

RUTH SERVEN SMITH

Education Reporter and Editor

PERSONAL PROFILE

I am passionate about local journalism that holds institutions accountable and helps readers and residents become better citizens. Proud Midwesterner.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

University of Missouri

Bachelor's of Journalism | 2013 - 2017

- Graduated magna cum laude.
- Focused on print journalism.
- Student leader at Mizzou's Religion Newswriters Association.
- Interned in Indianapolis, Kansas City and Sofia, Bulgaria.

SKILLS

- Adobe Illustrator and Tableau
- Microsoft Excel, Python and SQLite
- Various interactive graphics platforms

OTHER WORK AND AWARDS

- Charlottesville Meals on Wheels volunteer
- 2018 Education Writers Association Fellow
- 2018 Virginia Press Association, First Place Educational Writing
- 2018 Missouri Press Association First Place Education Writing
- 2017 PEN America Best Emerging Writers

CAREER

Assistant City Editor (2019 - current)

The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia

- Make daily decisions about what and who to cover, guide reporters and brainstorm ongoing coverage.
- Write headlines, cutlines and sign off on final print product.
- Manage social media presence and online presentation of stories, photos and graphics.
- Create data-driven and creative online infographics.

Higher Education Reporter (2017 - 2019)

The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia

- Wrote dailies, features and investigations on the impact of the University of Virginia, its hospital and a local community college.
- Used infographics and data analysis to support stories.
- Launched the newspaper's first tailored email newsletter to distribute stories to a broader audience.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Pulliam Fellow

The Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis

- Covered hyperlocal and breaking news.
- Used video projects and infographics to support my stories.

Education Reporter, Copy Editor, Graphics Editor

The Columbia Missourian, Columbia, Missouri

- Wrote higher education and breaking news stories while the University of Missouri was in the midst of protests and turnover.
- Worked on the graphics and copy desks to make my and other reporters' stories accurate, clear and engaging.

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