

Suzanne Hurt

JOURNALIST

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SKILLS

- Professional Writing and Editing
- Literary Nonfiction
- Research Expert
- Professional Interviewing in High-Stress Environments
- Strong Ethics
- Accurate and Detail Oriented
- Diverse Writing Styles and Tones
- Photography
- Multimedia and Social Media
- Layout Design
- Desktop Publishing
- Graphics
- Effective Communications Strategy
- High Output Level

EXPERIENCE

The Sacramento Press, Sacramento, California

Reporter, May 11, 2009 – July 18, 2011. Produced stories, photos, multimedia and layout for innovative daily news website. Planned news coverage on beats and developed story ideas. Conducted professional research and interviews. Used social media to promote site. Interacted with the public, government officials, business leaders, researchers, artists, academics and others. Helped establish fledgling site's journalism credibility.

Freelancing, January 2003 – May 11, 2009: Produced hard news, feature and nature/science/adventure travel content including multimedia for newspapers, wire services, radio, magazines and their websites. Clients included Reuters, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *Her Sports*, *Rock & Ice*, *Climbing*, *Mammoth Monthly*, *Dandelion*, *Mercator's World*, *Forest Magazine* and others. Successful marketing/communications contract helping Sacramento's Mercy General Hospital with Heart Center construction campaign. Helped manage events. Produced hospital newsletters, brochures, executive correspondence and more.

The Modesto Bee, Modesto, California

Reporter, Nov. 15, 1999 - December 2002. Covered immigration, homelessness, three cities and breaking news. Wrote stories, assigned photos, developed coverage strategy and represented company with officials, expert sources, media and the public.

The Register-Guard, Eugene, Oregon

General Assignment Reporter, May 31, 1995 - Oct. 28, 1998. Covered general assignment, including breaking news.

The Journal and **The Daily Journal**, (Copley Newspapers) Naperville and Wheaton, Illinois

Assistant Features Editor, June 1992 - Dec. 23, 1994. Wheaton City Reporter, March 1992 - June 1992. Produced features section for twice-weekly paper. Planned news coverage, developed story ideas, wrote stories, selected and edited content, assigned art, designed layout and proofread. Managed four freelance columnists. Worked closely with other staff.

City News Bureau of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Reporter, March 1988 - March 1992. Earned awards covering some of Chicago's biggest breaking news stories for legendary wire service. Cook County political/government reporter for historic, tumultuous 1990 campaign year. Worked up through the ranks from the police/fire beat and rewrite to general assignment, broadcast desk, weekend city desk editor, civil courts, education, and county government/politics.

EDUCATION

University of Oregon

Master of Science, Journalism, September 1998.

Literary nonfiction writing program focused on use of literary techniques such as narrative storytelling, character development and story structure in journalism. Studied with director Lauren Kessler and Pulitzer Prize winner Jon Franklin. Workshops with Robin Cody, Sallie Tisdale and John Daniel. Lecturers included Barry Lopez and Ms. co-founder Suzanne Braun Levine.

Northern Illinois University

Bachelor of Arts, News/Editorial Journalism, May 1986.

NIU Dean's List and National Dean's List, spring 1984. NIU Honors Program, 1981.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

White Bird Clinic, Eugene, Oregon, July 1999 - November 1999.

Staffed information desk and did marketing for clinic offering aid to homeless people, addicts and other disadvantaged people.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Graduate assistant, Sept. 30, 1996 - July 15, 1998. Editor of journalism school's alumni newspaper.

Oregon State House of Representatives, Salem, Oregon

Legislative assistant to Rep. John Schoon, House Finance Committee Chair, Jan. 5, 1995 - May 30, 1995. Managed capitol office. Wrote press releases and speeches. Helped draft legislation. Supervised and trained worker and interns. Managed constituent events. Worked with legislators, staff, constituents, lobbyists and reporters.

AWARDS

California Newspaper Publishers Association, First Place, environmental reporting, (75,001-200,000 circ.), 2000. "Aftermath of a Disaster" was a special team report on the one-year anniversary of a tire-pile fire.

Illinois Associated Press Editors Association, Second Place, spot news, 1992. Team coverage of cop killing.

Society of Professional Journalists Lisagor Award, Business Journalism, 1991. Team coverage of Midway Airlines closing.

City News Bureau of Chicago, three excellence awards plus honorable mentions.

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Flathead River Writers Conference Nonfiction Workshop with Tim Cahill, 2005, Whitefish, Montana.

Book Passage Travel Writers & Photographers Conference 2004, Corte Madera, California.

Harvard University Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism 2001, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

National Writer's Workshops, in Oregon (1998), Washington (2000) and California (2001).

Regional writing workshop, by Jack Hart of *The Oregonian*.

INTERESTS

Exploration, science, nature, conservation and immersion in nature via rock climbing, diving, backpacking and other means.

Travel: Southeast Asia (Thailand, Borneo, Laos, Malaysia, November 1998 – April 1999; Sulawesi and Bali, fall 2006;

Thailand March 2010), Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, U.S., Maui and Canada.