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Communications Specialist: Editor/Writer

Summary

Versatile, experienced professional print and online newspaper journalist with expertise in editing, writing, researching and reporting seeks full-time employment in editing, writing or public relations.

Experience

City Colleges of Chicago's Center for Distance Learning, Chicago, Ill. January 2010-Current
Adjunct faculty

Part-time facilitator for an online course, Social Science 101WW, an introduction to sociology, psychology and anthropology for community college students.

University of Phoenix, Chicago, Ill. March 2010-Current
Adjunct faculty

Part-time instructor for face-to-face classes in sociology and writing in the University of Phoenix's downtown Chicago campus.

Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Ill. 1978-2009
Copy Editor

Edited news stories for the metro, national/foreign and business pages of Chicago's leading metropolitan daily newspaper and website. Wrote headlines and photo captions; trimmed stories to fit space needs. Previously, as a graphics coordinator in the editorial art department, reported, researched and wrote text for newspaper's metro, national/foreign, business, sports and feature informational graphics.

- Planned and wrote web promos for the newspaper to promote Internet-only offerings. Posted newspaper articles singly and in story galleries and wrote and edited captions for photo galleries on newspaper website using Assembler/Oxygen. Wrote search engine optimized headlines for chicagotribune.com. Created web redirects for the print newspaper to enable online readers to go through chicagotribune.com to reach relevant outside non-Tribune websites.
- Edited Excel tables of annual Cook County property tax data and school report card data for publication in newspaper special reports.
- As a production editor, supervised printers in hot-type and cold-type newspaper page preparation. Helped coordinate efforts of artists and designers in preparing informational graphics.
- Participated in editing special community news or education sections, including annual Academic All-Star sections featuring outstanding high school seniors.
- Occasionally trained and provided orientation and mentoring for new metro copy desk employees and potential employees on week-long tryouts.
- Volunteered as a tour guide for school and other groups visiting Tribune Tower, taking them through the newsroom and other parts of the building while explaining how the newspaper operates.
- Participated in annual detailed journalistic content critiques of Student Life, the thrice-weekly student newspaper of Washington University in St. Louis.

Education

University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. *M.A., Sociology*

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. *B.A., Political Science*

Skills

- Advanced-level user of Microsoft Word and CCI editing systems.
- Intermediate-level user of Assembler/Oxygen, FrontPage, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint. Completed online video tutorials on Dreamweaver, Expression Web, HTML, CSS, InDesign and SEO.
- Previously had experience with Macintosh computer programs Freehand, Quark, Illustrator and MacDraw.
- Amateur genealogist since the 1970s, experienced with both traditional and Internet-based family history research techniques, I work part-time as a professional family history researcher. Used FrontPage to create extensive personal family history website at www.martinfischer.webs.com.

Current Affiliations

Editorial Freelancers Association; Association of Professional Genealogists

Former Affiliations

Society of Newspaper Design; International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors; Northern Illinois Newspaper Association; Campus Publications Inc., Washington University in St. Louis, former member, board of directors

Honors

Chicago Tribune, 1988. Outstanding Professional Performance award for a series of full-page Olympics graphics.

Chicago Tribune, 1984. Honorable mention for Outstanding Professional Performance for contributions to graphics department.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1992. Award of Excellence, informational graphics, two or more colors.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1992. Award of Excellence, breaking news editor's choice graphic.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1990. Silver Award, informational graphics portfolio of work.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1990. Award of Excellence, breaking news informational graphic, two or more colors.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1989. Judges' Special Recognition award, informational graphics.

Society of Newspaper Design, 1989. Award of Excellence, breaking news informational graphics portfolio.