

Lillian Metzmeier
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EDUCATION

University of Missouri – Columbia | Columbia, MO

2021-2025

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude*

- Bachelor of Journalism
- Minor in English; Minor in Women and Gender Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

News Intern | The Courier Journal | Louisville, KY

June 2025 – Oct 2025

- Rotated between reporting for three beats over the span of ten weeks: breaking news, government and accountability and business and features, publishing multiple stories each week for each beat.
- Published multiple breaking news stories, enterprise articles, business features and a profile for a tier-one Gannett paper.
- Attended weekly reporter meetings beat meetings and training on watchdog reporting, opinion and editorial writing and SEO.
- Spent 10 additional weeks reporting on the breaking news beat, where I produced daily breaking stories and a weekly column.

Assistant City Editor | The Columbia Missourian | Columbia, MO

Dec 2024 – May 2025

- Managed and mentored two teams of general assignment reporters weekly, coaching reporters from pitch to publication.
- Edited daily articles for both content and AP style, ensuring accurate and timely coverage for dayside and nightside deadlines.
- Practiced news judgement and quick decision-making during breaking news situations.

Independent study | The Columbia Missourian | Columbia, MO

Jan 2024 – May 2024

- Led comprehensive coverage of Columbia's City Council election, as appointed by Editor Gordon Dickson, coordinating election-related content and ensuring high-quality, in-depth reporting.
- Profiled Columbia City Council candidates, conducting interviews and research to deliver compelling, well-rounded profiles that inform and engage the local electorate.

Advanced beat reporter | The Columbia Missourian | Columbia, MO

Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

- Led Columbia City Council coverage with a focus on community impact, as designated by Editor Fred Anklam, delivering timely, accurate and in-depth reports on local government and law enforcement during the city's search for the next police chief.
- Mentored and guided new reporters in fast-paced, deadline-driven environments, providing editorial direction and fostering skill development in investigative and beat reporting.

Data team | CSIS Journalism Bootcamp | Washington D.C.

May 2023

- Conceptualized, produced and edited a multi-layered multimedia project within a tight five-day deadline, demonstrating strong project management and creative execution under pressure for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).
- Reported on global democratic backsliding, providing an international perspective on key political trends and challenges.
- Gained hands-on experience in international journalism, with a focus on data visualization tools such as Flourish and Datawrapper to enhance storytelling and data analysis.

Beat reporter | The Columbia Missourian | Columbia, MO

Jan 2023 – May 2023

- Reported and wrote local government stories under tight deadlines for both print and online platforms balanced with daily general assignment reporting, delivering accurate and engaging stories for a local audience.
- Developed a robust network of city sources, regularly attending Columbia City Council meetings to stay informed on local issues and cultivate key relationships for in-depth reporting.
- Investigated and produced a data-driven feature on electric rates in Columbia, incorporating citizen polling and analysis, while covering key developments in the municipal election.

SELECTED WORK & AWARDS

Police chief coverage and candidate profile, The Columbia Missourian

Aug 2023 – May 2024

Shadows and Bright Spots: Colombia's Developing Democracy, [story package](#), CSIS

May 2023

Electric rates article, The Columbia Missourian

May 2023

Municipal election coverage, The Columbia Missourian

April 2023

First place in student enterprise/investigative reporting, SPJ Louisville

June 2020

SKILLS:

Reporting, interviewing, writing, editing, AP style, investigative research, FOIA, data, data visualization and Adobe Suite

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