53. Actor Christopher Judge is 51. Actor Matt Walsh (TV: "Veep") is 51. Actress Kate Walsh

is 48. Rhythm-and-blues musician Jeff Allen (Mint Condition) is 47. Actress Tisha Campbell-Martin is 47. Classical singer Carlos Marin (Il Divo) is 47. Olympic silver-medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 46. Country singer Rhett Akins is 46. Classical crossover singer Paul Potts (TV: "Britain's Got Talent") is 45. TV personality Billy Bush is 44. Actor [Sacha Baron Cohen](#) is 44. Rock musician Jan Van Sichem Jr. (K's Choice) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singers Brandon and Brian Casey (Jagged Edge) are 40. Actress Kiele Sanchez is 39. NBA All-Star Paul Pierce is 38. Singer Ashanti (ah-SHAHN'-tee) is 35. Christian rock singer Jon Micah Sumrall (Kutless) is 35. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 33.

Thought for Today: "A hero is a man who is afraid to run away." - English proverb.

Got a story to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such

work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
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