Tom Meagher

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Computer-Assisted Reporting Editor   **December 2010 – present**
The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.   235,000 daily circ.
•   Oversee a team of reporters and researchers charged with developing data-driven enterprise stories. Focused on presenting data online for readers and building accessible and engaging visualizations with open source tools.

News editor   **February 2009 – December 2010**
New Jersey Local News Service, Somerville, N.J.   235,000 daily circ.
•   Directed a team of seven reporters covering municipal news across two counties for *The Star-Ledger.* My reporters wrote dozens of front page pieces and broke stories about $30 million wasted on a sewage plant and the questionable practices of a multimillion-dollar, for-profit, second-hand clothing chain.

City editor   **December 2007 – February 2009**
Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.   30,000 daily circ.
•   Led 13 reporters and three editors to cover three cities and their surrounding suburbs. During my tenure, the paper was honored as the best small daily in the state. Coached reporters to produce stories about imprisoned firefighters forging documents for work-release programs, sanitation workers destroying a city truck in a hit-and-run accident and contractors who duped homeowners into unneeded mortgages.

Computer-assisted reporter   **June 2006 – December 2007**
Herald News
•   Responsible for the newspaper's databases, mapping and investigations. One of my stories exposed a quiet deal between the mayor and a developer that cost the nearly-bankrupt city of Paterson $9 million. Another data-driven piece examined the most dangerous intersections for pedestrians in the county.

City government reporter   **July 2004 – May 2006**
Herald News
•   Covering the troubled city of Paterson, I consistently broke stories of import to our readers, from city lawyers sexually harassing secretaries at public meetings to parents worried about escalating gun violence.

Public safety reporter   **January – December 2000**
The Lawrence Journal-World, Lawrence, Kan.   20,000 daily circ.
•   Covered the police and fire departments as a night cops reporter at this daily that pioneered the multimedia convergence newsroom.

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Early in my career, I reported as a sports stringer for the Associated Press, interned in Washington, D.C. for the Spokane *Spokesman-Review* and, in college, worked as a reporter and copy editor at the *Columbia Missourian*.

EDUCATION

• **Columbia University**
 Graduate School of Journalism
   Master of Science, 2004
• **University of Missouri**
   Bachelor of Journalism, 1999
   Bachelor of Arts, English, 1999

INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE

• Proficient with Microsoft Excel, Access, SQL, HTML, CSS, ESRI ArcGIS, Google Maps and XML. Have also worked with MySQL, Google Fusion Tables, Tableau Public, jQuery, SPSS, ASP.NET, SQL Server, Git and Python.
• Graduate of the CAR and Advanced CAR Statistics boot camps run by Investigative Reporters and Editors and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting.
• As the 2008 North Jersey Media Group Fellow at Fairleigh Dickinson University, I taught an undergraduate course in computer-assisted reporting.

SELECTED HONORS

• Led the Herald News to win the New Jersey Press Association's 2008 General Excellence award for the state's best small daily. My reporters won 1st place for best first-year journalists and public service.
• 1st place in Enterprise Reporting in New Jersey SPJ's 2005 Excellence in Journalism awards for "A Temporary Life – Low Wages, Strong Backs."
• 1st place in the 2005 Lloyd P. Burns Public Service award from the New Jersey Press Association for "Land Grab."