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# TRACY SIMMONS

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## SUMMARY

Focused award-winning journalist successful in higher education, digital entrepreneurship, social media and community building. Strong management, social media and editing skills. Committed to maintaining journalistic excellence and integrity as both a writer and an educator.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Advanced social media skills
  - Natural leader
  - Self-motivated
  - Firm grasp of AP Style
  - Broad knowledge of the religion beat
  - Effective interviewer
  - Successful digital entrepreneur
  - Engaging educator
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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created an award-winning hyperlocal news site, which was sold and expanded nationally. As a college instructor, have had excellent reviews from students and faculty. Have won numerous national journalism awards, including the 2009 American Academy of Religion's first place award for best in-depth reporting on religion.

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## EXPERIENCE

**01/2014 to Current: Lecturer, Gonzaga University - Spokane, WA**

Taught intro to journalism, media literacy. Lectured weekly and led regular labs. Edited student stories. Created and taught emerging media course. Hired as full time lecturer and created new courses including media entrepreneurship and emerging media.

**08/2015 to 05/2016: Instructor, Murrow College of Communication, WSU - Pullman, WA**

Taught Journalism and Mass Media courses to undergraduate students. Lectured weekly and helped students brainstorm story and multimedia ideas and work on deadline.

**08/2011 to Current: Editor & Executive Director, SpokaneFAVS - Spokane, WA**

Recruited 50 local volunteer writers. Organized regular community events. Created partnerships with local media. Wrote national and local news articles. Produced regular multimedia pieces. Managed multiple social media accounts. Managed board of directors.

**03/2014 to 06/2015: Instructor, Spokane Falls Community College - Spokane, WA**

Taught writing course to adult learners. Lectured weekly. Managed and graded online assignments.

**04/2009 to 08/2011: Editor & Publisher, Credible - Waterbury, CT**

Launched one of the first hyperlocal religion news websites in the country. Wrote daily news articles. Produced multimedia. Managed and edited bloggers. Managed social media accounts. Sold site to national news organization.

**01/2008 to 05/2011: Adjunct Instructor: Albertus Magnus College - Waterbury, CT**

Taught Religion in the Workplace to adult learners. Taught Introduction to Communications to adult learners.

**12/2007 to 05/2009 : Religion/Features Writer Waterbury Republican - Waterbury, CT**

Wrote weekly feature section cover stories. Created first blog for newspaper. Maintained religion blog. Covered religion issues for region. Covered local government. Enhanced presentation of stories with multimedia. Researched topics with photographers and subjects to schedule appropriate photo opportunities.

**05/2006 to 12/2007: Reporter/Online editor, Lubbock Avalanche Journal - Lubbock, TX**

Promoted to online editor within one year. Wrote weekly section cover stories. Maintained religion blog. Covered education and youth issues for region. Enhanced presentation of stories with multimedia. Researched topics of interest and generate creative and interesting story ideas. Worked with photographers and subjects to schedule appropriate photo opportunities.

**05/2004 to 05/2006: Religion Reporter Reporter Victoria Advocate - Victoria, TX**

Covered school board meetings, religion news. Completed other daily assignments. Assisted in organizing first multi-media committee.

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**EDUCATION**

**2008**      **M.A: Communication**  
**Eastern New Mexico University**

**2003:**      **B.A: Print Journalism**  
**Eastern New Mexico University *Completed in three years***

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**HONORS/AWARDS**

- 2015 — Local Media Association award for Best Community Initiative
- 2014 — Local Media Association award for Best Niche Site Produced by Local Media
- 2014 — Voted one of the "SpokaneFifty" - changing the face of Spokane
- 2013 — Religion Newswriters Association award for best online religion section, third place
- 2013 — Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists award for best online column
- 2010 — Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists award for best audio storytelling
- 2010 — Religion Newswriters Association award for best online religion section
- 2010 — American Academy of Religion Award for Best In-Depth Reporting on Religion
- 2009 — Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Editor's Award two-time winner