

Curriculum Vitae Nancy A. Sharkey

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Education

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, M.S. Journalism, 1981.
International Fellows Program, School of International Affairs, Columbia University, 1980-81. Master's project, on psychiatric research about suicide among young children, was supervised by then-dean Osborne Elliott, who had retired as executive editor of Newsweek. I also studied reporting and writing with Anna Quindlen, now the Newsweek columnist and then a metro columnist with The New York Times. And I took the yearlong business and economics reporting track taught by Chris Welles, then director of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism.

State University of New York at Albany, B.A. English, 1976.
Studied feature and magazine writing with the novelist William Kennedy while he was working on the novels "Legs" and "Ironweed." I was news editor of the student newspaper, the Albany Student Press, and worked part-time in the New York State Legislature during the session as a legislative aide. I minored in Russian and Spanish.

University of Southampton, England, 1979-1980.
Studied modern European history and economics on a Rotary Foundation Fellowship for Journalists. The fellowship allowed a fully funded year abroad for study and travel. I visited the Soviet Union and traveled throughout the British Isles.

University of Santiago de Compostela, Vigo campus, Galicia, Spain, summer 1972.
Studied Spanish language and literature.

Teaching Experience

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 1994-2009. Adjunct professor of journalism.
News editing. This semester-long class is designed to introduce reporters to the editing process, both to improve their self-editing and to help them understand how editors think. We look at how editors shape publications, at the various journalistic forms used today

and at how they evolved from the 19th century to the 21st. In weekly drills and longer homework assignments, students edit flawed stories into publishable form. We also discuss management issues using cases studies, including Jayson Blair. Longer assignments include a profile of a working editor and an ombudsman-style article assessing coverage of a subject or set of ideas. The capstone session is a real-time news meeting using live metro, foreign, business, national, sports and culture summaries to design Page One of the next day's paper.

Master's Project. I supervise a few students each year in the master's thesis, a magazine-length article of 6,000 to 8,000. Topics for the two-semester project have ranged from unsolved murders to the economics of small, organic farming to the trials and triumphs of immigrant Hindu priests ministering to their immigrant communities. Several projects have been published, and one has sold hers as a memoir to Villard.

RWI. As adjunct for the core reporting class, I helped supervise the assigning and editing of rookie reporters on their neighborhood beats, from Riverdale to Red Hook. Reporters covered cops, courts, schools, the environment, business, sports and culture, and they had to write profiles and analytical stories. As weekly guests, visiting journalists and outside experts discussed the various aspects of smart beat coverage.

New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies, 1988-1990.
Adjunct professor of journalism.

Feature writing. The class introduced students to the extraordinary range of stories that are not news. Students read classic examples, from Hemingway to Joan Didion. They wrote weekly articles -- trend stories, mood pieces, criticism, profiles, reaction stories and analysis. The classes attracted a range of professional New Yorkers, with a disproportionate representation from two groups -- lawyers trying to break into journalism (all the lawyers in New York City, it seems, want to be John Grisham) and public relations/marketing majors who wanted to jump to the news side of the business.

Professional Experience

The New York Times, 1984-2010

Senior Editor – Recruiting & Training, 1999-present

Senior management position, responsible for recruiting reporters, for overseeing the development of younger reporters in the Intermediate Reporting Program, and for coordinating newsroom-wide training.

After the Jayson Blair fiasco, I was a member of the 30-person Siegal Commission that evaluated what went wrong. As a member of the standards subcommittee, I wrote the new byline and dateline policies. The committee initiated the post of Public Editor, added a Standards Editor to the masthead editing team, and made other significant changes in newsroom operations. As a result of the committee's work, I was asked to launch a centralized recruiting committee that bridged desks in a divided newsroom so no one was hired without the input of several departments. Until then, each individual desk went up the chain of command to the executive editor's office and, in the case of Jayson Blair, the grave misgivings that Metro had were not shared with National. The recruiting committee helped foster a more collaborative era in newsroom management.

I helped oversee a Next Generation readership effort -- The New York Times Upfront, a joint venture with Scholastic Magazine and aimed at high school students.

I was on the advisory board for The New York Times College Scholarship Program, which identifies 20 New York City students who have overcome severe obstacles and yet achieved stunning academic excellence. The program gives them \$30,000 for college, provides summer jobs and mentoring, and helps assist them in admission.

Education Editor, 1993-1999

I was the first editor to supervise combined national and metro coverage in what became a successful experiment to cluster coverage in sections. After we created the education cluster, The Times clustered media coverage (culture and business), technology coverage (science and business) and religion coverage (metro and national).

I assigned and supervised all coverage, with a staff of seven reporters and a deputy editor. I also supervised the editing of the quarterly "Education Life" supplement to The Times. Among the major stories were the revolving door of the schools chancellorship in New York City under Mayor Giuliani, the University of Michigan affirmative action case, the ebonics debate out of Oakland and the nascent move to national standards that became No Child Left Behind.

Copy Editor Recruiter, 1992-1993

In this administrative job, I recruited candidates for copy editing openings and coordinating the evaluation of their tryouts. Among the editors I hired are the current Political Editor, Arts & Leisure Editor, Sports Editor, Assistant Culture Editor, two Assistant Foreign Editors, three Assistant Business Editors, the Training Editor and two

dozen copy editors. I also established weekend journalism workshops for several hundred New York City high school students as part of a long-term drive to interest minority students in journalism.

Deputy Travel Editor, 1987-1992

No. 2 job in the Travel department, responsible for the Sunday section. I assigned destination articles and oversaw layout, design and photography. I also wrote feature articles. As an acquiring editor, I solicited stories from established authors like Margaret Drabble and Carlos Fuentes, and I spotted and encouraged young writers like William Langewiesche and Robert Kaplan, whose first bylines in The New York Times were in the Travel section. I also handled a pitch and edited the subsequent story from John F. Kennedy Jr. when he was an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. His story, "A Kayaking Expedition in the Baltic" (Travel, July 26, 1992) was the first (and only) Travel story to get covered by The New York Post.

Assistant Metro Editor, 1985-1986

I compiled the daybook and daily assignment portfolio, which meant sending reporters after the fire trucks, into mob hits and funerals and out to parades and street protests and the July 4, 1986, Centennial of the Statue of Liberty.

Copy Editor, 1984.

Entry-level start on the metro desk, editing stories large and small, great and weak, and writing headlines. I regularly edited the About New York column by Bill Geist.

The Albany, N.Y., Times-Union, 1981-1984

City Editor

Responsible for breaking-news coverage and long-range investigative stories at this aggressive mid-sized newspaper in New York's capital. Co-edited award-winning series on the oldest Democratic machine in the nation (patronage, of course, was its secret to longevity), as well as stories on police brutality and state spending abuses.

The Bergen Record, 1981

Copy Editor

Worked midnights as a copy editor to pay the rent while in master's program at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

The Troy, N.Y., Times-Record, 1976-1979

Reporter

Covered police beat, school beat, county government and the occasional movie, dance or theater review. Wrote series about ticket fixing by local justices of the peace and environmental stories about PCB's in the Hudson River. Went to Greenland with the Air National Guard on a C-130 equipped with skis in the middle of winter.

Awards

1995 (as editor): Pulitzer Prize nomination for beat reporting: Michael Winerip for national coverage of schools, including his reported column “In School.”

1997 (as editor): Education Writers Association. Education reporter Jacques Steinberg won the Fred M. Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting, for his series, [Room 3-223](#), a yearlong look at how one third-grade class learned to read.

1983 (as editor) Associated Press (New York) prize for investigative reporting, Albany Times-Union for series on the Albany patronage jobs created by the O’Connell-Corning Democratic machine, jobs that included a fulltime light-bulb custodian at a city ballpark.

1978 (as reporter/writer) Associated Press (New York) prize for investigative reporting, Troy Times-Record, for series on ticket-fixing by local justices of the piece in upstate New York, which led to a Commission on Judicial Conduct censure of several judges.

Service

City and Regional Magazine Association, judge for 2008 civic journalism prize for this national competition coordinated by the University of Missouri School of Journalism, judge for 2009 regional lifestyle magazines and judge for 2010 public service journalism.

New York Times Student Journalism Workshop for HBCU’s and NAHJ Chapter members, 2002 – present

Unity Convention of Minority Journalists, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2008 (expected). Helped direct New York Times workshops on all aspects of journalism, from basic news writing to senior management challenges.

Great Lakes Journalism Job and Internship Fair, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, November 2006, Keynote speaker.

National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, June 2006 — Critiqued student newspapers.

Native American Journalism Association — Annually critique clips and tribal press.

California Chicano News Media Association, Los Angeles, October 2005 — Critiqued student work and evaluated student newspapers.

Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL, September 1999-2007 — Lead full-day editing conference at historically black college.

16th Annual Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, October 1999, Pennsylvania State University. Keynote speaker on the growth of the coaching method in newsroom editing.