Robert P. Rocco

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Writer • Editor

Award-winning journalist and editor with 26 years of professional experience writing for highly competitive, deadline-driven environments. An uncommon blend of expertise in writing, copy editing, web production and online editing, complemented with mathematical skills well beyond those of most journalists. Creative and consistently driven to achieve high performance in all areas of career. Expert feature writer and reporter who communicates with precision to all levels of audiences while ensuring a strong focus on quality and accuracy. Outstanding planning, organizational, team building, leadership, and communication skills; impeccable integrity and work ethic.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### PRIVATE TUTOR, Mathematics and English/Reading Dec. 2010 – Present

Leverages skills in language arts and math to mentor students from the middle school level to college level. Partners with the Connecticut Teachers Tutoring Association and Learning Power LLC to locate students who would benefit from tutoring delivered by a professional with a strong acumen in writing as well as solid skills in a variety of math topics including algebra, geometry, probability and calculus.

### Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT 1999 – 2010

**web producer (2008 – 2010)**

**copy editor (1999 – 2008)**

Took reporters’ good work and made it better, creating compelling print and web stories for Connecticut’s largest daily newspaper and its online version, courant.com. Enhanced the value of the publication and drove additional readership by composing headlines/captions, designing print pages, and processing images including photos, video/audio files, PDFs, and other materials for online display. Honed knowledge of web design by processing and placement of stories, photos, graphics and other assets, coding material using HTML in a content management system, and creating interactive content such as polls, quizzes, graffiti boards and photo galleries. Made use of expert editing skills to review published materials for accuracy, clarity, grammar and style.

**Highlights**

* Key member of a production team that doubled the web site’s page views to more than 800,000 monthly, through initiatives such as increasing live news/sports coverage from six to seven days a week, and dramatically increasing the number of interactive materials available on the site.
* Drove thousands of site hits and significantly improved awareness by assembling and editing dozens of game-day photo galleries and creating a series of 15-20 trivia quizzes on the UConn men’s and women’s basketball teams, and the Huskies football team -- the three most popular teams covered by the Courant.
* Built on previous experience in the paper’s sports department to mend a long-standing rift with the web staff, creating a collaborative and positive working partnership.
* Engaged in facilitating the partnership between the Courant and the Fox 61 television station, working with the station producers to process and edit many of that organization’s news stories and photos for publication on both the courant.com and ctnow.com websites.
* Winner of numerous awards for headline writing and overall editing:
* Courant’s Warner Award in recognition of copy editing excellence (2007)
* Single-Headline Citation, American Copy Editors Society Headline Contest, Division B, large publications (2002)
* First place, Headline Writing, CPSJ Awards Competition (1999)
* Second place, Headline Writing, Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists Competition (2003)
* Chosen from a staff of 25+ copy editors to write the Courant’s front page headline for the lead story about the Sept. 11 bombings; the page is on display at Newseum in Washington, D.C.
* Wrote a headline about Hurricane Floyd (September 1999) that ABC newsman Charlie Gibson held up for display on “Good Morning America” the day after the storm.

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### *Copy Editor / Southington Bureau Editor / Reporter, Meriden Record-Journal, Meriden, CT (1983-1999)*

**Highlights**

(Reporter, 1983-86) – Generated story ideas, reported and wrote news and feature stories, mostly in the town of Southington, for 30,000-circulation daily newspaper. Covered town politics, government and environmental issues and did general assignment reporting; (Southington-Cheshire bureau editor, 1986-89) – Generated story ideas, reported and wrote stories, supervised a staff of four reporters and a photographer in covering towns of Southington and Cheshire; designed town newspaper pages, wrote headlines and captions; (Copy editor in Meriden newsroom, 1990-1999) – Edited local reporters’ copy; designed and produced pages using Quark Xpress; wrote headlines and captions for local and wire stories; sized and cropped photos; worked with editors and reporters to clear up problems in stories; and proofread pages. Worked as wire editor on Saturdays for three years.

Education • Professional Development

**MA, Magazine Journalism (Summa cum laude)**

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

**BA, Environmental Science and Political Science (Magna cum laude)**

SUNY College at Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY

**SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

**Alternate Route to Certification Program,** Connecticut Department of Higher Education (2010)

**Mathematics and teacher certification courses**, Central Connecticut State University

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Volunteer, State Veterans Home, Rocky Hill, CT (2003 – Present)