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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Sept. 2, 2021,

Not bad, **Julie Pace**, not bad at all.

In a span of about 20 years, you've moved from being a youth contributor to your hometown newspaper, **The Buffalo News**, to being selected as the top editor of the world's preeminent news service, The Associated Press.

Our congratulations go out to our colleague, AP's new executive editor, who at 39 years of age may be the second-youngest person to ever lead the AP's global news-gathering force. Our colleague **Lou Boccardi** was 35 when he was named to the position and went on to lead the AP as president and CEO from 1985 to 2003.

Her appointment to succeed **Sally Buzbee**, who also moved from AP Washington bureau chief to AP executive editor, was announced Wednesday by AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** and his successor (effective Jan. 1, 2022) – **Daisy Veerasingham**, now

executive vice president and chief operating officer. Buzbee left AP to become executive editor of The Washington Post.

“Julie has excellent news judgment and a deep understanding of AP’s role in the global news landscape,” they said in a note to staff. “Throughout her 14 years with AP she has demonstrated strong leadership and a collaborative spirit. Her enthusiasm for this job is infectious, as is her commitment to our news values and what we stand for.”

The lead grafs in a story in the News that we bring you below noted: “Julie Pace has long been one of the most influential journalists in Washington. Now, the Amherst native is one of the most powerful news leaders in the world.” Amherst, N.Y., is a suburb of Buffalo. The News story said she’s a graduate of Amherst High School and former youth contributor to The News.

And this from [a story](#) on Julie two years ago, also by the News’ **Tim O’Shei**, in March 2019:

Pace has been explaining things and chasing stories since childhood. She grew up in Amherst, where she served as the co-editor of her elementary school newspaper, the Smallwood Chronicle.

“She always said she wanted to be like Katie Couric,” said Pace’s mother, Diane, a radiologic technologist.

“She just loved to write stories and document things, as early as we can remember,” added her father, Jim, who runs a landscaping business.

During her time at Amherst, Pace became a youth reporter for the Buffalo News’ youth-written section, NeXt, and also landed an internship with the Cheektowaga Times...

The staff note from Pruitt and Veerasingham added:

As Washington bureau chief, Julie directed all-formats coverage of U.S. politics and elections, national security and domestic policy, leading a team that broke agenda-setting news. She worked regularly with our journalists around the world, contributing to key international storylines including the Iran nuclear talks, the drawdowns of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and Russia’s election interference. She played a leading role in pushing for press freedom and access in the U.S. and internationally and has advocated for the safety of our journalists. Julie also oversaw efforts to bolster our fact-checking operation and transform Washington into a true cross-format bureau.

Julie previously spent a decade anchoring AP’s report from the White House, traveling to more than 50 countries and representing AP in interactions with foreign leaders and officials. She joined AP in 2007 as a video producer and AP’s first multimedia political journalist, traveling throughout the U.S. during the 2008 presidential campaign and developing live video coverage plans for Election Day and former President Barack Obama’s inauguration.

After graduating from Northwestern University’s Medill School for Journalism, Julie began her career at South African television station e.tv and worked as a freelancer in

southern Africa before joining *The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune* as a general assignment reporter in 2005.

Julie's reporting has earned the White House Correspondents' Association Merriman Smith Award for writing on deadline and the Gramling Journalism Award, and she will soon be inducted into the Medill School of Journalism Hall of Achievement.



Brian Stelter of CNN (above) tweeted: "At age 39, @jpaceDC represents a rising generation of newsroom leaders. She's been with the news agency since 2007, so she knows it inside and out." Click [here](#) for his story.

We bring you the AP story on her appointment by media writer **David Bauder**, a note from Julie to the AP staff, a listing of past AP news leaders (five of the last six executive editors have Washington bureau ties), and The Buffalo News story.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Julie Pace named new Associated Press executive editor



Julie Pace, assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief for The Associated Press, is photographed at the AP bureau in Washington on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021. The AP announced Wednesday, Sept. 1, that Pace has been named the global news agency's senior vice president and executive editor, effective immediately. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Julie Pace, a longtime Washington journalist who managed coverage of the U.S. government during a period of historic tumult, was named Wednesday as the executive editor and senior vice president of The Associated Press.

The 39-year-old Pace has been the AP's Washington bureau chief since 2017, guiding reporting on the Trump administration, national security, politics and the new Biden White House. She rose to the newsroom's top leadership spot with a promise to accelerate the AP's digital transformation.

Pace succeeds Sally Buzbee, who became executive editor of The Washington Post in June, and is the third consecutive woman to lead the AP's worldwide news operation. Her appointment is effective immediately and was announced by Gary Pruitt, AP president and CEO, and Daisy Veerasingham, executive vice president and chief operating officer. Veerasingham will become president and chief executive at the end of the year.

"This is a very exciting time for the AP — we're a 175-year-old news organization with a new CEO and a new executive editor," Pruitt said. "Julie Pace has a vision for AP's future that is in line with our long-standing values but also forward-thinking. She will do an excellent job."

As she assumes her new role, Pace said it was important to push all of the AP's journalists — text reporters, video, still photographers, fact checkers and graphics producers — out of individual silos to work together in presenting compelling stories.

"We are in a position where we have an opportunity to really modernize our news report," Pace said in an interview. "We have an opportunity to take all of the fantastic journalism that we do across formats and think of ways we can make it more digital-friendly, to make it more social-friendly."

Breaking news will remain the backbone of the AP's report, but journalists will quickly move to provide analysis, context and fact-checking to those stories, she said.

In some ways Pace is herself a symbol of the AP's transition: She joined the organization in Washington in 2007 as a video producer and rose to chief White House correspondent. A frequent on-air analyst at networks including CNN, ABC and Fox, she's comfortable talking publicly, representing a company that is often overlooked despite stationing journalists in 250 locations in 100 countries.

That's a legacy of the AP's history primarily as a wholesaler of news disseminated through other outlets. A smaller AP has placed a greater emphasis on impact journalism, becoming a more consumer-facing organization rather than a bland utility. The AP won two Pulitzer Prizes this year and was a finalist for three others.

"We play this incredibly vital role in how people around the world get their information, and I think sometimes we don't get enough credit for that," she said. "There are millions — upwards of a billion people — who get news from the AP every day. There's real power behind the work that we do."

Pace's background as a public communicator was a plus moving forward, as the company looks to take a leadership role in the industry where appropriate, Veerasingham said in an interview.

There's been a raft of leadership changes at national news organizations in the past several months. Besides Buzbee and Pace, Kevin Merida was named top editor at The Los Angeles Times, Kim Godwin is ABC News president, Wendy McMahon and Neeraj Khemlani share the same job at CBS News, Rashida Jones is president of MSNBC and Alessandra Galloni is editor-in-chief at Reuters.

What they all have in common is that none are white men in an era in which the industry has signaled the importance of diversity. That probably wasn't as pressing an issue for the AP, compared to other places, since its newsroom has been led by a woman since 2002, when Kathleen Carroll became executive editor, Veerasingham said.

"The best person for the job happens to be a woman," she said.



Washington news meeting in 2019: from left, Eileen Putman, Kevin Vineys, J. David Ake, Julie Pace, Magan Crane and Vaughn Morrison. (Nikki Kahn/Special to The Buffalo News)

Pace has proved to be a strong and collaborative leader who has consistently demonstrated strong news judgment and a deep understanding of the AP's mission and place in the news industry, Veerasingham said.

The steady downturn in news circulation and advertising that led to the closure of hundreds of newspapers over the last two decades has also affected the AP; its revenues are down more than 25% over the last decade. The company is increasingly turning toward overseas markets for growth opportunities.

Journalism is also facing a politically fueled crisis in confidence. The Pew Research Center said this week that the number of Republicans who said they have at least some trust in national news organizations has been cut in half, from 70% in 2016 to 35% this year.

With readers and viewers often confused about where the lines are drawn between news and opinions, Pace said it made the AP's mission of providing fact-based journalism even more important.

"Fact-based journalism does not mean that all sides of an issue get an airing," she said. "That means we are going to be really clear with people about what the facts are. If that lines up on one side of an issue, we are going to be really clear about that. We're not going to be intimidated in these circumstances."

The AP has been bolstering its fact-checking operations, sending out more frequent stories examining the truth behind issues, and Pace said more will be done in this area. Fact-checks and explainers for news stories are consistently among AP's most-used fixtures.

Pace said the AP will continue to seek out grants and foundation funding that enable the organization to hire more people to examine specific issues. It has gone this route in recent years to bolster coverage of religion, philanthropy and health and science.

Some 50 candidates, both internal and external, were interviewed for the job. The AP's complexity and its unique position in the industry tend to give an edge to people

familiar with the organization, Veerasingham said. But the company is also interested in people who can offer different perspectives and ideas, she said.

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

Julie Pace's note to staff

Julie Pace (Email) –The opportunity to serve as executive editor of The Associated Press, a news organization that means so much to me, is a true honor. The journalists of the AP are among the most talented and courageous in the business and I am so proud to work alongside you, and the entire AP staff that supports the news department.

Your work over the past several months has highlighted just how essential the AP is to the world's understanding of the biggest stories. From the COVID-19 pandemic to a racial reckoning in the United States that ricocheted around the world, our global, cross-format news department has broken news, exposed inequalities and injustices, and vigorously defended the facts, often in the face of powerful disinformation campaigns. Many of our colleagues also continue to do their jobs at great personal risk, including our journalists in Afghanistan, Gaza, Myanmar, Haiti and beyond.

I'm looking forward to speaking with many of you today at our three town halls. We'll spend much of that time talking about AP's future and steps we'll take to modernize our news report to meet the needs of our customers and our audience. My priorities for AP's next chapter include:

- Doubling down on our core mission as a breaking news agency. We need to be fast and competitive across formats on the biggest stories – and we need to strive to break more original news.

- Ensuring that our resources are aligned in ways that allow us to truly be competitive across formats – and ensuring that those formats are working as one AP news team, not separate silos.

- Modernizing our publishing and presentation processes for digital and social audiences, building on some of the strong work already underway.

- Advancing our commitment to diversity and inclusion, both in our journalism and in our newsroom. We've made great strides on these fronts in recent years, but it's clear we have more work to do.

Finally, as we look ahead to the future, we will continue to stand firmly behind AP's news values and principles. At a time when distrust in the media is at an all-time high and the line between news and opinion has grown increasingly blurry, it is crucial that AP remains the world's preeminent fact-based news organization. You have my commitment that we will always follow and amplify the facts wherever they lead.

I'm excited to get to work. AP's future is so bright and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to lead the news department as we embark on this next chapter together.

A listing of AP news leaders over the years

Here are past Associated Press news leaders. Julie Pace is the fifth with AP Washington ties – the others being Sally Buzbee, Kathleen Carroll, Jon Wolman and Walter Mears.

Byron Price - Executive Editor, 1937-1941

Alan Gould - Executive Editor, 1941-1963

Sam Blackman - General News Editor, 1958-1969

Jack Cappon - General News Editor, 1969-1974

Lou Boccardi - Executive Editor, 1974-1984

Walter Mears - Executive Editor, 1984-1988

Bill Ahearn - Executive Editor, 1988-2000

Jon Wolman - Executive Editor, 2000-2002

Kathleen Carroll - Executive Editor, 2002 - 2016

Sally Buzbee - Executive Editor, 2016-2021

Julie Pace - Executive Editor, 2021 -

Amherst native Julie Pace promoted to top editor position at Associated Press



Julie Pace at Lafayette Square near the White House in 2019. (Nikki Kahn/Special to The News)

**By Tim O'Shei
The Buffalo News**

Julie Pace has long been one of the most influential journalists in Washington.

Now, the Amherst native is one of the most powerful news leaders in the world.

Pace, a 39-year-old graduate of Amherst High School and former youth contributor to The Buffalo News, was named Wednesday as the executive editor and senior vice president of the Associated Press. That job positions her as the newsroom leader of the AP, the 175-year-old organization with journalists in more than 100 countries.

Among Pace's primary initiatives will be integrating the AP's efforts in various forms of journalism – text, photo, video, graphics and research. "We are in a position where we have an opportunity to really modernize our news report," Pace said in an AP story announcing her promotion. "We have an opportunity to take all of the fantastic journalism that we do across formats and think of ways we can make it more digital-friendly, to make it more social-friendly."

Pace, who has been the AP's Washington bureau chief since 2017, replaces Sally Buzbee, who became executive editor of the Washington Post in June. A graduate of Amherst High School and Northwestern University, Pace joined the AP in 2007.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Use of media as singular

Terry Anderson (Email) - Re "media is/are..." The use of media as singular, aside from being ungrammatical, is an iniquitous term that lumps all of the media, from Fox and right-wing talk shows to the AP, Reuters etc., together thus staining all with the blame for lies and distortions put out by the worst. No wonder, when even journalists use the word, the public is confused.

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Al Cross (Email) - I salute Bruce Handler's cry from the usage wilderness regarding "media" as a plural. It's more important than ever because media are more plural than ever (if plural takes modifiers of degree). And the term arguably encompasses social media, so I also favor standard use of "news media" when that is the meaning. We need people to distinguish between social media and news media; my elevator speech is this: "Journalism practices a discipline of verification; we tell you how we know something, or we quote or paraphrase someone. Social media have almost no discipline or verification. Think about it."

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AP reunions in Paris, Barcelona



Richard Drew, Elaine Ganley and Molly Gordy in Paris.



Molly Gordy, Richard Drew and Susana Hayward in Barcelona

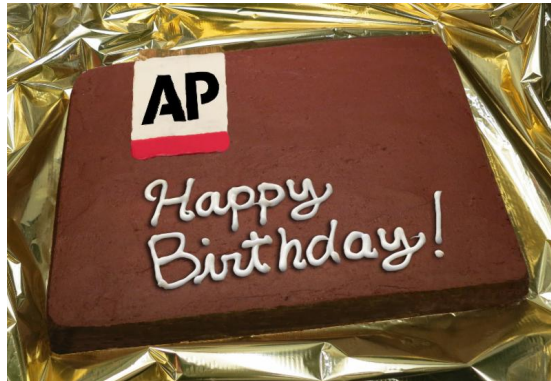


Susana Hayward in Moscow in 1980.

Molly Gordy ([Email](#)) and **Richard Drew** ([Email](#)) - During our recent visit to Europe we had the pleasure of reuniting with AP correspondent Elaine Ganley in Paris and former correspondent Susana Hayward in Barcelona, friends since 1980 from working Nate Polowetsky's foreign desk.

Above are the pix of our dinner with Elaine and the 1980 Moscow photo that Richard took of Susana covering the Moscow Olympics in 1980, and the Barcelona reunion pic of us three.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Sandy Duerr - slopets2@gmail.com

Pauline Jelinek - pauline1776@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Journalists who question objectivity still value truth-telling, study finds (Poynter)

By: Kate Farrish, Megan Craig and Greg Munno

Journalists who want to express their political views on social media, engage in activism and ally themselves with social justice protesters value truth as much as journalists who seek to maintain a neutral, dispassionate approach to the profession.

That's one conclusion from our new study of 167 journalists that included professional reporters and editors at a variety of outlets as well as student journalists and journalism professors.

Many outlets, including Poynter, have written about the firing of staffers for social media posts, newsroom protests over insensitive headlines and the evolution of

journalism ethics codes to allow journalists to publicly support certain causes. Taken together, these developments make it clear that the number of journalists who reject the traditional journalistic mindset is growing and beginning to alter the boundaries of the profession.

What is less clear is what this newer breed of journalists value, which tenets of journalism they see as unnecessary or even harmful and which they see as essential. Our study, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference in August, sought to define the mindsets journalists bring to their work and to identify the commonalities and differences between them.

Read more [here](#).

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Afghan news anchor made history, then had to leave it behind (Reuters)



© Reuters/HAMAD I MOHAMMED Afghan news anchor Beheshta Arghand speaks to her brother at a temporary residence compound in Doha

By Hamad Mohammad

DOHA (Reuters) - Afghan television anchor Beheshta Arghand gathered her breath and adjusted her headscarf to look more like a traditional close-fitting hijab when a Taliban official showed up, uninvited, in her studio, asking to be interviewed.

It was only two days after the Islamist group took over Kabul. She looked down at her body to be sure that no other parts were showing and started firing her questions.

Her live interview made headlines around the world as she became the first Afghan female journalist to quiz a member of the hardline group.

"(Luckily) I always wear long clothes in the studio because we have different people with different minds," the 23-year-old told Reuters in Doha, where she has lived since fleeing Afghanistan on Aug. 24 with the help of Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - Sept. 2, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 2, the 245th day of 2021. There are 120 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 2, 1969, in what some regard as the birth of the Internet, two connected computers at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed test data through a 15-foot cable.

On this date:

In 1666, the Great Fire of London broke out.

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was established.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

In 1944, during World War II, Navy pilot Lt. (jg) George Herbert Walker Bush was shot down by Japanese forces as he completed a bombing run over the Bonin Islands. (Bush was rescued by the crew of the submarine USS Finback; his two crew members, however, died.)

In 1945, Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II.

In 1960, Wilma Rudolph of the United States won the first of her three gold medals at the Rome Summer Olympics as she finished the 100-meter dash in 11 seconds.

In 1963, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace prevented the integration of Tuskegee High School by encircling the building with state troopers. "The CBS Evening News" with Walter Cronkite was lengthened from 15 to 30 minutes, becoming network television's first half-hour nightly newscast.

In 1998, a Swissair MD-11 jetliner crashed off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people aboard.

In 2005, a National Guard convoy packed with food, water and medicine rolled into New Orleans four days after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2008, Republicans assailed Barack Obama as the most liberal, least experienced White House nominee in history at their convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, and enthusiastically extolled their own man, John McCain, as ready to lead the nation.

In 2018, Sen. John McCain was laid to rest on a grassy hill at the U.S. Naval Academy, after a horse-drawn caisson carrying the senator's casket led a procession of mourners from the academy's chapel to its cemetery.

In 2019, a fire swept a boat carrying recreational scuba divers that was anchored near an island off the Southern California coast; the captain and four other crew members were able to escape the flames, but 34 people who were trapped below died.

Ten years ago: In a dramatic reversal, President Barack Obama scrubbed a proposed clean-air regulation aimed at reducing smog, yielding to bitterly protesting businesses and congressional Republicans who complained the rule would kill jobs in America's ailing economy.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama departed for China on his final official trip to Asia. Tropical Storm Hermine hit Florida as a Category 1 hurricane, wiping away beachside buildings and toppling trees onto homes. Samsung Electronics recalled all of its Galaxy Note 7 smartphones after finding batteries in some of the flagship gadgets exploded or caught fire.

One year ago: The family of Daniel Prude released a video and records showing that Prude had died of asphyxiation after a group of police officers in Rochester, New York, put a hood over his head and pressed his face into the pavement for two minutes. (Prude, a Black man, died after being taken off life support in March, seven days after the encounter with police.) The German government said Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny had been poisoned with the same type of Soviet-era nerve agent that British authorities identified in a 2018 attack on a former Russian spy; experts say the findings pointed strongly to Russian state involvement in the poisoning of Navalny, who was recovering in a German hospital.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo., is 90. Former United States Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth is 84. Singer Jimmy Clanton is 83. R&B singer Sam Gooden (The Impressions) is 82. R&B singer Rosalind Ashford (Martha & the Vandellas) is 78. Singer Joe Simon is 78. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw is 73. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Archibald is 73. Actor Mark Harmon is 70. Former Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., is 70. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jimmy Connors is 69. Actor Linda Purl is 66. Rock musician Jerry Augustyniak (10,000 Maniacs) is 63. Country musician Paul Deakin (The Mavericks) is 62. Pro Football Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson is 61. Actor Keanu Reeves is 57. International Boxing Hall of Famer Lennox Lewis is 56. Actor Salma Hayek is 55. Actor Tuc Watkins is 55. Actor Kristen Cloke is 53. Actor Cynthia Watros is 53. R&B singer K-Ci is 52. Actor-comedian Katt Williams is 48. Actor Nicholas Pinnock is 48. Actor Michael Lombardi is 47. Actor Tiffany Hines is 44. Rock musician Sam Rivers (Limp Bizkit) is 44. Actor Jonathan Kite is

42. Actor Joshua Henry is 37. Actor Allison Miller is 36. Rock musician Spencer Smith is 34. Electronic music DJ/producer Zedd is 32.

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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