

Michelle Kearns

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QUALIFICATIONS

Teaching: Created writing and story-shaping workshop, and companion video, with grant award, after leading volunteer seminar with Ghanaian journalists. For subsequent classes at OSU and Gavilan College, Gilroy, CA, guided writers to quickly distill prose and interviews into stories.

Leadership: Find news and unusual stories. Cover beats. Collaborate with producers, editors and photographers.

Creative View: Take literary journalism approach, in print and multimedia, to reveal detail, humor, poignancy, drama and context.

AWARDS

Digital Media Fellowship: One of three print journalists selected for multimedia training at OSU, 2008. Resulting Buffalo News project won multimedia Honorable Mention in state Associated Press contest, 2009.

Non-Deadline Writing Finalist: For four stories in American Society of Newspaper Editors' 2001 contest.

"Best Newspaper Writing, 2001": "Death of a Lineman" included in Poynter Institute anthology.

First Place and Honorable Mention for Feature Writing: American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, 2000 and 2001.

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University: Kiplinger Fellowship, digital media and creative nonfiction, 2008.

Boston University: M.S., Journalism, with distinction, 2002.

University of Grenoble: French Study, 1988.

Colorado College: B.A., English, 1986.
Study in Athens, Greece, 1985.

EXPERIENCE

The Buffalo News. Buffalo. Reporter, 2002–Present.

- Suburban division, 2007–Present. Features, news and front-page stories about the city and suburbs. Developed 2010 creative-writing-essay-style series of 15 "Gathering Place" stories: profiles and chronicles of unfolding action revealed how hopes, ambitions and lives intersect with idiosyncratic local places.
- Business section, 2005–2007. Applied human-interest approach to traditional subjects. Won spring 2007 McCormick scholarship to nonprofit reporting seminar. Material inspired winning OSU fellowship proposal and multimedia project about local foundations and how their millions of dollars affect people.
- Features department, 2002–2005. Wrote stories about people, pop-culture and trends. My 2003 profile of dating service owner Patti Novak inspired 2007 A&E reality TV series "Confessions of a Matchmaker."

The Ohio State University. Columbus.

Kiplinger Digital Media & Public Affairs Fellow, 2008.

- Public affairs journalism program. Invited to present multimedia work at digital lab showcase. Essay about digital transition published in magazine of John Glenn School of Public Affairs. Earned A's in digital media and creative nonfiction.
- Launched website for my writing portfolio @ mkearnsreporter.com
- Selected by International Centre for Advancement of Journalism to lead writing and editing workshops with newspaper staff of Daily Graphic in Accra, Ghana.
- Won Center for Study and Teaching of Writing grant to create workshop. Produced explanatory multimedia teaching video @ vimeo.com/11314600

BOSTON, 2001–2002

The Sunday Globe. Freelance Correspondent.

- Neighborhood stories and features for Boston Globe's City Weekly section.

Boston University. Graduate Student.

- Courses: essay writing, radio, narrative, modern literature with Saul Bellow.
- Edited the department newsletter, The Muckraker.
- Developed, recorded and mixed radio diaries for "On Point" show at WBUR.
- Master's thesis project is online @ mkearnsreporter.com/essayproject.html
- Won 2002 contest for essay about writing from Bookbuilders of Boston.

MAINE, 1993–2001

The Sun Journal. Lewiston. Sunday Writer, 1999–2001.

- Promoted to master reporter, June 2001.
- Wrote features for front page, Sunday edition.
- Won first- and second-place feature awards from Maine Press Association for "Death of a Lineman" and "Jamaican Harvest" in 2000 and 2001.
- Won Davidoff scholarship for journalists, Writers Conference, Wesleyan University, June 2001, and fellowship to Courts and Media Seminar, National Judicial College, University of Nevada, June 2000.

The Portland Press Herald. Reporter, 1998–1999.

- Covered Brunswick-area towns, cops, courts, fisheries, Bowdoin College.

The Times Record. Brunswick. Reporter, 1993–1998.

- Covered fisheries and towns. Feature about Bowdoin alumnus Geoffrey Canada and his Harlem school program won Honorable Mention in Maine Press contest.

The Associated Press. Portland. Reporter, 1993.

- Wrote, edited, supervised news report. Covered base closure hearings.

Redbook. New York City. Associate Editor, 1991–1992.

- Created pop-culture page—"Red Hot"—for magazine's 1991 redesign. Wrote shorts about Native American films, public access TV, Toni Morrison, fashion. Edited and wrote human interest, celebrity, relationship and career features.

First Magazine. Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

- Contributing Editor, 1992–1993. Assistant Editor, 1990–1991. Editorial Assistant, 1989–1990. Wrote and edited women's magazine features.