Gallup executive to speak at Hall of Fame dinner

By Judy Horan
OPC Committee Co-Chair

A special night is planned for the seven Journalists of Excellence who will be inducted into the OPC Hall of Fame on June 6. The ceremony begins with speaker Jon Clifton, managing director of the Gallup World Poll, who lives and works in Washington, D.C.

Clifton manages Gallup’s global government work and the Gallup World Poll, an ongoing study conducted in more than 160 countries, representing 98 percent of the world’s adult population. His topic will be: “How people are doing around the world, in the United States and in Nebraska.”

The following will be honored for their contributions to journalism: Rev. Don Doll S.J., Robert “Bob” Hoig, Steve Jordon, John “Jack” McBride, Arnold Peterson, Chuck Roberts, Gary Sadlemyer.

Boxing champ Crawford will be next Face on the Barroom Floor May 7

Terence “Bud” Crawford lives and trains in Omaha. But he boxes around the world. Crawford won the world lightweight title in Glasgow, Scotland, in March 2014. After he won the title, the Omaha City Council proclaimed March 4, 2014, as Terence “Bud” Crawford Day.

On May 7, the Omaha Press Club will proclaim Crawford – now the holder of two world titles -- the 145th Face on the Barroom Floor. Roasters will include Houston Alexander, an Ultimate Fighting Championship/mixed martial arts participant; amateur boxer Treven Coleman, and Desmond Wilford, Crawford’s strength and conditioning coach. In addition, Mayor Jean Stothert will present the key to the city to Crawford.

On July 28, 2014, Crawford retained his lightweight title in a fight so exciting that the World Boxing Organization presented him the Fight of the Year award for 2014. At the time, the fight on HBO held in front of 10,000 Omaha fans at the CenturyLink Center had the third highest Nielsen ranking of all 2014 fights, with about 1.3 million viewers. On Nov. 29, 2014, Crawford returned to his hometown for another HBO televised fight in front of more than 11,000 Omaha fans and again retained his title.

On April 18th in Arlington, Texas, HBO viewers saw Crawford win a second title as world junior welterweight champion. He joined a list of all-time greats in sports in April when the Boxing Writers Association of America named Crawford Fighter of the Year in a ceremony in New York.

Crawford, with Brian McIntyre, founded a youth program called B&B Boxing Academy. Young men and women interested in boxing also find academic and social development components. With Michael Carter, Crawford also launched a citywide anti-bullying tour to tell students how they can “bully-proof” themselves.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? An OPC feature reporting on a past Face on the Barroom Floor

John Ritums was Face No. 5 in 1972

Over the years a wide variety of notables have been honored by having their likenesses displayed on the floor of the Omaha Press Club. In this occasional series, we revisit some of those individuals.

From Latvia to Omaha and back—with several stops in between. A man who endured both Nazi and Communist rule, and then enjoyed the ups and downs of a free society.

That's the remarkable life's journey of John Ritums, the Press Club's fifth Face on the Barroom Floor when he was honored in November of 1972.

Only Ron Stander, boxing's “Bluffs Butcher” and Face No. 3 in June of 1972, predates the 86-year-old Ritums on the list of living “Faces.” (The late Mayor Gene Leahy, Coach Bob Devaney and Vice President Spiro Agnew were Faces 1, 2 and 4.)

Ritums, a builder and still-active Realtor, was an Omaha City Council member from 1969 to 1973 and active in riverfront and Old Market development. “We had a lot of fun in those days,” Ritums said during a visit to Omaha. “I made a lot of noise!”

With his long sideburns, rugged facial features and flamboyant personality, Ritums was, as artist Jim Horan recalled, “a caricaturist’s dream.” Horan's 1972 Face on the Floor pictures Ritums at the wheel of a convertible. (On his way to the Press Club one day, Ritums was clocked over the speed limit. Police trailed him to the club to issue the ticket.)

Ritums returned to Riga in April after an extended stay in Omaha to visit his daughter, Selga Noel; son-in-law, Don Noel, and their sons, Derek and Justin. Ritums also has daughters in California and Florida.

The Florida daughter manages a Ritums real estate office in Tampa. “I may be the oldest active Realtor in America,” said Ritums, who has maintained a real estate license since 1954.

Quoting Ernest Hemingway, Ritums added: “Retirement is the ugliest word in the language.”

He stayed active in Omaha during his winter and spring visit by swimming and walking at a local health club. And while here and in Latvia, Ritums continues to pursue his longtime painting hobby.

“Oils and acrylics, flowers and landscapes,” Ritums said. “And bright colors!”
Foolish fun raises funds for OPC scholarships

Don Summerside
OPC News Copy Editor

“Fools Rushed In” and the laughs poured out at the Holland Center on April 1. From the opening bars of “Hal’s in the Hokey Pokey” to the “We Don’t Coast” finale, the crowd at the 58th Omaha Press Club Show was treated to a lively mixture of music and mirth.

The benefit for Omaha Press Club Foundation journalism scholarships got an extra boost from former mayor Daub’s stint in the OPC Pokey. Donations accompanying the votes to “Keep him in” or “Let him out” raised $3,007.

Daub was escorted to his on-stage jail by Mayor Jean Stothert, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer and the Hokey Pokey Singers. After a tally of the votes that were narrowly in his favor, he was sprung from the clink by former mayors Jim Suttle, Mike Fahey and Mike Boyle.

From then on, the cast of 30 directed by Bridget Robbins treated the audience of 300 to a raucous review of the news and a roasting of the newsmakers.

MEMBER NEWS: Omaha Press Club board member Liz Hruska will be honored at the Voices for Children Gala on Sept. 19 in recognition of her public policy work and volunteer work for the Nebraska Friends of Foster Children. The event is at 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Omaha-LaVista Hotel and Conference Center. Hruska is an analyst for the Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office. She provides information to lawmakers on which they base decisions.
May 10, 2015

Mother’s Day Brunch

Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
$20 adults, $10 children
RSVP 402-345-8008

Carving Station
Steamship Round of Beef with Horseradish Chantilly and Red Wine au Jus
Old School Pineapple-Glazed Ham

Entrées
Chicken Crêpes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Buerre Blanc
Eggs Benedict
Risotto • Lyonnais Potatoes • Seasonal Vegetables

A La Carte
Build-Your-Own Omelet • Multi-Topping Waffle Bar

Salad Display
Thunderbird Salad, Chef Salad, Pasta, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, including Smoked Salmon Chaud-Froid, Cheese Display, Fresh Fruit Display
Fresh Baked Pastries • Breakfast Breads • Pecan Rolls

Desserts
New York-style Cheesecake with Strawberries
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Warm Peach Cobbler with French Vanilla Ice Cream

May 7, 2015

No Host Cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Roast 7:30 p.m.

Menu
Hors d’oeuvres
Fresh Fruit & Swedish Meatballs

Salad
Thunderbird Salad

Buffet Entrée
Chicken Marsala
Risotto
Brandied Carrots

Dessert
Assorted Cookies & Brownies

Members $25 Non Members $30
See page 1

WBO Lightweight & Junior Welterweight Champion of the World
Terence “Bud” Crawford
The Omaha Press Club’s 145th Face on the Barroom Floor

May 7, 2015

No Host Cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Roast 7:30 p.m.

Congressman Brad Ashford fielded questions from the audience at the April 8 Education Noon Forum. Topics ranged from criticism for not being aggressive in campaign fundraising to finding 25 friends from both parties who can work together on big issues. This will replay on radio station KIOS May 18 at noon.

-Photo By Gary Willis
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although it’s hard to believe, I know it comes as no shock to our members that spring has definitely sprung in Omaha. With the warm weather comes the ability to more easily get out and about in Omaha. The longer hours of the day mean that dinners at the Omaha Press Club will again offer outstanding sunset lighting and shadows as the evening gives way to a beautifully lit downtown skyline. I encourage you to make plans for dinner and drinks so you and your party can enjoy the indoor and outdoor atmosphere only offered at your Omaha Press Club.

This time of year also signals great recognition events like the OPC Foundation Scholarship Dinner last month and our Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame Dinner on June 6. As you may know, our own Judy Horan has put together an amazing event this year with a keynote speech from Jon Clifton, managing director of Gallup World Poll. In addition to the great words from Mr. Clifton, this year’s honored inductees truly represent excellence in journalism. I encourage you to drop everything and immediately reserve your seat or table at this event as we fully anticipate a sold-out event.

Finally, on a technical note I want to underscore the fact that the Omaha Press Club is optimized for business and social events. These specially planned parties or meetings can now benefit from enhanced Internet Wi-Fi service throughout the entire club. With the addition of some hardware, Wi-Fi reception is now extremely strong in all areas and is available for free to users of the club. Do keep this in mind when planning your next conference, meeting or special event.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Todd Murphy
OPC President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Sometimes it’s just good old-fashioned fun working at the Press Club. That’s the way I have felt during the past several weeks because I have personally enjoyed the Shatel Lunch Series, Tom Becka Live!, The social media Noon Forum, Congressman Brad Ashford’s first 90 days --and now Bud Crawford is coming. Have you heard the saying “I love my job”? Donald Trump is coming in May and last month I personally got to share my thoughts on the gas tax with the governor. In the restaurant business if you do not work with your family, you may not see much of your spouse. So the best part at the Press Club is that I get to see my beautiful Christine every day.

On another personal note, many of you have been asking about my health since my report in the January newsletter. I am being treated for ALD, which has no cure and can be life threatening, but can sometimes be controlled and even go into remission. I am happy to say that I met with my UNMC specialist a few weeks ago and received some pretty positive news. It’s the doctor’s opinion – based on blood tests -- that the disease is being controlled at this time and is not progressing. I am reducing one of my drugs (prednisone) down to 5 milligrams which is a small dose. If you are familiar with prednisone, you know it comes with many horrible side effects.

Club Happenings: It’s a busy time of year at OPC. Boxing champ Bud Crawford leads off the month when he is honored as the 145th Face on the Barroom Floor on May 7. The Mother’s Day brunch on May 10 is an annual treat for mom and the whole family, and we always send her home with a treat. The Crawford event will be unique for its timing and format. Not only did he win his second world title just a few weeks ago, but we are sporting a different menu featuring hors d’oeuvres followed by a buffet at the request of the boxer’s camp

Monthly Recipe - Villa’s Ceviche:
I like halibut because it has a nice firm texture, almost chewy.

- ½ lb. halibut diced fine about ⅛”
- Small julienne red onion
- 2 squeezed lemons, 1 lime, 1 orange; leave the skins in the marinade and squeeze through a screen or sifter
- ½ cup distilled vinegar
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
- Chopped fresh dill weed

Mix all together in a stainless or glass bowl and let set under refrigeration overnight.

Steve Villamonte CEC, BS
Executive Director Omaha Press Club
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OPC EVENTS

May 7
Terence (Bud) Crawford
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Dinner/roast - See page 1

May 10
Mother’s Day Brunch
Two Seatings - 10:00 a.m & 12:30 p.m.
See page 4

May 19
Shatel Lunch with Kyle Peterson

May 21 - Educational Forum
Mike Flood - See page 3

June 6
Journalists of Excellence
Hall of Fame dinner

June 12
Fireworks Buffet Opening Ceremonies

June 20
Father’s Day Grill

June 26
Scott Voorhees Gourmet Club Wine Dinner

July 2
Fireworks Buffet Home Run Derby

Sept. 25
Former Gov. Dave Heineman & former first lady Sally Ganem “Face on the Barroom Floor” dinner/roast

Club Closing Dates for 2015

May 25
Memorial Day

June 21
Father’s Day

July 4
Independence Day

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

Cancellation Policy:

All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.

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Submissions for June issue are due on or before May 20.