



**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2020-2021**



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Greetings, friends and fellow members. This last year has been incredibly tumultuous for Hong Kong and the FCC. It's been a privilege for me to have served on the Board these past 12 months to help us navigate the myriad challenges.

Press freedom has been under attack like never before. During the protests in Hong Kong we saw journalists being assaulted, hit with tear gas and rubber bullets, arrested and threatened just for doing their jobs. In mainland China, we saw a record number of journalists expelled. The disruptions — first from the protests, followed this year by the coronavirus outbreak — have severely impacted our Club operations.

I think we managed to rise quickly to these challenges, adapt to the fluid situation and keep the FCC journalistically at the centre of events.

The Professional Committee, of which I am co-convenor, put together a timely series of speakers, panels and workshops for journalists on the protests, press freedom, and on the covid-19 virus, bringing together top experts. On the Press Freedom Committee, I lent a hand in helping draft and/or edit many of our statements and letters to the Chief Executive and the Hong Kong police.

My day job running the University of Hong Kong (HKU) journalism department has allowed for great synergy with the Club, including introducing journalism students — our future members — to the FCC. When the protests were roiling Hong Kong, I worked with the editor of The Correspondent magazine to turn a series of essays from my feature writing students into a powerful cover story package. I put together an ongoing series of film screenings in Bert's about the perils facing journalists. I've also been able to attract top-notch speakers like Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, and historian Frank Dikotter whose talk "How To Be A Dictator" was a big hit.

But I would like another term as a Correspondent Member Governor not because of what I did this past year, but because of what I could not do.

The various disruptions meant I could not launch an exciting new community initiative, approved by the Board, to get the FCC engaged with local high schools to help young students know more about journalism and communications, and enhance their basic skills, through a series of workshops with our members. We have had to postpone some planned speaking events and film screenings because of the coronavirus restrictions, and I want to make sure those come to fruition. I want to help make sure our rescheduled Journalism Conference is the best ever. And I'd like to see more student work appearing in The Correspondent.

To finish some of the projects I've started, and to continue to help the President and the Board in steering the Club through difficult times, I would like your vote for one more term. And I want to thank you in advance for your continued support.

About me;

I was a summer intern at The Washington Post in 1978 and '79, and joined full-time in 1980 when Bob Woodward hired me to be the City Hall reporter covering Mayor Marion Barry. I stayed with the Post for the next 33 years, in a variety of jobs, but mostly as a foreign correspondent and Bureau Chief in Southeast Asia, Nairobi, Hong Kong, Paris, Beijing and Shanghai. I did a stint as Foreign Editor and then New York City Bureau Chief. In 1997 I wrote a book about covering Africa that is dying for an update. I was Club President in 1997 during the Handover Year. I now run the journalism department at HKU, continue to freelance, and am overdue on the next book.