

Professional profile

Words, language and culture are my personal passions. From the front lines of armed conflict to the halls of government, I've spent the past decade developing my craft and diverse set of skills as a communications professional.

As a working journalist, my ability to gather information and communicate it effectively to my readers via print, multimedia and the Internet is essential to more than my success. It factors directly into my credibility and reputation.

That communication isn't limited to writing stories and editing video news packages for my audience, but working effectively inside my news organization as a team member. Both careful planning and collaboration have been key factors in my success, which has led to me taking supervisory roles, editing other reporters' work and coaching younger talent.

Most recently, I had the opportunity to take my real-world experiences back to the classroom as an Adjunct Professor of Journalism at the University of La Verne.

My greatest satisfaction comes from opportunities to learn, most notably though exposure to different cultures, interacting with new people and using my problem-solving abilities to navigate my way through the world.

Education

University of La Verne

September 2002 – May 2006

La Verne, California

Journalism major graduated with honors May 2006. Recognized on Dean's list for academic achievement every semester.

West Coast Detective Academy

Summer, 2002

Van Nuys, California

Completed three-month training in investigations and research.

Professional experience

University of La Verne

January 2008 – June 2008

La Verne, California

Taught a semester-long Journalism 100 course to traditional undergraduates. Instructed students to write concisely, interview effectively, self-edit aggressively and structure their thoughts into narrative. Reviewed grammar through interactive, group activities. Assigned frequent "hands-on" writing assignments and edited student work for content, grammar and syntax. Brought real-world situations into the classroom and applied a modern approach through writing for the Internet.

Pasadena Star-News

April 2006 – February 2008

Pasadena, California

Wrote breaking news stories and enterprising features in deep-running coverage of local, regional and national politics, nearly all of which led the front page. Developed interactive content for the Web, audio reports and video packages to accompany topical stories including frequent forays into education, energy and other issues. Conducted in-depth interviews for stories prepared daily on deadline for potential audience of 1.3 million readers. Frequently edited other reporters' writing.

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

June 2004 – April 2006

Ontario, California

Wrote hundreds of articles and conducted thousands of interviews for concisely written stories. Developed relationships of trust with human sources and insisted on my own accountability for accuracy and quality. Planned coverage with team members at other company-owned newspapers. During 2004, my primary duties were editing news stories for grammar, style and content.



Contact information

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Personal profile

Born: Pasadena, California, United States of America

Marital Status: Unmarried

Citizenship: United States

Native language: English

Qualifications

Experienced communications professional
Entertaining instructor
Certified TESOL instructor
Clear, evocative writing
Attentive listening, interviewing and rapport-building
Meticulous grasp of grammar, syntax, style
Engaging personality
Multimodal approach for different learning styles
Dependable team member or independent operator
Command of diverse topics, from algorithms to Zoroastrianism
Thoroughly personable
Multicultural
Dependable and reliable
Technological expertise
Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer

Freelance Reporter

2000 – 2002

Middle East and Southeast Asia

Created written and multimedia pieces for the Internet while traveling and working independently in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India from November 2001 through March 2002 covering the military conflict and post-Sept. 11 events. Filmed and edited video news packages for broadcast news agencies and maintained travel “blog” of my experiences. Gained access to front-line fire zones and key figures at Tora Bora, sold video and images to Internet news sites and broadcast news agency. In 2000, traveled and reported in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Electric Image, Incorporated

1997 - 1999

Pasadena, California

Responsible for organizational information technology. Developed, deployed and administrated telecom infrastructure for large organization. Trained staff on using technology. Wrote programs and maintained corporate Web site. Instituted enterprise services to automate business processes. Administrated computer and other data systems while supporting PC and Macintosh workstations.

R e l e v a n t a c q u i r e d s k i l l s

Communication skills: For the past five years, I've written daily stories for newspapers in Southern California. That means on any given day, I'm contacting potential sources, building rapport with them, persuading them to share information, distilling that knowledge to its essentials, structuring a concise narrative and then composing meaningful stories in accordance to professional standards of fairness and objectivity.

Human relations skills: As a reporter, I must frequently communicate with people who may be less than cooperative. I've developed strategies to put them at ease, reduce their anxiety and - at a minimum – secure their cooperation on a courteous level. I've also excelled at working with colleagues in a high-pressure, time-sensitive work environment.

Research and planning skills: In order to produce stories every day, I have to develop and maintain detailed planning to structure my time while also preparing alternatives in case something doesn't go as planned. On a daily basis, I also modify and retool those plans based on the reality of the day.

A c t i v i t i e s a n d H o n o r s

- Finalist for National Public Radio's Kroc Fellowship, 2006
- California Newspaper Publishers Association, Better Newspapers Contest, Freedom of Information and Investigative Journalism awards, 2006 and 2008
- Adjunct Professor of Journalism, University of La Verne
- Former board member, Society of Professional Journalists, Inland Empire Chapter
- Former president, Society of Professional Journalists, University of La Verne Chapter
- Society of Professional Journalists, District 11, Mark of Excellence for First Place Feature Magazine writing, 2005 and 2006. Sweepstakes winner Inland Pro Chapter
- California Intercollegiate Press Association, First Place Newspaper
- Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Gold Circle Award, news writing

Professional references

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*Letters of reference
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