“Gov. McGreevey’s announcement hit like a thunderbolt, but we just rolled into action and did what we do. It was an incredible team effort,” said Whelan, co-writer of the lead article. “The journalists at The Star-Ledger are passionate about putting out a quality newspaper day in and day out, so it just felt great to be recognized like this.”

Jenny Nordberg, ’93, and Clare Hoffman, ’04, contributed to the Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times series on the corporate cover-up of responsibility for fatal accidents at railway crossings, for which Walt Bogdanich won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. Bureau Darugah, ’94, a freelance journalist employed by The Star-Ledger, was a finalist for international reporting as well.

Top Pulitzer Prize winners this year also included the Los Angeles Times for both public service and international reporting. The board recognized the paper’s staff for its well-researched series exposing deadly medical problems and racial injustice at an intensive hospital. Los Angeles Times reporter Kim Murphy shared the international reporting prize with Olojede. Murphy, the Moscow bureau chief, won for the overall strength of her coverage of Russia’s “struggle to cope with terrorism, improve the economy, and make democracy work.”

The Knight-Skill Journal also grabbed two Pulitzers, one for beat reporting, given to the Daily News for stories on cancer survivors and their families, and the other for criticism awarded to Joe Morgenstern for his film reviews.


The board recognized Associated Press staff for a series of photographs depicting the bloody, years-long combat inside Iraqi cities and Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle for a photo essay on an Oakland hospital’s attempt to treat an Iraqi child.

In the Letters and Drama prizes, Mandhryne Robinson captured the fiction prize for her book Gilead John Patrick Stanley won in drama for his play Death of a Parable; David Hackett Fischer received the history award for his book Washington’s Crossing; and Mark Steven and Annalyn Swan won for their biography of King of Kings, an American Masters. Current U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser won the Pulitzer Prize for his poem Delightful Shadows, and Steve Stucky won the prize in music for “Second Concertos for Orchestra.” Finally, Steve Coll, author of Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Social Inversion to September 10, 2001, received a Pulitzer in the general nonfiction category.

These awards will be presented to the winners at a luncheon on May 25 at Low Library.

---

Morrison and Tutu spoke to the audience in Low Library about the global importance of nonviolence and people power.

Morrison used South Africa as a case study to underscore how people power led to the elimination of apartheid, a vicious, inhuman system that used brutal and repressive methods to keep the majority black population under the “yoke of oppression.”

The white government, however, even with the support of politicians such as former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and with control over the media, did not reckon with the power of the people; he explained. “Apartheid might have succeeded if not for the effort of civil societies to stand against an institutionalized and mobulize the population,” the Archbishop said.

Besides必须ing support on the streets of South Africa, an important role was played by civil societies abroad, which placed global pressure on the apartheid regime. By deploying this tactic, Tutu explained, “We went above the heads of the politicians and went to the people and to civil societies.” As a result, he added, “apartheid became thoroughly discredited.”

In her address, Morrison reflected on the relationship between an emerging language of peace and the aging language of war. “The more sophisticated our weapons have become, the more antiquated the language of war has become,” she said.

Looking back at the last century, Morrison said that while conflicts continued to erupt after World War II, with wars that were big and small and “hot and cold,” another phenomenon was taking place: “language of nonviolence was also evolving,” she said, “a language that was compelling and robust and summoned up not our sins but our virtues.” Morrison believes this suggests that “war is out of date and a most inefficient method of achieving our aims.”

Morrison’s novels and writings have been praised for their epic power and powerfully changed depictions of African-American life, said that although our society has made many so-called advances—from communicatiou devices to organ transplants—we “study the same old curriculum of those who destroy.” She made a plea for a new curricuim and visioning thinking because “the danger of losing humanity must be met with more humanity.”

In the discussion session of the program, Morrison continued the theme of language and its impact on society, asking about the importance of finding a common language as a way of combining people power and the power of language to eliminate poverty.

Tutu recalled that, in South Africa, the black majority fighting for freedom had rallied around a common language and a symbol: Free Mandela, Free South Africa. “It was simple and short and yet profound,” he said. The slogan resonated for those in South Africa and abroad because it was “what the people were longing for.”

For Morrison, the danger is not speaking directly to the people who are living in dire circumstances. It is a question of listening to them and not making them “victims of mentality—they have to construct their own lives,” she said.

War was very much on the minds of the speakers, but so was the power of civil societies to effect change and to ensure that “the powerless are not parents of the powerful,” said Tutu. “This is a moral universe,” he concluded. “Rights and wrongs matter. Dictators strut on the world stage, but they end up biting the dust. They all discover they are not gods but mere mortals.”