

Alex RUPPENTHAL

Journalist



HONORS

New England First Amendment Institute
Among 25 journalist fellows selected by New England First Amendment Coalition for 2014 workshop on freedom of information law, public records access and investigative reporting techniques

New England Newspaper & Press Association
First Place, Investigative Reporting, 2016
First Place, Health Reporting, 2016
First Place, Transportation Reporting, 2014
Second Place, General News, 2015
Second Place, Science/Tech Reporting, 2014
Second Place, Sports Story, 2014

Society of Environmental Journalists
Among 25 journalists selected by SEJ's Awards Committee as a 2017 RK Mellon Fellow

Economics for Journalists and Opinion Leaders
Participated in two-day workshop hosted by Lakeland University economists in 2018 that served as a crash course on economic principles and business reporting

Hearst Foundation
Fifth Place, In-Depth Writing, 2011

Associated Press Sports Editors
Second Place, Explanatory Reporting, 2010
Top Ten, Explanatory Reporting, 2009


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EXPERIENCE

- JANUARY 2017 - PRESENT 📍 Chicago
Digital Reporter, ChicagoTonight.wttw.com (PBS member station)
Environmental and public health reporter tackling in-depth and investigative stories, both on and off my beat. Broke story about brain-damaging manganese dust in predominantly low-income, minority neighborhood on Chicago's industry-dominated Southeast Side, leading to a city investigation and EPA citations against one of the polluting companies. Obtained public records showing an exodus of employees from the EPA's Chicago office during the first nine months of the Trump administration. Uncovered story of gymnastics coach who remained in Chicago-area gyms for decades after being accused of sexual abuse by multiple youth gymnasts. Reporting prompted suburban police to reopen investigation of the coach.
- JANUARY 2014 - DECEMBER 2016 📍 Boston
Senior Reporter, WickedLocal North of Boston (Aug.-Dec. 2016)
Asst. Editor/Reporter, Medford Transcript/WickedLocal (Jan. 2014-Aug. 2016)
Served as lead reporter covering city of 60,000 just outside Boston. Uncovered disciplinary record of 30-year police officer who threatened to shoot a driver, leading to officer's resignation and community dialogue on policing. Exposed another police officer's Facebook post inciting violence against Muslims -- a story picked up nationally by the Associated Press and NPR -- prompting officer's suspension and a city-led diversity workshop. Dug up state public health department's inspection detailing 23 sanitary and safety violations at outdated police headquarters, calling attention to the city's infrastructure neglect.
- APRIL 2013 - JANUARY 2014 📍 Chicago
Reporter, Suburban Life LaGrange & Western Springs
Covered five municipalities in western Cook County for publication group with circulation exceeding 90,000. Traced earthquake that rattled Chicago area to nearby rock quarry, and followed up rare event with unmatched reporting on scientists' pursuit of relationship between rock blasting and quake. Profiled mother who lost 20-year-old son to heroin overdose, shedding light on growing opioid epidemic.
- MAY - AUGUST 2011 📍 Chicago
Associate Reporter, MLB.com
Burnt thousands of calories hiking up and down concourse at Wrigley Field during summer covering Cubs for Major League Baseball's online media outlet. Filed reports daily before and after games, in addition to writing features.
- MAY - AUGUST 2010 📍 Chicago
Writer/Editor, ESPNChicago.com
Part of three-person daytime editorial team running what was Chicago's most visited sports site. Reported on prep baseball championship, history of Blackhawks' new theme song ("Chelsea Dagger") and 25th anniversary of Bears' Super Bowl.
- OCTOBER 2009 - APRIL 2010 📍 Columbia, Mo.
Reporter, Columbia Missourian
Beat reporter covering University of Missouri men's basketball team. Filed daily updates, covered games on deadline and reported in-depth features -- most notably, about my one-on-one game against one of the country's best defenders, which allowed me to describe his suffocating defensive posture.
- MAY - AUGUST 2008 📍 Chicago
Website Editor/Writer, Chicago Tribune's RedEye
Managed website and web-based projects. Reported stories for chicagotribune.com and RedEye print edition.



EDUCATION

- 2007-2011 📍 Columbia, Mo.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Bachelor of Journalism in Print/Digital Media; Bachelor of Arts in German
- 2011-2012 📍 Munich, Germany
LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN
Fellow, Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (program of U.S. Department of State and German Bundestag). Became fluent in German. Worked as writer/editor/translator for Threeview GmbH, a Munich-based marketing agency.