

SIMONE SEBASTIAN

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EXPERIENCE

DNAinfo.com

June 2010 – August 2010

Reporter/producer intern

Reported on tight deadlines and in multiple formats for this Manhattan hyperlocal news startup.

Produced videos and photos to enhance written content, including on-camera news reporting.

The Columbus Dispatch

October 2006 – June 2009

Education reporter, Columbus City Schools

Covered Ohio's largest school district and maintained a popular blog on district happenings. Frequently used FOIA requests and data analysis to produce in-depth stories on school performance. Beat required assertive reporting on administrative and financial concerns as well as classroom issues.

Education reporter, suburban schools

Covered news, features and trends in eight school districts. Highlights include breaking a story that ousted a superintendent, covering a sexual assault case and producing videos to supplement stories.

San Francisco Chronicle

September 2005 – October 2006

Education reporter, East Bay schools

Beat included schools in two counties, with a focus on the 50,000-student Oakland district. Broke stories in a highly competitive market and covered contentious issues, including a labor contract dispute, a teachers strike vote and educational reforms.

Hearst Fellowship

August 2003 – August 2005

San Antonio Express-News, education reporter; Times Union (Albany, N.Y.), suburban reporter; San Francisco Chronicle, general assignment reporter

Covered a high-profile murder in Albany and used aggressive reporting to score the suspect's first interview. Blogged from Democratic and Republican national conventions. Covered major stories in San Francisco, including the gubernatorial recall, wildfires and the city's first gay marriages.

EDUCATION

City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism

M.A. Journalism, focuses on interactive media and business reporting, expected Dec. 2010

Columbia University (New York)

B.A. Psychology major, African-American studies minor, May 2003

SKILLS

- Programs: Final Cut, Pro Tools, Photoshop, HTML, Excel, WordPress, Soundslides, Dreamweaver
- Multimedia: digital video/audio recording and editing, SLR photography, search engine optimization, CMS and blogging software, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Digg, etc.)

AWARDS and AFFILIATIONS

- Dennis Duggan Memorial Scholarship, Society of Silurians, 2010
- Deadline Club scholarship, Society of Professional Journalists New York City chapter, 2010
- CUNY Graduate School of Journalism Chancellor's Scholarship, 2009
- "Outstanding Emerging Journalist", Northern California Society of Professional Journalists, 2004
- Kopit Prize in Logic and Rhetoric writing, Columbia University, 2000
- National Association of Black Journalists, member, 2001-present
vice president of NABJ local chapters, 2008 and 2010