Seven journalists took their place in the Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame on June 6

The club was packed with friends and relatives of the honorees as they socialized and dined before the night’s big event -- the induction ceremony for this year’s journalists. See inside for more on the honorees and their induction.

By Judy Horan
OPC Committee Co-Chair

The 2015 Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame induction ceremony may be viewed on YouTube.

Go to: https://youtu.be/53TsA1nqmo0
The video includes the before-dinner speech by Jon Clifton, managing director, Gallup World Poll-Washington, D.C.

UNO Alums Take Note

A year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media (CFAM) begins August 27 with a reception at the Thompson Alumni Center on the UNO campus. A series of events showcasing each unit will take place during the anniversary year. OPC members are invited to the opening reception. For more information or a formalized invitation to the CFAM 10-year Anniversary Kickoff Reception, please contact Noelle Blood, CFAM communications specialist at 402-554-3216 or nblood@unomaha.edu.

By Chris Allen, PhD
OPC Board Member
2015 Journalists of Excellence
Hall of Fame Honorees

The Hall of Fame ceremony had a personal touch this year as each honoree was introduced by a friend or colleague. The honorees then spoke about their distinguished careers and thanked those who were important in their careers and lives.

Dave McBride (right) accepted the award for his late father who led the charge to establish public broadcasting. Jack McBride began Nebraska Educational Telecommunications in the 1950s, building it into one of the country’s most successful communications systems. Lee Rockwell (left) of Lincoln, Neb., introduced McBride. He said that his friend was one of public broadcasting’s most gifted and influential leaders in the industry. “Twenty states and as many countries benefited from his advice.”

Father Doll (right) is professor emeritus of photojournalism at Creighton where he taught for 45 years. He was introduced by Donald Winslow (left), editor of National Press Photographers Association Magazine, who came from Austin, Texas, for the evening. Doll said his career had been a sacred journey … and an opportunity to photograph people around the world. He introduced guest Dr. Dave Haberman, also a Hall of Fame inductee, “who took a chance and hired me 45 years ago.”

Guests would be forgiven if they were confused about who was being honored, as Hoig (right) heaped praise on his daughter, Andee Hoig, a second-generation publisher who introduced her father. Bob began as a copy boy at the New York Daily News in 1957 and also worked at the Miami News, UPI, Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal-Star. Hoig launched the Lincoln Business Journal in 1996. He received the 2002 Greater Omaha Chamber’s Golden Spike award and 2004 Entrepreneur of the Year award.

“He is a man of great ethics and professionalism,” said Mike Kelly as he introduced his long time colleague. Quoting World-Herald editor Pat Waters, he said: “Steve Jordon is the most unegotistical reporter that I’ve met.” A 48-year veteran of the World-Herald, Jordon (left) is the lead reporter following Warren Buffett. President of the Omaha Press Club Foundation, Jordon said: “It’s important the information be reported by honorable journalists.”

He added, “You won’t know what you’re missing until you see it in the newspaper.”

Long time agribusiness director Arnold Peterson was introduced by two former co-workers, Gary Kerr (right) and Ann Pedersen (left). “If there was an agricultural rock star, it was Arnold Peterson,” said Kerr, a former WOWT anchor who was once Arnold’s assistant. “He was a pioneer in the field of agriculture broadcast journalism,” added Pedersen who co-anchored the noon news with Peterson. Charlotte Hall (center) traveled from Prairie Village, Kan., to accept the award for her late father, who joined WOW in 1952.

Chuck Roberts joined KMTV in Omaha in 1975. His presenter John Prescott (right) praised Roberts for keeping in touch with his Omaha friends as he became a national news presence. Roberts thanked his former KMTV coworkers. “I would not be here without your guidance, their leadership, their friendship.” He went to Atlanta in 1981 to become the first anchor for CNN Headline News. Roberts was the longest-serving anchor among CNN networks until 2010 when he left to lecture in China for the Missouri School of Journalism.

Gary Sadlemyer has been on News Radio 1110 KFAB for 38 years. He started and hosted the first live talk show in the station’s history and now hosts the popular “Good Morning Show,” as well as serves as program director. The Nebraska radio legend was introduced by Ed May Jr. of the May broadcasting family, former owners of KFAB, who praised Sadlemyer for being fair when it came to issues. “He’s smart, well- read, imaginative.” May added that Sadlemyer’s greatest asset is his authenticity. “What you see is what you get.”
How are people doing around the world?

By Judy Horan
OPC Committee Co-Chair

Danes are the happiest people in the world. The United States is No 12. When asked what they respected about the United States, Islamic countries said our freedom. In highest-thriving states, Nebraska is No. 4. (Alaska is No. 1). This and more was reported by Jon Clifton, managing director of the Gallup World Poll in Washington, D.C. as he spoke June 6 at the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame dinner. The poll, which included most of the nations in the world, was taken in 166 countries.

O
PC president Todd Murphy kept the evening moving and amusing as he emceed the 2015 Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Todd Murphy - photo by Gary Willis

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Next ‘Face’ on Sept. 25 to fete former First Couple

Former Gov. Dave Heineman and former first lady Sally Ganem will be the next “Faces on the Barroom Floor” on Friday, Sept. 25. Heineman is Nebraska’s longest-serving governor (2005-2015). The West Point graduate served as an officer in the U.S. Army before beginning his political career on the Fremont City Council. Ganem is a former elementary school principal.

Make reservations now by calling 402-345-8008

Dinner:
$60 for nonmembers
$50 for members
5:30 p.m. reception
6:30 p.m. dinner
followed by the roast and unveiling of the caricature/illustration
Peterson impresses crowd with college baseball expertise

By Tom O’Connor
OPC Committee Chair

Attendees at the June 10 Shatel Lunch Series got a first-hand glimpse of why Kyle Peterson has established himself as the announcing face of college baseball. Peterson’s encyclopedic knowledge of all things college baseball was front and center.

A former pitcher, Peterson played high school baseball at Creighton Prep, college baseball at Stanford University (he pitched in the 1995 College World Series) and played in the major leagues with the Milwaukee Brewers.

He will add to his already impressive resume later this year when the Omaha Press Club will make Peterson the 147th Face on the Barroom Floor. The date of the Face event is still being determined.

In his job as a CWS and Little League World Series announcer for ESPN, Peterson knows full well how much ESPN appreciates the CWS. “I can’t tell you how much this (the CWS) is coveted in the world of ESPN,” he said. “They fight over coming to Omaha. You get the same directors, same camera guys every year. They will send 140-150 people here.”

With four of the top eight major league draft picks in this year’s CWS field and a total of 13 first-round picks, Peterson had no doubt that several future major leaguers would be on display at this year’s series.

He noted that Brandon Finnegan pulled off the rare feat last year of pitching for TCU in the CWS and for the Kansas City Royals in the World Series.

On the local college baseball scene, Peterson spoke glowingly of how the Big 10 Conference has turned it around, getting five teams into the regionals this year. The growing strength of the conference should greatly enhance Nebraska’s chances of making it back to the CWS, he said.

He wasn’t as optimistic for Creighton’s situation, as he called the Big East Conference “perpetually a one-bid league.”

Peterson was pleased that college baseball had lowered the seams on baseballs in an effort to increase home runs. “I thought the game got really boring (with no home runs being hit),” he said. “There’s a reason my kid wants an Oregon jersey (the most offensive-minded team in college football).”

Peterson is CEO for the Omaha office of Collier’s, a commercial real estate company, and also created D1baseball.com, the online home of college baseball.

Tom Shatel, the Omaha World-Herald sports columnist who hosts the lunch series, waxed eloquently about what makes the CWS special. “The CWS isn’t about home runs,” he said. “It’s about people – fathers, sons, grandfathers, mothers and daughters. It’s about junk food.

“I lost my dad this year. My best memories are going to Dodgers games with him. That’s what the College World Series is all about. It shows the city cares a lot about families and traditions. It brings out the best in us.”

He compared the CWS to the “Omaha City Fair.”

The Shatel Lunch Series will resume in September with the beginning of the football season. Shatel hopes to establish a regular monthly schedule, so people will be able to mark their calendars in advance.

He hopes to have the complete schedule listed in the September OPC newsletter.

Hall of Fame journalist Beaver dies

Ninette Beaver, an OPC Hall of Fame honoree in 2011, died June 22. She was 90. Her former colleague Dave Hamer provided the following:

A long time special correspondent for KMTV, Ninette Beaver was the first to interview Carol Ann Fugate, who accompanied Charles Starkweather on his murderous spree in Nebraska and Wyoming in 1957-58. Subsequently she co-produced the NBC News documentary “Growing Up In Prison” and co-authored the book “Caril.” Forty years later, the book still draws nationwide and international attention.

She was a consultant to Bruce Springsteen for his musical work “Nebraska” and for his current book “Bruce.” Ninette co-hosted a live KMTV television broadcast of the visit to Iowa in 1979 of Pope John II. The University of Nebraska at Omaha honored her with its Communications Achievement Award in 1986.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Commodore Beaver, a long-time Council Bluffs insurance executive. The couple retired to Sun City, Ariz., in 1991 when she became director of the Palm Brook Country Club. She also was preceded in death by daughter Jonette Wyle and is survived by son Edward “Mac” Beaver.
The Omaha Press Club Educational Forum Series examines

Do we really have cyber security?

It was Target, then insurance companies and now the federal government. Each has had private customer and employee information stolen by hackers. Maybe there have been so many that we aren’t even noticing anymore. But we should because the merging of our lives with online is only going to continue.

At the next OPC Noon Education Forum on July 16, Matt Morton, chief information security officer and assistant CIO for the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will discuss “Cyber Security in a Global Economy – How do we assure growth while protecting our digital lives?”

Morton will provide a real-life history of the growth and merger of our online and physical lives as well as strategies for dealing with these risks.

Recipe of the month:

Pastry Swan: Can be used with most cream type fillings including pastry cream, chocolate mousse etc…

- 2 cups boiling water
- ½ lb butter
- 2 tbsp. heavy cream
- 2 cups flour
- 6 whole eggs
- Pastry bag with fluted tip

Bring water to a simmering boil, add the softened butter and cream and stir until completely melted. Immediately add the flour, stir in all at once and take off flame. Keep stirring and let cool for about 5 minutes. Put in a bowl or mixer and add eggs all at once and mix at high speed for about 10 seconds. Put into pastry bag and pipe out egg-shaped dollops onto a sprayed pan. Cook at 350 for about five minutes, or until golden brown and hollow. The finished product should be a hollow shell. Use a fine tip to pipe out swan shape necks and cook till golden brown and firm. Split the top off at the center and split in half to make two wings. Pipe in your desired filling and assemble.

Steve Villamonte CEC, BS
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OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Executive Director
Steve Villamonte opcdirector@gmail.com

Planning & Event Coordinator
Christine Villamonte opcchristine@gmail.com

Administrative Manager
Jeanie Campbell jeanie@opc.omhcoxmail.com

OFFICE .................. 402-345-8587
Restaurant .................. 402-345-8008
Website .................. www.omahapressclub.com

NEWSPAPER
Eric Stoakes ........................... Graphics Editor
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Submissions for September issue are due
on or before August 20.

CANCELLATION POLICY:
All reservations must be cancelled
48 HOURS in advance.

Hours of Operation

LUNCH
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BAR
Tuesday - Saturday
4:30 p.m. to close

DINNER
Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to close

July 2
Fireworks Buffet Home Run Derby

July 4
Independence Day

July 16
Noon Education Forum “Cyber Security in a Global Economy”

July 26 through August 17
Re-open August 18

September 7
Labor Day

October 11
Columbus Day

November 11
Veterans Day

November 26
Thanksgiving Day

December 25
Christmas Day

We are closing the club on July 26
for our summer vacation.
We’ll be back and ready
to serve you on August 18.

The Omaha Press Club staff

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