Jennifer B. McDonald is an editor at The New York Times Book Review, where she assigns reviews of fiction and nonfiction and occasionally writes. Her beats include linguistics, race and immigration, opera, history, dance, science and technology, sex and gender, art and media, and graphic novels and technology. She co-authored “Israel vs. Iran: The Shadow War,” which was published in the United States in May 2012. Originally from Chicago, she moved to Israel in 1993 and has a law degree from Bar-Ilan University.

Souda Mekhennet is a German reporter and columnist of Turkish origin who works for The New York Times, Der Spiegel and ZDF (German television). Since 2002, she has reported extensively on terrorism and terrorist groups in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Mekhennet helped report the “Inside the Jihad” series for the Times and together with her colleague Don van Natta, broke the story of Khalid el-Masri, a German-Lebanese man who had been kidnapped and sent via extraordinary rendition to Afghanistan. She previously reported for The Washington Post and was the co-author of two books about Islam and terrorism, which were published in German.

Paula Molina is the anchor and editor of a prime-time program on CooperVision’s rotating news station. Since 1999, she has conducted daily interviews and has broadcast the news live, covering events such as the aftermath of the 2010 Chilcan earthquake and tsunami, the miner’s rescue in the Atacama Desert and massive student protests in 2011. With 20 years of journalism experience, Molina has been part of both new and established projects in print, television and radio. Her program has received awards for its coverage of poverty, social exclusion and environmental issues. She holds a master’s degree in public policy.

Mary Beth Sheridan is an editor at The Washington Post, where she has covered homeland security, immigration and diplomacy. She arrived at the Post in 2001 after 13 years as a foreign correspondent based in Europe and Latin America for The Associated Press. From 1998 to 2001, she was bureau chief in Madrid, Spain. Before that, she was a correspondent for the Post in Mexico City, where she covered the Oaxaca earthquake of 1999. She has won the National Magazine Award, the Overseas Press Club Award and the National Headliner Award for her reporting.

Beauregard Tromp is a senior field producer for e-news Africa, a pan-African television news station. Previously, as Africa correspondent for Independent Newspapers, he wrote extensively on conflicts in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and the Niger Delta. He is co-author of “Hani: A Life Too Short,” a bestselling biography of liberation fighter Chris Hani, and has been recognized for his narrative on the outbreak of xenophobic violence in South Africa. He has thrice won the Ferial H later Award for Newspapers and also received the Vodacom Journalist of the Year and the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist of the Year Awards.

Laura Wides-Muñoz is the Hispanic affairs writer for The Associated Press. Based in Miami, she covers U.S.-Cuba relations, immigration and Hispanics in American politics and culture. She has reported from Cuba and Guatemala, where she was a Fulbright Scholar and covered the end of Guatemala’s civil war. She has won The Associated Press Managing Editors Award for her beat and the Green Eyeshade Award for best political coverage in the southern United States. She also has written for The Miami Herald, U.S. News & World Report and the Los Angeles Times. She holds an environmental studies degree from Brown University.
When Agnes Wahl Nieman endowed the Nieman Foundation for Journalism, she and Harvard agreed that it would “promote and elevate the standards of journalism and educate persons deemed especially well fitted to pursue the study of journalism.” So began the fellowship program that annually selects the most promising journalists for a year of study at Harvard. What started as a fellowship for U.S. journalists eventually expanded to include international candidates and today offers a diverse class of fellows from around the globe. All of the fellows come with study plans designed to enhance their expertise and return them to their news operations better prepared to lead, to innovate and to understand and interpret increasingly complex worlds. In addition to funding their academic studies at Harvard, the Nieman Foundation runs programming to further educate the fellows about news values and the revolution in communications through seminars, conferences and professional training.

While at Harvard, the fellows also serve as resources to students and faculty through a variety of collaborations. Recent fellows have co-authored papers with faculty, led seminars, given classroom lectures and served as mentors to students. The deep knowledge and experience found in this year’s class of fellows represents an important asset to the Harvard community and beyond.

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