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Connecting -- May 22, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We lead today's issue with a story for Poynter by **Dr. John Biemer** on the similarities he sees between the early stages of journalism and medical careers. He has done both.

Biemer was an AP newsman for 3 ½ years, from 1999 to 2003, first in the Des Moines bureau and then Baltimore/Annapolis before he joined The Chicago Tribune. He presently is a resident physician in the Department of Pathology at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

Thanks to our Connecting colleague **David Beard** for sharing the story.

I am reminded by the story of a conversation I once had with my longtime friend **Ann Brill**, dean of the University of Kansas journalism school, when I told her that the CEO of the Iowa retirement home where my mom and dad spent their last years was a KU broadcast journalism grad. A journalism degree sometimes leads to professions other than journalism, she said, "but maybe not brain surgery." Dr. John makes us close to wrong.

Another great share for today's issue comes from **Edie Lederer**, who wrote:

Todd Baxter, who was a CNN cameraman and editor when he worked with Dick and is now CNN's Director of International Newsgathering Video Production, sent me a link of the amazing half-hour video he put together about Dick Blystone. I think it should be mandatory viewing in journalism schools, because it shows what a real master can do with words and pictures.

[Click here](#) for a link to the video.

Have a great day!

Paul

With little sleep, low pay and high pressure, careers in journalism and medicine start the same



Dr. John Biemer, a former newspaper reporter, is now a pathology resident at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. (Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)

By DR. JOHN BIEMER

For POYNTER.org

Fifteen years ago this month, I started my residency. No, not my medical residency. That would come later. This was a residency in journalism.

I was hired in the spring of 2003 in the "two-year residency program" in the Metro department of the Chicago Tribune. It was a chance to leap from my previous job as a wire service reporter at The Associated Press to one of the biggest and best-regarded newspapers in the country.

This summer, I am completing a one-year fellowship in cytopathology, a sub-specialization which comes on the heels of a four-year residency in pathology. I never expected to go through residency twice, much less in such different fields, but I'd like to think that my first one, in journalism, prepared me in some ways for the one that came along later.

Looking back, there are some ways that the two experiences were similar - and some that made them distinct.

Yes, the hours are long

The "resident" reporters in the Tribune newsroom were younger people, as they mostly are in medicine, usually in their 20s, at the beginning of their careers. Some were "cub reporters" just out of college, while some, like me, came after a few years of good experience elsewhere.

The residents at the Tribune worked long hours, weekends and holidays. We were often the first reporters to arrive in the newsroom and the last to leave at the end of the day. We were always on call if a big story was breaking. We slept with pagers next to our beds - something all too familiar to any medical resident.

We were the frontline reporters for the paper's Metro section each day, which freed up the senior reporters to focus on bigger fish, beats and long-term projects - an arrangement not unlike that of medical residents and senior attending physicians. The Tribune residents reported the daily drumbeat of big city stories - and in a city like Chicago, there is no shortage of stories.

We had to be ready to go anywhere at any time. We were sent to fires. We covered fatal automobile accidents. We covered press conferences, political campaign events and trials. We wrote obituaries.

As you proved your ability to handle a story, you were given more complex and higher-profile assignments. You could say that this was a form of "graduated responsibility" - a description often used for medical residents as they accumulate experience and demonstrate competence.

Read more [here](#). Shared by David Beard.

A Kansas City farewell to Cliff Schiappa



From left: Kent Zimmerman, Cliff Schiappa, Kathy Curran, Paul Stevens, Tim Curran, Steve Crowley and Kia Breaux.

Former Kansas City AP photojournalist **Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) has lived more than half his life in Kansas City - but that changes soon when he pulls up roots for a move to Palm Springs, California.

Kansas City bureau friends gathered last week for a farewell lunch with Cliff - no doubt, not the last farewell bash to be held for him.

Cliff arrived in Kansas just in time for his first day of work, Sept. 2, 1980, at The Kansas City Times where he was a staff photographer and assistant photo editor. One of his colleagues was former AP staffer Greg Smith. He worked at The Times until April 1984, when he was hired by Chief of Bureau Fred Moen and Director of Photos Hal Buell, starting May 1, 1984 - the same day as James Finley was hired in St. Louis.

Cliff was a Kansas City photographer until 2000, when he was appointed assistant chief of bureau. After four years in the position, he was appointed Midwest Regional Photo Editor and worked at the AP until May 1, 2007.

In Palm Springs, he will be a nearby neighbor to two Connecting colleagues - Howard Goldberg and Jim Hood.

AP names Susannah George as intelligence reporter

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Associated Press on Monday announced that award-winning journalist Susannah George will join its Washington bureau to cover U.S. intelligence agencies and national security.

The appointment was announced by Julie Pace, AP's Washington bureau chief.

"Susannah is a dogged reporter with a track record of producing standout journalism on complex issues," Pace said. "In her new role as an intelligence reporter, she will be an integral part of our Washington-based national security team."

George, 33, joined the AP in 2015 and has led coverage from the Baghdad bureau. She was a member of the team of journalists who won the Overseas Press Club awards this year for coverage of the Islamic State and the fight for Mosul. Her Mosul coverage was also part of a larger body of work named as a Pulitzer Prize finalist this year.



George is also a 2018 Livingston Award finalist for international reporting.

George has spent much of her career overseas, covering conflict in Gaza, the NATO bombing campaign in Libya and uprisings in Egypt. She began her career in the U.S. as a producer for National Public Radio, covering elections, natural disasters and gun violence.

A native of Connecticut, George grew up in the Middle East between Gaza, Ramallah and Jerusalem.

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

Welcome to Connecting



Malia Rulon Herman - Mrulon@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Women's voices are largely missing from newspaper letters to the editor (Chicago Tribune)

By HEIDI STEVENS

if you've ever walked through the lobby of Tribune Tower, you've seen the soul-stirring quotes etched into the marble of our majestic lobby: Joseph Medill, Abraham Lincoln, Thurgood Marshall, Flannery O'Connor, Voltaire.

One of my favorites is from Arthur Miller. "A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself."

Nowhere is that truer than our op-ed pages, where readers share their viewpoints on everything from the upcoming mayoral race to whether President Donald Trump should win a Nobel Peace Prize in letters to the editor.

A majority of letters, though, are written by men. Which means a sizable chunk of the nation isn't taking part in Miller's grand vision - a national conversation.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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The Mafia Reporter With a Police Escort (and the 200 Journalists Like Him) (New York Times)



Paolo Borrometi is one of nearly 200 journalists in Italy who live under police protection. Credit: Nadia Shira Cohen for The New York Times

By Gaia Pianigiani

ROME - For many of his days over the past four years, Paolo Borrometi has lived in isolation, though he is barely ever alone. He has not walked through a park or by the beach in his native Sicily for years. He cannot go to a restaurant freely, or to a concert or the movies. He can't drive a car alone, go shopping alone, or go out for dinner by himself.

Before heading to work as a reporter covering the mafia, he starts each morning with an espresso, a cigarette - and his police escort.

Angering the mafia as a journalist in Italy makes for a lonely life. And yet Mr. Borrometi, 35, is in good company. Almost 200 reporters in Italy live under police protection, making it unique among industrialized Western countries, advocacy groups say.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - May 22, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2018. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

On this date:

In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1868, a major train robbery took place near Marshfield, Indiana, as members of the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in loot.

In 1913, the American Cancer Society was founded in New York under its original name, the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon began a visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and Kremlin leaders signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1981 "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe was convicted in London of murdering 13 women and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days later).

In 1998, a federal judge ruled that Secret Service agents could be compelled to testify before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. Voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland turned out to cast ballots giving resounding approval to a Northern Ireland peace accord.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

Ten years ago: A Texas appeals court said the state had no right to take more than 400 children from a polygamist group's ranch the previous month; the children were returned to their parents. Britain's Conservative Party won a special election that was viewed as a rebuke to Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Gordon Brown.

Five years ago: Lois Lerner, an Internal Revenue Service supervisor whose agents had targeted conservative groups, swore to a House committee she did nothing wrong, then refused to answer further questions, citing her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself. In a brutal daylight attack in London, two al-Qaida-inspired extremists with butcher knives hacked to death an off-duty British soldier, Lee Rigby, before police wounded them in a shootout. (The attackers were later sentenced to prison.)

One year ago: A suicide bomber set off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. In a historic gesture, President Donald Trump solemnly placed a note in the ancient stones of Jerusalem's Western Wall. Ford Motor Co. announced it was replacing CEO Mark Fields. Actress Dina Merrill, 93, died at her home in East Hampton, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Charles Aznavour is 94. Actor Michael Constantine is 91. Business magnate T. Boone Pickens is 90. Conductor Peter Nero is 84. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 80. Actor Frank Converse is 80. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 78. Actress Barbara Parkins is 76. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 75. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 68. Actor-producer Al Corley is 63. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 61. Singer Morrissey is 59. Actress Ann Cusack is 57. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 57. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 56. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 54. Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 52. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 51. Actress Brooke Smith is 51. Actor Michael Kelly is 49. Model Naomi Campbell is 48. Actress Anna Belknap is 46. Actress Alison Eastwood is 46. Singer Donell Jones is 45. Actor Sean Gunn is 44. Actress A.J. Langer is 44. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Vivian Green is 39. Actress Maggie Q is 39. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 36. Actress Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 32. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 31. Actress Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 26. Actress Camren (cq) Bicondova is 19.

Thought for Today: "It is the people who can do nothing who find nothing to do, and the secret to happiness in this world is not only to be useful, but to be forever elevating one's uses." - Sarah Orne Jewett, American author (1849-1909).

Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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.

- **"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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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