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Biographies of the Winners

Following are biographies of the
2015 Pulitzer Prize winners
as submitted in entries by
their editor, publisher or
other representative.

Investigative Reporting

Eric Lipton is an investigative reporter in the Washington bureau of The New York Times, where he writes about lobbying, ethics and corporate agendas. He joined the Washington bureau in 2004, initially to cover terrorism and homeland security.

From 1999 until 2001, Mr. Lipton was a reporter for the Metro section of The Times covering City Hall and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. In September 2001, he was assigned to write exclusively about the attack on the World Trade Center, a topic he covered for two years; he ultimately co-wrote a book on the topic, "City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center" (Times Books, 2003). In 2002, a package of articles Mr. Lipton wrote with James Glanz and other science reporters at The Times about ground zero was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in explanatory journalism.

Before joining The Times, Mr. Lipton spent five years at The Washington Post as a Metro reporter. From 1989 until 1994, Mr. Lipton worked at The Hartford Courant. While at The Courant, he and a colleague won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism for their stories about the flaw in the main mirror of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Mr. Lipton started his daily newspaper career in 1987 at a small New Hampshire paper, The Valley News. He received a B.A. in philosophy and history from the University of Vermont. Born in Philadelphia, he graduated from Germantown Academy, a private school in the Philadelphia suburbs in 1983. He lives in Washington.

Explanatory Reporting

Zachary R. Mider is an enterprise reporter for Bloomberg News in New York where he writes features for the news service as well as Bloomberg Businessweek and Bloomberg Markets magazines. Before joining the enterprise team in 2012, he covered mergers and acquisitions and Wall Street. Mider joined Bloomberg in 2006 from The Providence Journal in Rhode Island, where he contributed to the newspaper's coverage of the deadly 2003 Station nightclub fire. Born in upstate New York, he attended Deep Springs College in Deep Springs, Calif., and Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., where he received a bachelor's degree in Social Studies. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and two children.

Local Reporting

Rob Kuznia is a 1999 graduate of the University of Minnesota who spent 15 years as a reporter at newspapers and magazines along the West Coast. He started his career as a city hall reporter in Oregon before he developed a specialty in education reporting at the Santa Barbara News-Press. As education reporter at the Daily Breeze newspaper in the Los Angeles News Group from 2010 to 2014, Rob covered 13 school districts. Although he generated scores of stories on issues of specific interest, his specialty was big-picture reports of widespread interest to parents and educators that were often carried in nine newspapers of the L.A. News Group.

Rebecca Kimitch works on special investigations and projects for the Los Angeles News Group and edits the Spanish-language newspaper Impacto. She has worked for the organization's papers since 2008 in various capacities, including city editor, political editor and political reporter, writing extensively about healthcare, redistricting, water and the region's changing demographics. Before coming to Los Angeles in 2008, Kimitch worked as a reporter for publications in Washington, D.C., San José, Costa Rica, and San Diego. She also served as a Congressional Fellow of the American Political Science Association in 2007. Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Kimitch graduated from Northwestern University and now lives in Koreatown, Los Angeles, with her husband and 2-year-old daughter.

Frank Suraci considers himself a journeyman editor, working for more than 30 years as city editor of the Daily Breeze in the Los Angeles News Group. A graduate of Pepperdine University in Malibu, he worked more than seven years as a reporter on a variety of beats -- from cops and courts to city hall and politics. Over the years, Frank has covered or overseen the paper's coverage of several huge national stories -- among them the years-long McMartin Preschool molestation case, passage of the ground-breaking Proposition 13, the OJ Simpson murder case and a deadly plane crash at Los Angeles International Airport. But he is most proud of the watchdog journalism he has directed, including the Centinela Valley school district superintendent's manipulation of the school board to make him unjustly one of the highest paid public officials in the country.

National Reporting

Carol D. Leonnig is an investigative and enterprise reporter on The Washington Post's National Staff. She joined the paper in 2001. Her work holding governments accountable has drawn numerous national awards and led to major legislative reform and federal investigations.

Leonnig and two Post colleagues won the Polk award for political reporting for uncovering the cash and gifts that Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell sought from a local businessman he was helping, which ultimately led to the governor's indictment and conviction on public corruption charges. Her reporting of the Obama administration's clean-energy stimulus program first revealed how the White House pressured career government officials to award a half-billion-dollar loan to Solyndra, a solar company whose principal owner was a major Obama campaign donor. Leonnig and a small team of Post reporters won the Selden Ring Award for investigative reporting after they uncovered hazardous levels of lead in drinking water in Washington, D.C., as well as similar water quality reporting problems across the country.

Before joining The Post, Leonnig covered city halls, legislatures and Congress in various postings at the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Charlotte Observer and the Washington bureau of the former Knight-Ridder newspaper chain.

Leonnig lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and two daughters.

Feature Writing

Diana Marcum covers the Central Valley and the Sierra for the Los Angeles Times. She focuses on personal, narrative tales that play out against the broader sweeps of poverty, immigration and, most recently, drought. Marcum has been writing her stories of rugged, distinctive landscapes and voices for the Los Angeles Times since 2010 and became a staff writer in 2011.

Commentary

Lisa Falkenberg is a metro columnist at the Houston Chronicle. She was born and raised in the small South Texas town of Seguin, near San Antonio, the daughter of a truck driver and a homemaker. She was the first in her family to go to college and graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000.

Her love of journalism was born at her high school newspaper and, while in college, she worked at several state capitol bureaus, including Scripps Howard and The Associated Press. She joined the AP's Dallas bureau in 2001, eventually becoming a regional writer covering Dallas and East Texas. She covered the Columbia shuttle disaster, the deadly BP refinery explosion in Texas City and anchored national congressional and senate races. In 2004, Falkenberg was named Texas AP Writer of the Year. Her coverage of a mother who severed her baby's arms earned a first place news reporting award from the Association for Women Journalists Dallas-Fort Worth chapter in 2005.

That same year, Falkenberg joined the Houston Chronicle's Austin bureau as a state correspondent covering everything from legislative politics to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2007, at age 28, Falkenberg was named a Houston-based metro columnist. She has earned several local and state journalism awards for her column-writing, and was named the Chronicle's Commentator of the Year in 2009. Community groups that have recognized her work on social issues include Houston's Coalition for the Homeless, The Houston Peace and Justice Center and the local chapter of the Council of Jewish Women. She was a finalist in the Pulitzer commentary category in 2014.

Falkenberg and her husband are the proud parents of two young daughters, ages 5 and 2.

Criticism

Mary McNamara is a television critic and cultural editor for the Los Angeles Times, where she has worked since 1990. Previously she was an editor at Ms. magazine and for Whittle Communications.

In her nearly 25 years at The Times, McNamara has worked as an assigning editor for the Los Angeles Times Magazine, a feature writer for Life & Style and a reporter and columnist for Calendar. She covered the film industry for four years before becoming a television critic eight years ago. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for criticism in 2013 and 2014 and has won numerous awards for her work as a feature writer and critic.

McNamara has also written for other publications, including Ms., Glamour, Mademoiselle and the New York Times. She is the author of the novels “Oscar Season” and “The Starlet,” both published by Simon & Schuster.

McNamara, a native of Maryland, attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and holds bachelor’s degrees in journalism and women’s studies. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children.

Editorial Writing

Kathleen Kingsbury is the deputy editorial page editor at the Boston Globe. In this role, she also edits the Sunday opinion pages. She joined the Globe's editorial board in 2013. Prior to that, she was a New York-based staff writer and Hong Kong-based correspondent for Time Magazine. She has also contributed to Reuters, the New York Times, BusinessWeek, the Daily Beast, and Fortune.

Editorial Cartooning

Adam Zyglis is the staff editorial cartoonist for The Buffalo News, his hometown newspaper. He began drawing editorial cartoons in 2001 for The Griffin, the student newspaper at Canisius College. In the spring of 2004, he graduated summa cum laude from the Canisius All College Honors Program with a degree in Computer Science and Math. Throughout college Zyglis worked as a freelance caricaturist and illustrator, and he wrote his Senior Honors Thesis on the “Art of Editorial Cartooning.”

After earning three national collegiate cartooning awards from his work at The Griffin, Zyglis landed an internship in the Graphics Department of The Buffalo News. At just 22 years old, Zyglis became the staff cartoonist for The News in August of 2004, replacing Tom Toles who left for The Washington Post.

Since then his cartoons have appeared in magazines, books and newspapers around the world, including The Washington Post, USA Today, Newsweek, The New York Times and Los Angeles Times. In 2013 he won the Clifford K. and James T. Berryman Award, given by the National Press Foundation. His work earned him 3rd place for Editorial Cartoons in both the 2007 and 2011 National Headliner Awards, sponsored by the Atlantic City Press Club. In 2007, Zyglis became internationally syndicated through Cagle Cartoons.

Feature Photography

Daniel Berehulak, 39, is an award-winning photojournalist based between Barcelona and New Delhi.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Berehulak has visited more than 60 countries covering history-shaping events including the Iraq war, the trial of Saddam Hussein, child labor in India, Afghanistan elections and the return of Benazir Bhutto to Pakistan. He has also documented people coping with the aftermath of the Japan tsunami and the Chernobyl disaster.

He was a 2011 Pulitzer Prize finalist for his coverage of the 2010 Pakistan floods. His photography has also earned three World Press Photo awards and the John Faber award from the Overseas Press Club. In 2014 he was awarded the Freelance/Agency Photographer of the Year by Pictures of the Year International.

Born to immigrant parents, Berehulak grew up on a farm outside of Sydney. Their Ukrainian practicality did not consider photography to be a viable trade to pursue, so at an early age he worked on the farm and at his father's refrigeration company. After graduating from college, he started his career as a photographer humbly: shooting sports matches for a man who ran his business from his garage.

In 2002, he started freelancing with Getty Images in Sydney, shooting mainly sports. From 2005 to 2009, he was based in London as a staff news photographer with Getty. He moved to New Delhi to advance Getty's coverage of the Indian subcontinent with a focus on the social and political instability of Pakistan and its neighbours.

In July 2013, Berehulak joined Reportage by Getty Images. He is a regular contributor to The New York Times, Time Magazine and Der Spiegel, and his work appears in newspapers and magazines worldwide.

Fiction

Anthony Doerr is the author of the story collections *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won numerous prizes both in the US and overseas, including four O. Henry Prizes, three Pushcart Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Story Prize.

Drama

Stephen Adly Guirgis is a member and former co-artistic director of LAByrinth Theater Company. His plays have been produced on five continents and throughout the United States. They include *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle Best Play Nominations), *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award, Barrymore Award, Olivier Nomination for London's Best New Play), *In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings* (2007 LA Drama Critics Best Play, Best Writing Award), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (10 best Time Magazine & Entertainment Weekly), and *The Little Flower of East Orange* (with Ellen Burstyn & Michael Shannon). All five plays were directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman and were originally produced by LAByrinth. His most recent play, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, recently completed a sold-out run at Atlantic Theater Company, and will transfer to Second Stage Theatre in 2015. His 2011 play, *The Motherf***er with the Hat* (6 Tony nominations, including Best Play), was directed by Anna D. Shapiro and marked his third consecutive world premiere co-production with The Public Theater and LAByrinth. In London, his plays have premiered at The Donmar Warehouse, The Almeida (dir: Rupert Goold), The Hampstead (Robert Delamere), and at The Arts Theater in the West End. Other plays include *Den of Thieves* (Labyrinth, HERE, HAI, Black Dahlia) and *Dominica The Fat Ugly Ho* (dir: Adam Rapp) for the 2006 E.S.T. Marathon. He has received the Yale Wyndham-Campbell Prize, a PEN/Laura Pels Award, a Whiting Award, and a TCG fellowship. He is also a New Dramatists Alumnae and a member of MCC's Playwright's Coalition, The Ojai Playwrights Festival, New River Dramatists, and Labyrinth Theater Company. As an actor, he has appeared in theater, film and television, including roles in Kenneth Lonergan's film *Margaret*, Todd Solondz's *Palindromes*, and Brett C Leonard's *Jailbait* opposite Michael Pitt. A former violence prevention specialist and H.I.V. educator, he lives in New York City.

History

Elizabeth A. Fenn is an associate professor at the University of Colorado–Boulder, where she holds the Walter S. and Lucienne Driskill Chair in Western American History. She is the coauthor of *Natives and Newcomers* and the author of the award-winning *Pox Americana* (Hill and Wang, 2001). She lives in Longmont, Colorado.

Biography

David I. Kertzer is the Paul Dupee, Jr. University Professor of Social Science and professor of anthropology and Italian studies at Brown University, where he served as provost from 2006 to 2011. He is the author of nine books, including *The Popes Against the Jews*, which was a finalist for the Mark Lynton History Prize, and *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has twice been awarded the Marraro Prize from the Society for Italian Historical Studies for the best work on Italian history. He and his wife, Susan, live in Providence, Rhode Island.

Poetry

Gregory Pardlo's first book, *Totem*, received the American Poetry Review/ Honickman Prize in 2007. His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, as well as anthologies including *Angles of Ascent*, the *Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*, and two editions of *Best American Poetry*. He is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a fellowship for translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. An associate editor of *Callaloo*, he is currently a teaching fellow in Undergraduate Writing at Columbia University.

General Nonfiction

Elizabeth Kolbert is a staff writer at The New Yorker. She is the author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. She lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts, with her husband and children.

Music

Drawing inspiration from folk, classical, and rock genres, **Julia Wolfe's** music brings a modern sensibility to each while simultaneously tearing down the walls between them.

Her music is distinguished by an intense physicality and a relentless power that pushes performers to extremes and demands attention from the audience. In the words of the Wall Street Journal, Wolfe has "long inhabited a terrain of [her] own, a place where classical forms are recharged by the repetitive patterns of minimalism and the driving energy of rock."

Wolfe has written a major body of work for strings, from quartets to full orchestra. Her quartets, as described by the New Yorker magazine "combine the violent forward drive of rock music with an aura of minimalist serenity [using] the four instruments as a big guitar, whipping psychedelic states of mind into frenzied and ecstatic climaxes." Wolfe's *Cruel Sister* for string orchestra, inspired by a traditional English ballad of a love rivalry between sisters, was commissioned by the Munich Chamber Orchestra and received its US premiere at the Spoleto Festival, and was recently released (along with her other string orchestra piece, *Fuel*) on Cantaloupe Records. Written shortly after September 11, 2001, her string quartet concerto *My Beautiful Scream*, written for Kronos Quartet and the Orchestre National de France (premiered in the US at the Cabrillo Festival under the direction of Marin Alsop), was inspired by the idea of a slow-motion scream. *The Vermeer Room*, *Girlfriend*, and *Window of Vulnerability* exemplify Wolfe's ability to create vivid sonic images. *Girlfriend*, for mixed chamber ensemble and recorded sound, uses a haunting audio landscape that consists of skidding cars and breaking glass. *The Vermeer Room*, inspired by the Vermeer painting "A Girl Asleep" — which when x-rayed reveals a hidden figure — received its orchestral premiere with the San Francisco Symphony. *Window of Vulnerability*, written for the American Composers Orchestra and conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, Wolfe creates a massive sonic universe of dense textures and fragile windows.

The influence of pop culture can be heard in many of Wolfe's works, including *Lick* and *Believing for the Bang* on a Can All-Stars. *Lick*, based on fragments of funk, has become a manifesto for the new generation of pop-influenced composers. The raucous *My Lips From Speaking* for six pianos was inspired by the opening riff of the Aretha Franklin tune *Think*. Wolfe's *Dark Full Ride* is an obsessive and relentless exploration of the drum set, beginning with an extended hi-hat spotlight. In *Lad*, Wolfe creates a kaleidoscopic landscape for nine bagpipes.

Wolfe has also extended her talents to theatre by composing for Anna Deveare Smith's *House Arrest*, and won an Obie award for her score to Ridge Theater's *Jennie Richie*. She has compiled a series of collaborative multimedia works with composers Michael Gordon and David Lang, including *Lost Objects* (Concerto Köln, directed by Francois Girard), *Shelter* (Musikfabrik and Ridge Theater), and *The Carbon Copy Building* (with comic-book artist Ben Katchor). Wolfe recently created the city-wide spectacle *Traveling Music*

with architects Diller Scofidio+Renfro in Bordeaux, France, filling the streets of the old city with 100 musicians walking and riding in pedi-cabs. Her work with film includes Fuel for the Hamburg-based Ensemble Resonanz and filmmaker Bill Morrison, and Impatience and Combat de Boxe for the Asko-Schoenberg Ensemble and 1920s film experimentalist Charles De Keukeleire.

Wolfe's Cruel Sister for string orchestra (commissioned by the Munich Chamber Orchestra) was recently released with Ensemble Resonanz (along with her other string orchestra work, Fuel) on Cantaloupe Music. Other CDs on Cantaloupe include "Dark Full Ride" (music for multiples) and "Julia Wolfe – The String Quartets." Her evening-length cantata for Trio Mediaeval and the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Steel Hammer, is to be released in February 2014.

Recent projects include riSE and fLY, a body concerto written for Colin Currie and the BBC orchestra, and Anthracite Fields, an evening-length work based on life in the Pennsylvania Anthracite coal region, for the Mendelssohn Club Choir of Philadelphia with the Bang on a Can All-Stars, which receives its world premiere in April 2014 in Philadelphia and its New York premiere in May 2014 with the Trinity Choir as a part of the New York Philharmonic's inaugural NY PHIL BIENNIAL. A staged version of Wolfe's Steel Hammer directed by the legendary Anne Bogart with her SITI Company, Trio Mediaeval, and the Bang on a Can All-Stars will premiere on the 2015 Next Wave festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Wolfe has collaborated with theater artist Anna Deveare Smith, architects DillerScofidio+Renfro, filmmaker Bill Morrison, Ridge Theater, director Francois Girard, Jim Findlay, and choreographer Susan Marshall among others. Her music has been heard at BAM, the Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, Settembre Musica (Italy), Theatre de la Ville (Paris), Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and has been recorded on Cantaloupe, Teldec, Point/Universal, Sony Classical, and Argo/Decca. In 2009 Wolfe joined the NYU Steinhardt School composition faculty. She is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music collective Bang on a Can.

Her music is published by Red Poppy Music (ASCAP) and is distributed worldwide by G. Schirmer, Inc.