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Writer/Contact: **John Greenman**, 706-542-1081, jgreenma@uga.edu

### **Dangers of covering war zones lead McGill Symposium on journalistic courage**

Athens, Ga. — The dangers associated with covering war zones – especially in the Middle East – open a two-day discussion of journalistic courage Oct. 8-9 at the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism.

The setting is the seventh annual McGill Symposium, which will be held from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9, in the Journalism Building, Room 238 (Drewry Room).

Leading off are three journalists with broad experience covering war zones across the world. They are:

- \* Dorothy Parvaz, special projects editor, Al Jazeera, who also is the 2013 recipient of the McGill Medal in Journalistic Courage
- \* Sherif Mansour, Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator, Committee to Protect Journalists
- \* Lisa Schnellinger, senior project consultant, UPINext/Pakistan

Six other journalists and journalism experts from across the U.S. will join Parvaz, Mansour and Schnellinger to consider what journalistic courage means and how it is exemplified by reporters and editors. They are:

- \* John Tlumacki, photographer, The Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
- \* Sara Ganim, reporter, CNN, Atlanta, Ga.
- \* Alison Young, reporter, USA Today, Arlington, Va.
- \* Frank D. LoMonte, executive director, Student Press Law Center, Washington, D.C.
- \* Karl Eppers, reporter, Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Fla.
- \* James Yoakley, instructional coach, Knox County Schools, Knox County, Tenn.

The [McGill Symposium](#) brings together students, faculty and leading journalists to consider what journalistic courage means and how it is exemplified by reporters and

editors, said John F. Greenman, professor and Carter Chair in Journalism, who co-directs the program.

The McGill Symposium is not a public event. Limited seating is available to Grady students and faculty.

Parvaz, Mansour and Schnellinger begin the day Tuesday with a discussion of “Pitfalls and land mines: Making our way through conflict reporting.” Schnellinger will moderate the discussion.

Later Tuesday, Parvaz will receive the McGill Medal.

Up next is Tlumacki with a discussion of “Eyewitness to terror: The trauma of the Boston Marathon and the courageous battle to recover.” Senior Lecturer Mark E. Johnson will moderate the session.

Ganim, who won the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Jerry Sandusky case at Penn State, will discuss “The sports writer’s challenge: Taking on the beloved institution.” Professor Vicki Michaelis will moderate the discussion. Michaelis is the John Huland Carmical Distinguished Professor of Sports Journalism.

Young will discuss “Haunted by Ghost Factories: Digging into dirt and big data.” Professor Patricia Thomas will moderate. Thomas is the Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism.

LoMonte, Eppers and Yoakley will discuss “The Hazelwood Decision at 25,” in the concluding session. Professor Kent Middleton will moderate.

For nearly 30 years, the McGill program has brought significant figures in journalism to the University of Georgia to help us honor Ralph McGill’s courage as an editor. The symposium was added in 2007.

McGill, while editor and publisher of The Atlanta Constitution, was regarded as the “conscience of the south,” using the newspaper’s editorial pages to challenge segregation in the 1950s and 1960s. McGill was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1958 for “long, courageous and effective leadership.”

Established in 1978, this University of Georgia annual lecture series addresses major issues impacting the American press.

The McGill Symposium is funded by the McGill Lecture Endowment.

### **About Grady College**

Established in 1915, the UGA Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication

offers undergraduate majors in journalism, advertising, public relations, digital and broadcast journalism and mass media arts. The college offers two graduate degrees and is home to the Peabody Awards, internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious prizes for excellence in electronic media. For more information, see [www.grady.uga.edu](http://www.grady.uga.edu) or follow @UGAGrady on Twitter.

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