



Winners in UC Berkeley Competition For Investigative Reporting Fellowships Announced

July 7, 2010 – Trevor Aaronson, an award-winning freelance reporter, and Lee Wang, a documentary filmmaker, have been selected as Investigate Reporting Fellows at the Graduate School of Journalism, Professor Lowell Bergman announced.

The post-graduate fellowship program, the only one of its kind in the nation, produces high-level reporting projects in an era of budget cuts and layoffs in newsrooms around the nation. This fourth annual competition was open to all working journalists, but preference was given to graduates of the Journalism School.

Aaronson was previously a projects reporter for The Commercial Appeal in Memphis, Tennessee, and a staff writer for Village Voice Media in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Aaronson has won more than two dozen national and regional awards for his investigative journalism, which included a series about corruption and brutality at a Florida police department.

Wang, who received her master of journalism degree at Berkeley, has worked for PBS' "Frontline" and "Frontline/World", MSNBC and Newsweek. Most recently, Wang served as associate producer on the "Frontline" documentary "Facing Death." Her film "Someone Else's War," which investigates the treatment of Filipino workers in Iraq, won the Tribeca Film Festival's Student Visionary Award.

Fellows receive a \$47,000 salary, benefits and up to \$10,000 for travel and expenses. Based in the offices of the Investigative Reporting Program at Berkeley, Aaronson and Wang will begin work in September 2010.

The Investigative Reporting Program will also provide special support in-residence to veteran investigative reporter and former Time magazine bureau chief Tim McGirk, who has covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the hunt for al-Qaeda.

McGirk was the recipient of the Henry Luce award for Reporting and, in the U.K., the Foreign Press Association's 2006 Print Story of the Year award for his investigation into the killing of 24 Iraqi civilians by U.S. Marines at Haditha, Iraq, and the subsequent cover-up by the U.S. military.

"Building on great successes with our current crop of fellows and recipients of our special project grants, we have chosen a new group whose abilities are proven and whose stories need to be told," said Bergman, director of the Investigative Reporting Program.

This year's fellowships are made possible by core grants from the Sandler Foundation and the Hellman Foundation along with donations from Scott and Jennifer Fearon, The Financial Times, The Gruber Family Foundation, John Kecker, Jerome Simon and Peter Wiley.

"The unwavering support from our donors has been critical in producing in-depth stories in the public interest," said Bergman. "Our ongoing distribution partnerships with the Center for Investigative Reporting, PBS "Frontline", the New York Times, the PBS "NewsHour", ProPublica, NPR and Reuters, continue to validate the IRP's model as a non-profit news organization connected to an institution of higher education."

The Fellows were selected by a panel of judges including Robert Gunnison, Daniel Hirst and Marlena Telvick of the IRP, along with Jason Felch of the Los Angeles Times and Anna Werner of KPIX television.

About the Investigative Reporting Program

The Investigative Reporting Program at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, established permanently in 2006, builds on work begun in 1992 in the seminars taught by Bergman, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter and documentarian.

Funded almost entirely by private grants and gifts, including a chair endowed by the Reva and David Logan Foundation of Chicago, the IRP functions both as a specialized graduate-level training program and as a non-profit newsgathering operation, generating stories for major broadcast, print and online outlets.

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