




# 2024 Q2 Report

 Pulitzer Center





In May, over 50 Pulitzer Center staff, board members, and grantees gathered for a three-day planning retreat in Panama. We connected with the rainforest—an essential part of the Pulitzer Center’s journalism and impact—and, importantly, held discussions among our global staff about the Center’s mission, future, and the change we hope to see.

The second quarter of 2024 marked a period of transitions: We welcomed Lisa Gibbs as our next CEO and president, and shared our gratitude with Jon Sawyer for his vision in building the Pulitzer Center to be the impactful organization it is today.

Amid these transitions, the work continues: We announced the first cohort of nine StoryReach U.S. Fellows, who will spend the next year reporting and engaging audiences with local outlets in the U.S.—from Maine to Mississippi to Alaska—on issues of racial justice, health, and climate change. We also welcomed 46 student Reporting Fellows from our Campus Consortium colleges and universities, who will travel to 27 countries to report on topics related to the Pulitzer Center’s focus areas.

The Pulitzer Center’s Data and Research team increased efforts to teach investigative journalism methodologies and publish new resources. It also expanded the Amazon Mining Watch platform, enabling journalists and researchers to map deforestation caused by mining in the Amazon, powered by artificial intelligence. In its first three months, the AI Spotlight Series trained over 500 journalists on how to cover and shape the coverage of AI and its influence on society.

Important reporting projects covered the mental health crisis facing teenagers in the West Bank, ocean plastic pollution and the seaweed industry, and the illegal timber market in the Peruvian Amazon. Halfway through 2024, we have supported over 400 stories by 148 journalists reporting in 70 countries.

Our audience engagement efforts continued in our four regional hubs across the U.S., Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia—from thousands of student poems inspired by Pulitzer Center stories, public photo exhibitions in New York City, radio shows reaching millions in Congo and Cameroon, and film screenings with fisherfolk and their families in the Philippines.

“With the powerful journalism we fund, the ways we bring the journalism to schools and universities, to new arenas like outdoor photography exhibitions and community events—the Center is and can lead the way in bringing important stories to reluctant or unreachable audiences,” Gibbs said during an event in June.

Welcome, Lisa! Thank you to our ever-growing community for your commitment to our work.

Best,

Sarah Swan, Communications Director



# BREAKTHROUGH JOURNALISM

So far in 2024, we have supported

**103**

projects

**148**

journalists

in **70**

countries

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Resulting in more than 420 stories



The Pulitzer Center empowers a global community of journalists and media outlets to deepen engagement with critical underreported issues, bridging divides and spurring change. Highlights of our impact:

Traveling to the West Bank, journalist Kern Hendricks produced an intimate documentary film for the story “[Young Palestinians Face a Steep Toll on Mental Health](#).” The film is carried by Undark and is a stark reminder that war and unresolved conflict perpetuate hopelessness and division.

In a multipart series for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), reporter Rick Barrett and photographer Mark Hoffman traveled to Latin America to look at why some U.S. manufacturers who shipped their operations overseas are now returning to the Midwest’s industrial heartland, bringing back jobs that many thought were lost forever.

AI Accountability Fellow [Karol Ilagan’s investigation into the ride-hailing app Grab](#) found customers still facing lengthy wait times even when paying the surge price computed by an algorithm to get more cars on the road. The lack of transparency of Grab’s algorithm and data challenges consumer rights and antitrust regulation in the Philippines.

Ocean Fellows reported on [plastic waste](#), the [U.S. seaweed industry](#), and fishing in the U.K., [Ghana](#), and [Peru](#). As they end the first year, eight Fellows and five Pulitzer Center staff [convened in Barcelona](#). Attending a U.N. science conference was “incredibly useful for meeting sources,” and meeting in person led to greater collaboration and understanding among the Fellows.

The investigative outlet [OjoPúblico](#) worked in alliance with our [Rainforest Investigations Network](#) in search of clues about the timber market in the Peruvian Amazon. After analyzing more than 2 million documents, the team developed an algorithm to assess the risk of illegal exploitation of natural resources. The Dipteryx Project was [launched in June](#) and found that more than half of the timber sold in Peru is likely illegal.

The Pulitzer Center’s Data and Research team expanded efforts to teach journalists how to dig deeper by hosting workshops and publishing research guides, including a new [methodology piece](#) on how to follow the money behind environmental destruction. The piece was co-published with the [Global Investigative Journalism Network \(GIJN\)](#). We also launched a [new version of the Amazon Mining Watch platform](#), increasing the capacity of using machine learning to access satellite imagery and find open mine pits in the nine countries of the Amazon rainforest.







*“... I once said that Pulitzer Center reporting grants give us journalists the gift of time. Time to immerse ourselves in the complexity of issues and most importantly, time to earn the trust of our interviewees. When we are allowed into the lives of our subjects, we get to know them beyond their experiences of abuse. Hopefully, our reportage allows our readers to know our subjects as people who like them dream of a better life for themselves and those they love.”*

| **Ana Santos**



# STUDENT REPORTING FELLOWS

**Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellowships empower college and university students and recent graduates to tell stories that impact the world around them. The Fellowships also help launch careers by creating networks and developing journalism skills that will serve Fellows well, no matter the field they pursue.**

Congratulations to the 2024 cohort of **46 Campus Consortium Reporting Fellows!** They will travel to 27 countries and report on topics related to all five of the Pulitzer Center's **focus areas**: Climate and Environment, Global Health, Peace and Conflict, Human Rights, and Information and Artificial Intelligence.

The Fellows participated in a **virtual orientation** in June. They met with Pulitzer Center editors, Reporting Fellow alums, and the Campus Consortium Advisory Council.

We are excited to **welcome** Karima Haynes to the Pulitzer Center's Reporting Fellowship program! She joined the team in May, taking over for former Reporting Fellows Program Director Kem Sawyer.





***“I really enjoyed hearing from the Campus Consortium Advisory Council and the Fellowship alums. Both of these groups gave great, tangible insight and were very open to speaking more about our topics after orientation.”***

**Lauren Fox**

2024 Boston University College  
of Communication Reporting Fellow







# AUDIENCE-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

Our engagement programming in the United States, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia reaches audiences with reporting through public forums, secondary and higher education schools, exhibits, and performances. This work seeks to amplify Pulitzer Center-supported stories, build public awareness and understanding of complex issues, inspire journalism-informed action, create networks, and bridge divides.

**538k**  
website visits

**2.2 million**  
reached on social media



## Public outreach highlights:

**48**  
events

**9,000**  
people reached

**13**  
countries

**15**  
radio shows

**13 million**  
listeners per show reached  
(in two countries)

For the 10th year, we exhibited grantee work at **Photoville**, a free, 16-day outdoor event in New York City. Photographer Justin Maxon and Native author Judith Surber spoke to dozens of community members at a panel and walking tour, and engaged with multiple classrooms of students during Education Day about their project and exhibit, *Decolonizing Care*. We also collaborated with Diversify Photo to create the *Eyewitness: Shadows of Climate Change* exhibit.

In a recent webinar, journalists **Brittany Hailer** and **Joshua Vaughn** explained how they set out to create a database of in-custody deaths in Pennsylvania. Journalists and researchers learned how to navigate inconsistent public records and explored solutions to ensure transparency and accountability for carceral systems.

Campus Consortium Reporting Fellow alums shared their reporting on adaptation in regions already experiencing extreme climate volatility during the webinar *“On Thin Ice.”* Fellows also discussed displacement, material security, and mental health during the *“Mind and Matter”* event on Mental Health Action Day, May 16.

Featuring grantee **Lisa Corti**, a **workshop** at **Foro Social Panamazónico** in Bolivia, with 30 young communicators and journalists, gathered over 1,200 Indigenous leaders and local communities who live in and protect the Amazon rainforest. A documentary screening session also brought together 40 participants.

At the Congo Basin Forest Partnership annual meeting, a **film screening and debate** drew 24 participants who highlighted the creation of partnerships to improve media content on forest governance, the need for quality journalism to guide decision-makers, and the improvement of the media environment for journalists.

On World Ocean Day, June 8, a **Pulitzer Center-supported short film** was screened to the very community affected by fishing issues discussed in the film. Around 40 fisherfolk and family members gathered in the Philippines, voiced their concerns, and highlighted the need for increased public awareness to continue addressing the challenges they face.





Image by Grace Jensen, United States, 2024

*"Environmental information will certainly dominate all media topics in a few years' time, so we need to work to make journalistic content available on a larger scale."*

**Raoul Nsiemeni**

Coordinator of Réseau des Communicateurs pour l'Environnement et l'Information en Afrique Centrale (RECEIAC).



## Education highlights:

170  
events

35  
lesson and unit plans



Image by Eric Selemanni. DRC, 2024

## Reaching more than 14,800 students and 580 teachers

Eighteen educators from [this year's Teacher Fellowship](#) integrated a range of global reporting into unit plans they shared with over 1,200 students across 12 states. Students created original photo exhibitions, podcasts, advocacy campaigns, and more. Fellowship resources will be published in September 2024.

Over 20,000 people engaged with Fighting Words Poetry Contest resources online in preparation for the contest. A total of 1,400 K-12 students entered poems inspired by Pulitzer Center news stories, representing 16 countries, 36 U.S. states, and D.C. [The winning poems for each focus area are published here.](#)

An estimated 3 million people listened weekly to the *As de la Semaine* radio show, aired on DRC national radio, to support their favorite teams during the [EcoCulture competition](#). The games lasted for two months and saw the participation of 96 students and 19 teachers from 16 secondary schools. The goal was to stimulate students' interest in reading, research, and culture, while showcasing environmental stories supported by the Pulitzer Center.

Sixty-six student press club members from at least 10 universities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, participated in the ["Stories Deep Dive"](#) workshop. Multidisciplinary perspectives enriched the discussions on the ocean and rainforest, joined by Abdus Somad (Ocean Reporting Network Fellow) and Riani Putri (Rainforest Journalism Fund grantee).

In June, the Juruá Institute was invited by the municipal education council to present the "School as a Training Ground for Small Conservationists" course as a model for education on protected forests. Promoting community-based conservation, this [Impact Seed Funding](#) project trained 99 teachers and 34 students in Carauari, Brazil, in February and will benefit 3,500 students.

Journalist Marzio Mian and photographer Alessandro Cosmelli followed the Volga river to capture Russian history and identity. In the spring, they shared their project, [Volga Blues](#), with students on [three campuses](#), experts at Northwestern University's [Buffett Institute for Global Affairs](#), and local community members at the [Bronx Documentary Center](#).

Conflict documentarian and author Jason Motlagh discussed his work with students and faculty at the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) and the [University of Richmond](#). Motlagh's most recent Center-supported project, [Tracking War Crimes in Myanmar](#), documents a renegade humanitarian group, The Free Burma Rangers.





*"Jason was an invigorating addition to our class community. We were all captivated by his authentic storytelling and the students were inspired by his reflections of his career. After leaving our class one student shared, 'I'm so grateful to have met Jason. I always knew what I wanted to do with my writing but didn't know how to get there. Jason showed me that it is possible!'"*

**Kajsa Dalrymple**

Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
on Jason Motlagh's visit

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*"I think this program offers a vast opportunity for students to explore the personal narratives behind complex issues, especially issues around oppression, which affect my students in intersectional ways... Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity to thoughtfully engage with this program. I had never heard of the Pulitzer Center, and now, my curriculum will always feature the stories you have shared."*

**L.J. Delao**

2023-2024 Teacher Fellow and high school  
English teacher in Richmond, Virginia

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*"As a finalist, I don't have a smartphone. Sometimes, I had to borrow my parents' phone so that I could stay up at night to read the articles from Pulitzer Center."*

**Ndaita Olive**

Student at Maranatha Institute in the Congo  
who participated in the EcoCulture competition



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Over 22 awards and citations received so far in 2024

Ocean grantee **Jennifer Adler** **won** the climate category in the Earth Photo 2024 awards for **this shot** of a scientist inspecting healthy corals in a nursery—from a project by **Adler and Benji Jones for Vox** on efforts to restore Florida's ailing reefs.

Pulitzer Center grantees and one Fellow won **four awards by the Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA)** for excellence in investigative reporting, photography, and bahasa Indonesia news reporting.

*Exposing Inequalities: How the Health Care System Failed in Venezuela*—by **Ricardo Barbar, Mariengracia Chirinos, and Indira Rojas**—won Venezuela's 2024 National Journalism Contest in the best coverage category. The project for Prodavinci uncovers the gaps and shortcomings of public health care in Venezuela.

Pulitzer Center-supported journalists were honored with 2024 One World Media Awards. **Varsha Bansal** won the Freelancer of the Year award for her **investigation** into the impact of AI on gig workers in India. **Bruno Federico** and his Al Jazeera team won the Current Affairs category for their **documentary** following a Colombian colonel's admission of covering up civilian killings. **Ian Urbina** and the Outlaw Ocean Project received a Special Mention for their **investigation** uncovering human rights violations on Chinese fishing ships.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Image by Barry Christianson. South Africa, 2024

**Support for the Pulitzer Center this year came from Art for Justice Fund, Arnold Ventures, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Facebook Journalism Project, Fore River Foundation, Golden Globe Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Hartfield Foundation, Henry L. Kimelman Family Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Humanity United, IV Fund, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Julian Grace Foundation, Laudes Foundation, Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Luminate Group, Norad, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), One Earth Fund, Open Society Foundations, PIMCO Foundation, Poklon Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Trellis Charitable Fund, Walton Family Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and our Campus Consortium partner schools.**

This broad mix of foundation funding, along with continued core support from members of the Pulitzer family, board members, and many other generous individuals, ensures the independent journalism and education that is essential to our mission in these times. We are grateful to all who continue to sustain our work.

**We hope that others will join >**