

Karen M. Thomas

PROFILE

A seasoned journalist with more than 25 years experience. Beats have included general assignment, education writer, national correspondent and feature writer specializing in narrative writing and family issues. Teaching responsibilities have included an introductory media course, advanced reporting, feature writing and religion writing.

WORK HISTORY

Aug 2008 – present **Professor of Practice**
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX

Aug 2006 – present **Freelance writer**

Publications:

- Work has appeared in several magazines with national circulation
- Book reviews, author interviews and other articles published by the Dallas Morning News and the United Methodist Reporter

Aug 2006 – Aug 2008 **Adjunct lecturer**
University of North Texas
Denton, TX

Feb 1993 – Sept 2006 **Feature writer**
Dallas Morning News
Dallas, TX

Responsibilities:

- Develop narratives and stories for Sunday Life magazine
- Part of a rotation for Our Town column

Achievements:

- As family issues writer, developed a beat and a base of strong contacts
- Developed narrative writing skills
- Established Kinfolks, a monthly column on family issues

Aug 2006 – May 2007 **Adjunct lecturer**
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, TX

Sep 1991 – Jan 1993 **National correspondent**
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, IL

Responsibilities:

- Southwest bureau chief. Coverage area included Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Arizona and New Mexico
- Coverage also included 1992 presidential election campaign

Jul 1986 – Sep 1991 Education writer/General Assignment

Responsibilities:

- Developed suburban education beat
- Covered the Chicago Public Schools
- Developed enterprise stories on education trends and issues

**Jun 1981 – Jul 1985 General Assignment
Springfield Daily News
Springfield, MA**

Responsibilities:

- Progressed from intern to general assignment, courts reporter and education reporter

EDUCATION

**Sep 1985 – May 1986 Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
New York, NY**

Master of Science; Journalism

- Recipient of the Overseas Project Award

**Sep 1978 – May 1981 University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Amherst, MA**

Bachelor of Arts: Journalistic Studies, English

- Completed course work in three years, graduated cum laude
- Recipient of Collegiate Committee for the Education of Black Students Scholarly Achievement Award in Journalism

AWARDS AND HONORS

Sep 2004 – Sep 2005 Kaiser Family Foundation Media Fellowship in Health

Oct 1997 – Dec 2003 Fellow, The Knight Center for Specialized Journalism at the College of Journalism, University of Maryland; Fellow, the Casey Journalism Center on Children and Families at the University of Maryland; attended the Nieman Conference on Narrative Writing at Harvard University

2004 – 1988 Awards include: National Association of Secondary School Principals' Benjamin Fine Award for Newspaper Series, 1988; Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting, Education Writers Association, 1988; Media Award for Excellence, Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons, 2001; and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism 2003 "Let's Do It Better! Award, 2004

References

Available on