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Prof. Roger Tatarian

Roger Tatarian graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1938 with a degree in political science. He began his career at United Press International, a worldwide news reporting service that supplies stories to thousands of newspapers, magazines and broadcasting outlets. He was a war correspondent during World War II and after the war he continued to work for UPI for the next 34 years.

Tatarian had a successful career, serving as the general news manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He was bureau chief in London and Rome and also served as news editor in Washington D.C. and eventually became editor-in-chief of UPI.

Tatarian served as a Pulitzer Prize nomination juror in 1960, 1961 and 1985. Other awards and honors include the Elijah Parrish Lovejoy Award, a special citation by Ohio University and an honorary doctorate in law from Colby College in Maine in 1980. He was also named a fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi in 1972 and was among the first group inducted into the New York Society's Hall of Fame.

After his retirement from UPI, Tatarian returned to Fresno and joined the faculty at Fresno State. In addition, he served as a consultant to newspapers, including the Fresno Bee. He wrote a regular column for the paper and gave commentary on local public television. He also wrote "Day of Mourning, Day of Shame," a collection of essays which was published by Word Dancer Press in 1996.

He was a member of the Fresno State journalism faculty for 15 years. The Roger Tatarian Journalism Grant was established in his honor. The university also established the Roger Tatarian Endowed Chair in Journalism in his honor. Tatarian passed away in 1995 at the age of 78.