

Spencer Hunt

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EXPERIENCE

Lantern Director of Student Media, Journalism Lecturer | The Ohio State University

July 2015 - present

Oversees and advises the operations of Lantern Media, an award-winning multi-platform student news organization at the Ohio State University. Centered around a website www.thelantern.com that receives more than 3 million page views annually, Lantern Media is an umbrella term that describes the student newspaper, the Lantern, and Lantern TV, which have evolved into a single digital news organization.

Works as a lecturer teaching four classes, the Lantern Practicum (COMM 2223), Data Journalism in Enterprise Reporting (COMM 4221), Lantern Freelance Reporting (COMM 3189) and the Lantern Editing Experience (COMM 3189).

Works with and helps advise the project reporting of two endowed projects reporters, the Patricia Miller Special Editor and the Oller Special reporter and a special projects video producer.

Coordinates the production of an annual rivalry edition and fundraiser.

Works with the Journalism Publications Committee in the School of Communication to recruit, interview and select Lantern editors and video producers, select journalism scholarships and awards for students.

Works with the alumni advancement committee and the alumni board to help strengthen ties with past graduates, create more opportunities for donations and financial support of Lantern Media.

Works with outside media organizations to promote students for internships and first job opportunities.

Accomplishments | Awards for Lantern and staff in my time as adviser*

- Reville Seven College Press Freedom (national) Award for defense of press freedoms finalist 2023
- Frank Deaner Award, Best College Newspaper in Ohio, Ohio Newspaper Association 2022
- Frank Deaner Award, Best College Newspaper in Ohio, Ohio Newspaper Association 2021
- Best Non-Daily College Newspaper, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists 2020
- Produced 1st Rivalry Edition/Fundraiser with Michigan Daily 2019
- Reville Seven College Press Freedom (national) Award for defense of press freedoms 2019
- Merged Lantern/Lantern TV into a single Digital News organization 2019
- Best Non-Daily College Newspaper, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists 2018
- Best Non-Daily College Newspaper, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists 2017
- Mark of Excellence (national) Award for Sports Writing, 2016
- Best Non-Daily College Newspaper, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists 2016
- Best Non-Daily College Newspaper, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists 2015
- Frank Deaner Award, Best College Newspaper in Ohio, Ohio Newspaper Association 2015

*Note: (this is not a complete list of awards. It's a selection of the biggest the Lantern's received. It omits separate individual 1st-place honors which have included news, sports, features, opinion writing, design and website design awarded in these same contests.)

Analyst, Project Manager | Mindset Digital

2014 – 2015

Managed and analyzed trainee data from Mindset Digital's online training courses, creating highly visual and easy to understand reports clients use to track progress and help guide future decisions on training design and rollout.

Customized Mindset's Salesforce customer relationship management database to help focus and expand the company's sales and marketing efforts.

Researched and wrote reports, blogs, magazine articles, press releases and white papers for inbound marketing. Assisted in the research and design of keynote presentations, marketing videos and sales demos.

Environment/Science Reporter | The Columbus Dispatch

2004-2014

State and National-award-winning reporter covering environment and environmental health issues critical to Ohioans. Spent significant time using database mapping and computer assisted reporting techniques to produce compelling and groundbreaking stories that exposed dire threats to water quality, serious concerns about pollution tied to fracking and natural gas drilling, toxic pollutants faced by the residents of small Ohio

River communities and the legacy of pollution left by long-abandoned coal mines. Used explanatory writing skills to profile scientific discoveries and advances in terms anyone can understand.

Accomplishments | Awards

- First Place, Environment Reporting, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ): "Selection of work," 2014

Shale Promises: A follow-up to Deep Pockets, this three-part series highlights the changes and consequences of three years of shale drilling and fracking in eastern Ohio. (Published Jan. 2014)

Troubled Waters: A series that details Ohio's struggles to protect and restore one of the most precious of natural resources - our water. Stories focus on the growing pollution threats plaguing Lake Erie, whether there is enough water in eastern Ohio to support fracking and the pace of government led stream cleanup projects. (Published Nov. 2012)

Deep Pockets: A three-part series examining the environmental and economic risks of Ohio's much anticipated shale drilling boom. The stories helped introduce Dispatch readers to fracking, in part by examining the oil and gas industry's activities in Pennsylvania. (Published Sept. 2011)

- First Place, Environment Reporting, Ohio SPJ: "Deep Pockets," 2012
 - First Place, Explanatory Reporting, Ohio Associated Press (AP): "Deep Pockets," 2012
- Fouled by Farms: A series that showed how fertilizers, manure and pesticides that rains wash off farm fields increasingly threaten Ohio's lakes, streams and drinking water. (Published Oct. 2010)
- Best Investigative/Enterprise Reporting, *Columbus Dispatch* Eddy award: "Fouled by Farms," 2011
 - Second Place, Explanatory Reporting, Ohio AP: "Fouled by Farms," 2011
 - First Place, Environment Reporting, Ohio SPJ: "Selection of work," 2010

Back in Black: An investigative series that showed how Ohio still struggles to clean up the pollution left by decades-old abandoned mines, and to enforce environmental protections on modern mines. (Published Dec. 2006)

- Second Place (national), Explanatory Journalism, Society of Environmental Journalists: "Back in Black: Ohio's Coal Revival," 2007

Blue Smoke, Tainted Water: A three-part series that showed how small Ohio River communities struggle to cope with their large industrial neighbors and the toxic compounds they release to the air, land and water. (Published Dec. 2005)

- First Place, Explanatory Journalism, Ohio SPJ: "Blue Smoke, Tainted Water," 2006
- Second Place (nation), Explanatory Journalism, Society of Environmental Journalists: "Blue Smoke, Tainted Water," 2006

State Politics Reporter | The Cincinnati Enquirer

1999-2004

Developed in-depth knowledge of state politics, campaigns, tax policies, budgetary politics and the Ohio Supreme Court while covering state government for one of Ohio's largest newspapers. Compiled and investigated agency records, built and analyzed databases to form the factual basis of stories that exposed patterns of neglect, abuse - and even the deaths - of developmentally disabled adults and mentally ill children in the state's care.

Accomplishments | Awards

Troubled Minds, Chaotic Care: A two-part series exposing problems and abuse in the state's "safety net" programs and housing for mentally ill children. (Published 2004)

- First Place, Investigative Reporting, Cleveland Press Club: "Troubled Minds, Chaotic Care," 2005
- First Place, Medical/Health Writing, Cleveland Press Club: "Troubled Minds, Chaotic Care," 2005
- First Place, Best Coverage of Children's Issues, Ohio SPJ: "Troubled Minds, Chaotic Care," 2005
- Second Place, Investigative Reporting, Ohio AP: "Troubled Minds, Chaotic Care," 2005

Extreme Choices: A three-part series that exposed problems in health insurance coverage that frequently force parents to divorce or declare bankruptcy in order to pay for the care their seriously ill children (Published 2003)

- First Place, Best Community Service, Ohio AP: "Extreme Choices," 2004
- First Place, Public Service, Cleveland Press Club: "Extreme Choices," 2004
- First Place, General News – Multiple Stories, Cleveland Press Club: "Extreme Choices," 2004
- First Place, Best Coverage of Children's Issues, Ohio SPJ: "Extreme Choices," 2004
- First Place, Database/Enterprise Reporting, Cincinnati SPJ: "Extreme Choices," 2004
- First Place, Consumer Coverage, Cincinnati SPJ: "Lottery Analysis," 2004

Ohio's Secret Shame: An investigative series that exposed abuse, neglect and questionable deaths in Ohio's system of caring for developmentally disabled adults. (Published 2002)

- First Place, Investigative Reporting, Ohio SPJ: "Ohio's Secret Shame," 2003
- First Place, Investigative Reporting, Cleveland Press Club: "Ohio's Secret Shame," 2003
- First Place, Database/Enterprise Reporting, Cincinnati SPJ: "Ohio's Secret Shame," 2003
- First Place, Gerald White Memorial Prize for Investigative Reporting, Cincinnati SPJ: "Ohio's Secret Shame," 2003

State Politics Reporter | Gannett News Service

1995-1999

Produced ahead-of-the-pack reporting on Illinois' state government, the Illinois Supreme Court and state and federal election campaigns for the *Rockford Register Star* and the *Danville Commercial-News*. Led a computer assisted reporting project that uncovered widespread and "legally questionable" uses of property tax dollars by local government officials.

Accomplishments | Awards

- Honorable Mention, Investigative Reporting, Gannett Well Done contest, May 1999, for analysis of Rockford, Ill., statehouse delegation.
- Honorable Mention, Investigative Reporting, Gannett Well Done contest, January 1999, for stories revealing local government misspending.

Reporter | Rockford Register Star

1991-1995

Provided aggressive coverage of local governments, schools, courts, police, and spot news as a general assignment, police and city hall reporter in Illinois' second-largest city.

Intern | Gannett News Service

1991

Covered a full session of the Illinois General Assembly for the *Rockford Register Star* and the *Danville Commercial News* as an intern in the Public Affairs Reporting program at Sangamon State University.

Reporter/Assistant Editor | *The Daily Illini*

1988-1990

First steps in journalism taken as a general assignment, government reporter and assistant editor at *The Daily Illini*, the independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois.

EDUCATION

MA — Public Affairs Reporting, Sangamon State University (Now University of Illinois at Springfield), 1991

BS — Print Journalism, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1990

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2008

Panel moderator: Society for Environmental Journalism annual conference in Roanoke, Va. "Coalfield reclamation strategies and solutions."

2007

Guest Speaker: National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting (NICAR) conference in Cleveland
Database mapping and environmental reporting.

2006

Guest Speaker: NICAR conference in Newark, N.J. "Database mapping and Ohio's legacy of abandoned coal mines."

2004

Guest Speaker: NICAR conference in Cincinnati "Data analysis in public affairs/government reporting"

2003

Contributing writer: July/August 2003 edition of *Uplink*, the magazine of the National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting.

1991-1994

Public Affairs Reporting Program Selection Committee: Helped interview and select candidates for enrollment to the Public Affairs Reporting masters degree program at Sangamon State University. Mentored one master degree candidate each year working as a reporting intern in the Gannet News Service bureau, covering a full session of the Illinois General Assembly.

SOCIETIES/MEMBERSHIPS

2016-2020

Board Member: Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists

2004-2014

Member: Society of Environmental Journalists