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## Connecting

January 13, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021,

One of Connecting's recurrent themes is Second Chapters – often involving a new career or avocation after a long working career.

Our colleague **David Liu** held a variety of positions in New York headquarters after being hired by Joe Wing as a copy boy in 1967 after finishing graduate school. David moved to researcher in the Book Division, headed by Robert Price, working on the AP yearbook "The World in 1965-1975"; served as Chief of News Library, after his second graduate degree in MIS, 1978-80; Purchasing Executive, 1980-1986; Director of Foreign Language Newspapers, Membership Department. 1987-2004, and Liaison representative AP-Xinhua News Agency 1979-2005.

In our lead story, he tells about his Second Chapter of Life and he's now into his third chapter. Got your own Next Chapter story to tell? Please send it along.

**HIS FIRST BUREAU CHIEF WEIGHS IN:** Washington photographer **Scott Applewhite** celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> AP anniversary last week – and the WX bureau chief who welcomed him aboard in 1981 reached out with his congratulations. Wrote **Walter Mears (Email)** – “Scott is a dedicated and devoted journalist and a credit to his profession and to the AP. He proves it on every assignment.”

Walter had a celebration of his own Monday – marking his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## *Second chapters:* **After AP, a career in journalism education**



Lecture at American Cultural Center, US Embassy, Beijing, September 2017.

**David Liu (Email)** - The 2019 United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) Awards was held on Dec. 6, 2019, at Cipriani in New York City. I served as a category judge for the Prince Albert II of Monaco and UNCA Global Prize for Coverage of Climate Change, which was awarded for best story in environmental reporting. With this event, this chapter of my post-AP career came to an end.

Starting in 1986, and while I was still at the AP, I became an adjunct professor at the Polk School of Journalism and Communication at Long Island University. I also served

as a panelist in the annual Polk Award category of environmental reporting. I believed that becoming an adjunct professor in the 1980s would prepare me for a second career in journalism education, after my retirement from the AP – which came in 2005 after 38 years of service.

One of the most notable events of my teaching career came in 2007-2008 when I received a Fulbright to teach in China at Remin University in Beijing. The criteria for the award was based on my experience accumulated over the years I spent as an adjunct professor at Long Island University.

The Fulbright Program, under the jurisdiction of US State Department, has strict rules and a rigorous application process. Furthermore, the overseas teaching award requires an invitation from a host institution in the country. My hosting university, Renmin University (People's University) is a leading academic institute in China. The university provided me with lodging for the academic year of 2007-2008 along with two teaching assistants at the school of journalism building in the campus. I taught two elective graduate classes in Environment Reporting and Media Management, respectively.



The requirement for the courses was that they be conducted in English. Unusual for a university professor, I had to interview each student to make sure their language proficiency was good enough that they would benefit from the course. Taking a course in English proved to be the most challenging part for my students. Luckily, I am a native speaker of Mandarin Chinese, so I was able to clarify any misunderstandings or miscomprehension.



After my Fulbright year was complete, I continued to teach at several universities and institutes in Beijing and other major cities in China. During my visits to various universities as a guest speaker, I met Arnold Zeitlin at Guangzhou Foreign Language University in 2008 and Peter Arnett at Shantou University in 2010 while they were teaching at those institutes.

With the help of Charles Hustler, COB in Beijing, I was able to place some of my students in the bureau to help with the coverage of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Charles also was kind enough to give lectures at the universities where I

taught. This gave students a better understanding of AP global perspectives and the core values of AP services.

Overall, I spent nearly 15 years as a university lecturer and taught classes to more than 800 graduate students in China. Some of those students have been assigned to overseas service among major state-owned media outlets. Others have completed their studies overseas and returned to China to begin their own teaching careers.

Beginning with that first graduate course on Environment Reporting at Renmin University, I began to focus my teaching career in China on promoting environmental reporting – a topic that has become more crucial to journalists as the country rapidly develops. I also developed a cross-disciplinary course offered to students who major in environment science. Many students who are interested in becoming journalists also benefit from the perspectives offered by environment science majors.

One highlight came in the summer of 2015, when I led a group of graduate students from Nanjing University School of Journalism to conduct an investigative report on the Yangtze River project. The students are separated into two groups starting from Yangzhou, and traveling through the newly planned canal of diverting water from the Yangtze River to the north that ends at the southern edge of Beijing – a thousand-mile stretch. Along the way, many small factories in every province experienced severe environmental damage due to the lack of proper treatment of runoff waste disposal. My students produced a series of comprehensive reports that were published in the Guangzhou-based Southern China Weekly. The reception from both readers and authorities was overwhelmingly positive.

I ended this chapter of my post-AP career by returning to the U.S. and promoting cultural exchange programs initiated by various universities and colleges in the States.

## **Congratulations to Walter Rastetter**



**Walter Rastetter, who retired from AP after a 38-year career, at Yankees home opener in 2018.**

**John Morrissey (Email)** - I had the pleasure of working with Walter for many years on several different projects especially in the area of business continuity. I was in charge of Technology Operations in Washington, DC and in 2014 was given the opportunity to add the NYC HQ facility to my responsibilities. Walter reported to me with this change and he was so easy to work with as his manager. Though generally quiet, make no mistake that he was one of the most detail-oriented and determined persons I have worked with over the years. I never really had to "manage" Walter. He was a self-starter to the highest degree and always willing to help with anything. With the move to 200 Liberty in 2017, I counted on Walter in many critical situations outside his normal duties to make the move project a success. Walter is also a lot of fun to have a beer with too!!

Good luck Walter to you and your family and enjoy your retirement years so well deserved.

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**Nolan Kienitz (Email)** - I was fortunate to have been able to work with Walter during my years as Communications Executive at 50 Rock / 4th Floor.

Walter was/is one of an excellent team of folks who all worked together to ensure the AP Report was delivered worldwide.

We also had a lot of fun including the annual "Ugly Tie Day" contest we started that soon spread to all AP divisions and floors of staffers at 50 Rock. Walter was a key participant and organizer for that event. I can assure you that my ties were NOT ugly ... just conversational!!

Walter's coordination of many ski trips to Vermont and Switzerland were simply the best. Short of huge Switzerland snowfalls that shut down rail traffic that trip to Davos was a blast.

Have a great retirement Walter and welcome to the 'retired' club.

## Attacks at the Capitol are Attacks on Democracy

### NPPA Board of Directors Statement

The National Press Photographers Association strongly condemns the acts of violence that we witnessed this week in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Capitol. The NPPA calls on authorities to investigate and prosecute the threats, harassment and physical assaults against journalists as well as the destruction and theft of their equipment that occurred on January 6, 2021.

To do our jobs, photojournalists must be on the front lines to record the news. The threats, violence and aggression toward visual journalists are unconscionable acts that erode our democracy and our country's First Amendment rights. A camera cable was knotted into a noose and hung over a tree branch. The words "Murder the Media" were scratched into a door inside the Capitol. Thousands of dollars in equipment labeled "Associated Press" was stomped on and destroyed. A @gopro video posted by Associated Press photographer Julio Cortez shows his colleague John Minchillo being attacked. The actions of the angry mob who descended on the Capitol could have been avoided.

The remarkable footage and still images made by these courageous photojournalists -- many who are NPPA members -- are already part of the historic record. Their harrowing first-person accounts are revealing their experiences at the center of the mob.

Read more [here](#).

## Covering the Capitol siege, armed with Sony a9IIs



Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., stops to look at damage in the early morning hours of Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, after protesters stormed the Capitol in Washington, the previous day. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As one whose camera is his phone, I was intrigued by Scott Applewhite's description of the technical details of how his excellent photos from the besieged House chamber Jan. 6 were transmitted, in his first person for Monday's Connecting. I asked for a bit more detail.)

**Scott Applewhite (Email)** – It takes some effort prior to the assignment for the Sony cameras to be prepared – for transmitting and captioning.



The cameras can hold a preloaded caption that uses standard IPTC fields. We have to write a general caption of what we are expecting to see. We can't change that on the fly, directly in the camera. That's one thing we rely on the photo editors to fine tune. The camera does have the ability add a "voice tag" – a short voice recording – to the individual photos before we transmit. My general preloaded caption actually said:

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Vice President Mike Pence officiate as a joint session of the House and Senate convenes to count the Electoral College votes cast in November's election, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

I could then add a voice tag that was specific to the image that said: “Capitol Police officers barricade the door to the House chamber with guns drawn. This is an AP photo, not pool.”

The Sony a9II has the ability to “transmit” short range, either to nearby WiFi, or to a cell phone or hotspot that will relay the picture.

Think of all of those technical things you have to do when you set up home wifi, SSID, username, passwords, etc. – they have to be entered into the camera’s menu. I keep my cameras loaded with the WiFi settings for inside the Capitol. There are separate WiFi settings for the Senate, the House, and other areas. I also have a Verizon MiFi unit – it is essentially a cell phone that the camera can connect to and then send the photo over the cell network to the AP. I keep those technical settings ready if needed.

The WiFi inside the House chamber is very “hot” – a very strong and effective signal. I could send an image in less than 15 seconds usually.

The AP photo editors then see the photos aggregate on their computers. On Wednesday (Jan. 6), I was working directly with veteran Washington photo editor Jon Elswick who was very patient with me and expedited my photos to the wire. Photo editors Wayne Partlow and Jenny Kane were juggling the incoming images also. The editors updated the captions and relayed them the AP photo network.

I say that Jon was patient with me because I was sending a lot of pictures in a short time – this is not good form usually on the part of the photographer – we normally use some judgment and discretion in how many we send in a short time so that the photo desk isn’t overwhelmed.

But, in this case, I told Jon I was going to move as much as I reasonably could. My previous experience in conflict zones and working around the military and police reminded me that my cameras might be destroyed by the mob or my disks confiscated by police. The ability to transmit from the camera insured that AP would get the photos.

The multi-tasking capability of the camera is quite an achievement. The latest version of the camera, the a9II, makes it possible to return to shooting even as the photos begin transmitting – a vital capability for AP photographers who don’t want to miss the significant moments. The first a9, albeit a technological marvel and game-changer, you had to wait for the transmitting process to play out and complete before taking pictures could resume.

And again, I can’t say enough about Jon Elswick, Wayne Partlow and Jenny Kane, the AP photo editors who were our lifeline. Their world was upended that day as well as they adapted to a rapidly shifting story – keeping us informed in the field while updating and editing the flood of incoming news pictures. When we were able to check in by phone, their first questions were always about our safety.



While I was entrenched in the House chamber, Photographer Andy Harnik (right) was really on the move. He was capturing history-making moments and sending the photos to the AP at a rapid pace. First, inside the chamber, then images of Capitol Police stopping the mob in the corridors. Even after the lockdown, when there was a moment to rest, Andy never stopped as he surveyed the damage around the House side of the Capitol and kept updating AP's record of the attack. The cleanup of the damage began almost immediately, and Andy knew we couldn't delay the record of the destruction. Andy does it all and makes it look easy. He's a good friend who always looks out for the team.



All of the photographers in Washington on Jan. 6th employed the same cameras and the same technical processes. The chaos outside the Capitol was handled bravely by our other photographers who endured threats, abuse, and physical danger from the mob. They are my heroes!

## Connecting sky shot – Florida



**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - Oldsmar, Fla., behind our house.

## Connecting wildlife shot – Australia



**Carl Robinson** ([Email](#)) - No, I did not 'set up' this Kangaroo Shot on New Year's Day! This was taken atop Saddleback Mountain in New South Wales, Australia, about 20 kms from home up quiet country roads. I did find this quite fortuitous, however.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Hilmi Toros - [wordsmithsailor@hotmail.com](mailto:wordsmithsailor@hotmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Andrew Harnik – [aharnik@ap.org](mailto:aharnik@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***Federal prosecutor vows to probe threats, assaults on journalists during Capitol riot*** (The Hill)

BY HARPER NEIDIG

The top federal prosecutor for Washington, D.C., on Tuesday promised to investigate threats and assaults on journalists who were covering the deadly riot at the Capitol last week.

Michael Sherwin, the acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia who's leading the investigation and prosecutions following the riot, said his office is aware of reports of violence and harassment against reporters during the incident.

"Such violence will not be tolerated," Sherwin said in a statement. "We are resolutely committed to upholding the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, including speech, peaceful assembly, and press, and we will investigate, prosecute, and hold accountable anyone who attempts to obstruct or curtail these freedoms through violence or intimidation."

The prosecutor invited the public to send tips to his office regarding the targeting of journalists.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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## ***Voice of America reassigns White House reporter after she sought to question Mike Pompeo*** (Washington Post)

**By Paul Farhi**

The director of Voice of America ordered the reassignment of a reporter for the international news organization after she sought to ask questions of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a VOA-sponsored appearance on Monday, according to several people who attended the event.

Patsy Widakuswara, who covers the White House for VOA, was ordered off the beat by Director Robert Reilly after firing questions at Pompeo after his speech and a brief Q&A session conducted by Reilly.

Pompeo, who had spoken about “American exceptionalism” and criticized oppressive regimes in China, Iran and elsewhere during his appearance, ignored Widakuswara’s questions as he left VOA’s headquarters in Washington.

Reilly, a former VOA director and conservative writer, was appointed to head the government-funded agency last month by Michael Pack, who since June has headed VOA’s parent organization, the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Doug Pizac.

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## ***The science of mob thinking*** (Axios)

**By Sara Fischer, Alison Snyder**

The Capitol siege last week came as a shock to many Americans who had no idea how intense election denialism, and to an extent white supremacy, has been brewing in American society.

Why it matters: Research shows that this type of mob thinking has become stronger and more frequent as more news and information has moved online. Experts also suggest President Trump played a key role in weaponizing human tendencies to distrust people who look or act different.

The way people determine what's true and what's false, especially online, relies heavily on people trusting sources of information over substance, according to experts.

Rather than trying to fact-check everything, experts say, people use heuristics — a kind of mental shortcut for fact-checking that can rely on cues like whether the information is coming from people they think they can trust.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jenny Volanakis.

## The Final Word



Shared by Len Iwanski

## Today in History - Jan. 13, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2021. There are 352 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people, including four motorists on the bridge; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

### On this date:

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," (zhah-KOOZ') was published in Paris.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.

In 1967, the Rolling Stones' double-A sided single "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Ruby Tuesday" was released in the United Kingdom by Decca Records. (It was released the following day in the United States on the London label.)

In 1992, Japan apologized for forcing tens of thousands of Korean women to serve as sex slaves for its soldiers during World War II, citing newly uncovered documents that showed the Japanese army had had a role in abducting the so-called “comfort women.”

In 2001, an earthquake estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey at magnitude 7.7 struck El Salvador; more than 840 people were killed.

In 2005, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that would suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

In 2010, Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital a day after a powerful earthquake, while in Washington, President Barack Obama pledged an all-out rescue and relief effort. R&B singer Teddy Pendergrass died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, at age 59.

In 2012, the Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed.

In 2018, a false alarm that warned of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii sent the islands into a panic, with people abandoning cars on a highway and preparing to flee their homes; officials apologized and said the alert was sent when someone hit the wrong button during a shift change.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden became the first top U.S. official to visit Iraq since the country approved a new Cabinet; Biden emphasized to Iraqi leaders that the U.S. wanted nothing more than for Iraq to be free and democratic. A funeral was held in Tucson, Arizona, for 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the youngest victim of a mass shooting that also claimed five other lives and critically wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Five years ago: Less than a day after 10 U.S. Navy sailors were detained in Iran when their boats drifted into Iranian waters, they and their vessels were back safely with the American fleet. Defense Secretary Ash Carter laid out broad plans to defeat Islamic State militants and retake the group’s key power centers in Iraq and Syria. The Al Jazeera America cable news network said it was shutting down two and a half years after its launch. Three winning tickets split a world-record \$1.6 billion Powerball jackpot.

One year ago: Anger swelled in Iran over the accidental shutdown of a Ukrainian jetliner and the government’s effort to conceal its role; videos appeared to show security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas to disperse protests. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker dropped out of the Democratic presidential race after failing to qualify for a December debate. At a royal family summit in eastern England, Queen Elizabeth II brokered a deal to secure the future of the monarchy; it would allow Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, to live part-time in Canada. The Houston Astros



fired manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow after the pair had been suspended by Major League Baseball for a sign-stealing scheme. "Joker" led the way with 11 Oscar nominations. Joe Burrow threw five touchdown passes and ran for another score, leading top-ranked LSU to a 42-25 win over No. 3 Clemson to capture the national championship.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Frances Sternhagen is 91. TV personality Nick Clooney is 87. Comedian Charlie Brill is 83. Actor Billy Gray is 83. Actor Richard Moll is 78. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 67. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White is 66. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 62. Actor Kevin Anderson is 61. Actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 60. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 60. Country singer Trace Adkins is 59. Actor Penelope Ann Miller is 57. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 55. Actor Suzanne Cryer is 54. Actor Traci Bingham is 53. Actor Keith Coogan is 51. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 51. Actor Nicole Eggert is 49. Actor Ross McCall is 45. Actor Michael Pena is 45. Actor Orlando Bloom is 44. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America") is 40. Actor Ruth Wilson is 39. Actor Julian Morris is 38. Actor Beau Mirchoff is 32. Actor Liam Hemsworth is 31. NHL center Connor McDavid is 24.

## 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.

**Paul Stevens**

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