

Jennifer Kocher

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EDUCATION:

Aug. 2003 to May 2007

M.A. English literature

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Sep. 2001 to May 2003

M.F.A. Creative writing (fiction)

University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Aug. 1986 to May 1991

B.A., English literature and journalism

Miami University, Oxford, OH

EXPERIENCE:

Jan. 2014 – Current

Investigative Journalist/Freelance Features Writer

Award-winning investigative journalist for a variety of news outlets, magazines and online venues, including Cowboy State Daily, Wyoming Truth, Yellow Scene Magazine, Jackson Hole News & Guide, Wyofile, Wyoming Business Report, Women of Wyoming Magazine, WREN, Nebraska Life Magazine, Utah Life, ICT News among others whose work has been printed in several national and international publications.

March 2019 - Current

Ghostwriter

Story Terrace, Self

A *New York Times* bestselling ghostwriter and co-author with ghostwritten books for celebrities, CEOs, executives and other professionals who has written six commercial books and memoirs to date.

Aug. 2024 – Current

Instructor, Sheridan College (Sheridan, WY)

Taught a variety of courses, including:

Courses: English 1 (Fall 2024)

English Plus (developmental writing) (Fall 2024)

Nov. 2019 – March 2021

Managing Editor/Journalist/Features

County 17/82717 Magazine

Wrote profiles and lifestyle stories for 82717 Magazine while overseeing all editorial content and freelance writers. Other duties including running the daily news stream on County 17, reporting and editing the work of other reporters.

Feb. 2012 – Dec. 2017

Features Reporter/Managing Editor

Douglas Budget, Glenrock Independent, High Plains Sentinel, Douglas, WY

Generate and wrote feature articles for three weekly community newspapers in southeastern Wyoming, directing a staff of six reporters.

Aug. 2013 – May 2016

Instructor, Eastern Wyoming College (Douglas, WY)

Taught a variety of courses, including:

Courses: Writing Skills (Spring, 2016)

Creative Writing : Intro to Fiction (Spring, 2015; Fall, 2014)

Publications Production I (Spring 2015; Fall, 2014; Spring 2013)

Topics: Intro to Writ Novels (Summer, 2014)

Human Development: Empowerment (Fall, 2014)

June 2012 – Jan. 2013

Managing Editor/Reporter

Dunn County Herald (Killdeer, ND)

Identified news stories, conducted interviews and wrote and edited news and feature articles for a weekly community newspaper in an oil boomtown environment.

Aug. 2007 – May 2012

Instructor, Miles Community College (Miles City, MT)

Taught a variety of courses, including:

Courses: Writer's Workshop (online course, Spring 2012, Spring 2010)

Creative Writing: A Writer's Workshop (Spring 2011)

Developmental English (Fall, 2010, Summer 2010, Fall 2009)

Developmental Writing (Fall, 2009)

Composition Review (Spring 2009; Fall 2008; Spring, 2008)

Composition I (Fall, 2007)

Oct. 2010

Instructor, Eastern Montana Educator's Conference (Miles City, MT)

Course: Using Creative Writing Exercises in Your Classroom

Aug 2007 – May 2009

Adult Education Instructor, Miles Community College (Miles City, MT)

Taught a variety of courses, including:

Courses: Adult Education (including G.E.D. preparation, English & Reading Labs, and English as a Second Language). Developed and served as site e-structor for an online G.E.D. pilot program for the State of Montana's Adult Basic Education Program, including creating training materials and leading in-person training programs for seven other adult education programs throughout eastern Montana.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)

Taught a variety of courses, including:

Courses: Introduction to Fiction Workshop (Spring, 2006)
Introduction to Creative Writing (Fall, 2004; Spring 2004; Fall, 2003)

Fall Term 2004

Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Course: Women & Film

Summer Term 2003

Instructor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Course: Introduction to Fiction

Sep. 2002 to May 2003

Poet, Writers in the Schools Program, Lewis & Clark Elementary (Missoula, MT)

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Apr. 2007 to 2010

"OpenBook" Discussion Leader, Montana Committee for the Humanities, Missoula, Montana

Provided a critical perspective on the texts considered and inspire participants to relate their experiences and share their responses to the texts within a book discussion setting in rural Montana communities.

Mar. 2004 to Dec. 2006

Online Writing E-structor, Smarthinking, Washington, D.C.

Provided university students with online tutorials and writing guidance.

Aug. 2004 to Dec. 2004

Reading Series Coordinator, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Organized and facilitated public readings on campus, featuring graduate students and other local and national writers.

Sep. 2003 to Dec. 2004

Square One Fiction Editor, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Read unsolicited fiction submissions, wrote and received grant monies for publishing costs, and selected and edited stories prior to publication.

Jul. 2002 to Aug. 2003

CutBank Magazine Managing Editor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Managed the development and distribution of the nationally acclaimed literary publication, directing a staff of twelve volunteers.

Sep. 2001 to Jul. 2002

CutBank Magazine Fiction Editor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Read unsolicited fiction submissions, selected stories for inclusion in nationally acclaimed literary publication, and edited stories before publication.

May 2000 to Aug. 2001

Copywriter & Editor, Via Training, Inc. Portland, OR

Wrote and edited creative copy with regard to the company's marketing objectives.

May 1999 to May 2000

Course Designer, Cenquest, Inc., Portland, OR

Designed and developed graduate-level online courses for Oregon Graduate Institute and University of Texas.

Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999

Book Buyer, Blackwell's Book Services, Lake Oswego, OR

Selected titles for over 500 university library collections, managed accounts and maintained buyer relationships with over 20 university presses.

Mar. 1997 to Dec. 1997

Marketing Assistant/Publicist, Timber Press/Amadeus Press, Portland, OR

Wrote jacket and marketing copy, targeted appropriate markets, and managed all details of the publicity campaigns.

Sep. 1996 to Jun. 1997

Book Seller, Borders Books & Music, Portland, OR

Performed retail sales and customer service, and facilitated a monthly book discussion group for customers.

Sep. 1995 to Sep. 1996

Editorial Assistant, *Oregon Quarterly Magazine*, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Proofread copy for nationally distributed university publication.

Sep. 1994 to Jun. 1996

ESL Tutor, American English Institute, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Helped ESL students with language skills development, both individually and in a small-classroom environment.

HONORS & AWARDS:

- Guest Speaker: Wyoming High School Journalism Conference (True Crime Writing – Missing Persons)
- 1st Place Business Feature (group award), Society of Professional Journalists "Top of the Rockies" (2024)
- Best of the West Media Awards, Best Coverage of a Local News Story of the Year for sex trafficking series (2023)
- Wyoming Arts Council Creating Writing Fellowship in Nonfiction (2023)

- 1st Place General Reporting Series (group award), Society of Professional Journalists “Top of the Rockies” (2023)
- 1st Place Education Features (group award), Society of Professional Journalists “Top of the Rockies” (2023)
- 2nd Place General Reporting Series, Society of Professional Journalists “Top of the Rockies” (2023)
- 2nd Place Feature, Wyoming Press Pacemaker Awards (2019)
- 1st Place Ag Reporting, Wyoming Press Pacemaker Awards (2019)
- Wyoming Arts Council Creative Writing Fellowship Honorable Mention (2019)
- 2nd Place Ag Reporting, Wyoming Press Pacemaker Awards (2018)
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Best Feature, National Newspaper Association (2018)
- 2018 Wyoming Arts Council Creative Writing Fellowship Honorable Mention (2018)
- 1st Place News Feature, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2017)
- 1st Place Feature, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2017)
- 1st Place Obituary/Personal Profile, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2017)
- 1st Place Best Feature, National Newspaper Association (2017)
- 3rd Place Obituary, National Newspaper Association (2017)
- 1st Place Breaking News Story, National Newspaper Association (2017)
- 1st & 2nd Place Obituary/Personal Profile, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2017)
- 1st Place Feature Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2016)
- 2nd Place Energy Reporting, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2016)
- 1st Place Arts, Entertainment & Culture Feature, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2015)
- 2nd Place Feature, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2015)
- 1st Place Best Feature Series, Wyoming Pacemaker Awards (2013)
- 1st Place Best Feature Series, National Newspaper Association (2013)
- Touchstone Award for Graduate Nonfiction, Touchstone Literary Magazine (2006)
- Kansas State University Event Magazine: Creative Non-fiction Contest #18 (2005)
- Georgia State Review Fiction Award (2005)
- Jovanovich Award for Best Graduate Manuscript, University of Colorado (2004)
- H.E. Francis Award, UAH English Dept. (2004)
- Barker Fellowship, University of Colorado (2003)
- University Fellowship, University of Colorado (2003)
- Judith Seagal Pearson Award in Fiction, Wayne State University (2003)
- AWP Intro Journal Award in Creative Nonfiction (2002)
- Soapstone Fiction-Writer-in-Residence (2001)
- Oregon Literary Arts Fellowship in Fiction (2000)
- Fishtrap Fellowship (1999)

MEDIA & PODCAST APPEARANCES:

- CBS/Paramount+ “Never Left Behind” (2023)
- News Nation (2023)
- Unfound podcast (2023)
- Unsolved Wyoming podcast (2023)

GHOSTWRITING ACHIEVEMENTS

- New York Times #3 Bestsellers List
- Amazon Bestseller