



SJSU | SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND
MASS COMMUNICATIONS

***Sara Sidner, CNN National and International Correspondent
2015 William Hearst Professional Journalism Award Recipient***

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 the JMC School's special guest will be Ms. Sara Sidner. She will receive the William Randolph Hearst Professional Journalism Award at a ceremony starting at 4:30 pm in the MLK Library, room 225. The campus community is invited.

The goal of the William Hearst Endowment for Visiting Professionals is to bring distinguished speakers to campus as part of SJSU's School of Journalism and Mass Communications' Visiting Professionals program. The foundation encourages and supports excellence in journalism and journalism education nationwide.

Sara Sidner is CNN's multiple award winning national and international correspondent, based in the network's Los Angeles bureau. As an international correspondent, Sidner reported on a wide range of subjects, from terrorism to business to social and cultural issues. She has reported from a multitude of countries, including Libya, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Taiwan. In the Middle East, Sidner was part of the team that won a Peabody award for CNN's coverage of the Arab Spring.



Recently Sidner led the network's coverage in Ferguson, Missouri where protests continued for months after an unarmed black teenager was shot and killed by a white police officer. She was there for weeks while a grand jury looked at evidence and ultimately decided not to indict the officer. Their decision sparked two nights of violence in Ferguson but it also led to nationwide protests and a national conversation about race and policing in America, as well as a state commission and Presidential task force on policing.



Sidner's work in Libya, reporting in the midst of rebel fighters during the fall of Tripoli, has been recognized all over the world. In 2011 she shared the Achievement of the Year Award from SKY WFTV Women in Film & Television in the United Kingdom for her war coverage in Libya.



While in India, Sidner headed the coverage of South Asia from the New Delhi bureau. One of her first major international stories unfolded when terrorists attacked several places in Mumbai, including the famed Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel, on November 26, 2008. Sidner was live throughout the 2008 siege that lasted 60 hours and took more than 170 lives. Her stories from South Asia also included a documentary on the 25 year civil war in Sri Lanka, several stints reporting in war-torn Afghanistan, and live coverage of violent political eruptions in Thailand and Bangladesh. She also explored many stories about the social and economic developments in India, culminating in a series of stories for CNN International's award winning "Freedom Project." Sidner also traveled to Chile and Haiti to cover the aftermath of devastating earthquakes in those countries.

Sidner has collected two Asian Television Awards -- one for her 2011 report on the horrors faced by young Bangladeshis forced into begging and a second for the 2012 Freedom Project documentary 'Operation Hope', which chronicled the extraordinary journey, from suffering to recovery, of one of these children, a seven-year-old boy who was castrated and left for dead when he refused to beg.

In 2013, Sidner received two Alliance for Women in Media Gracie Awards; one for her coverage of India's unwanted girls where she explored the issue of female infanticide in India and a second for her breaking news coverage of the 2012 Gaza-Israel conflict from Gaza & Israel. In 2014, Sidner also reported from Malaysia on missing Malaysia Airlines flight 370, from Ukraine on the downed Malaysia Airlines flight 17, and from the Israeli border during the 2014 war between Israel and Gaza.



Prior to joining CNN, Sidner was an anchor and reporter at local television news stations in San Francisco, Dallas, Florida, and Missouri. She received multiple awards during this time, including a regional Emmy Award, an Edward R. Murrow Award, and several Telly Awards.

Sidner received her journalism degree from the University of Florida, and was named an Alumni of Distinction in 2011.

A poster for an award ceremony. At the top, it says 'SJSU | SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS'. Below that, it reads 'Presents the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Award for Excellence in Professional Journalism to CNN international Correspondent: Sara Sidner'. The name 'Sara Sidner' is written in large purple letters. On the right side, there is a portrait of Sara Sidner. Three quotes are included: 1. '...became a breakout star for the network as the world watched her dodge bullets, not always successfully, while covering the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya.' - TV Guide. 2. 'Sidner has proven herself to be a tenacious, aggressive and downright fearless reporter.' - Mediaweek. 3. 'It is very hard for a place to heal when no one trusts anyone to tell the truth.' - Sara Sidner on covering the race riots in Ferguson, Missouri. At the bottom left, it says 'FREE ADMISSION MLK Library | Room 225 Tuesday October 13th 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm Audience Q&A'. There is a small circular logo at the bottom left and a larger one at the bottom right.