

Alex RUPPENTHAL

Journalist



HONORS

Northwestern University "Reporting Islam" Fellow

Guest lecturer and 2019 symposium participant for initiative that brings together journalists and academics to explore the tropes and themes of public discourse on Islam and Muslims in the U.S.

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

Society of Environmental Journalists

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

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

Hearst Foundation

Fifth Place, In-Depth Writing, 2011

Associated Press Sports Editors

Second Place, Explanatory Reporting, 2010
Top Ten, Explanatory Reporting, 2009



SKILLS AND SOFTWARE

Languages: Fluent in German

Data analysis: Microsoft Excel; some Microsoft Access

Web: Basic html; various content management systems

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Alex Ruppenthal



EXPERIENCE

JANUARY 2017 - PRESENT

📍 Chicago

Digital Reporter, ChicagoTonight.wttw.com (PBS affiliate)

- Environment and public health-focused reporter covering in-depth and investigative stories, both on and off my beat
- Fill-in digital editor coordinating all facets of web coverage, including writing headlines and captions, editing copy and making final editorial decisions
- Investigative stories helped prompt an EPA crackdown on polluters of brain-damaging manganese dust, a renewed investigation of a youth gymnastics coach who was later charged with sexual assault and further scrutiny of a controversial federal counter-extremism program shown to target Muslims

JANUARY 2014 - DECEMBER 2016

📍 Boston

Senior Reporter, WickedLocal North of Boston (Aug.-Dec. 2016)

Asst. Editor/Reporter, Medford Transcript/WickedLocal (Jan. 2014-Aug. 2016)

- Lead reporter covering all aspects of a 60,000-resident city just outside Boston
- Fill-in editor overseeing all news coverage decisions, freelancers and newspaper production and layout
- Watchdog stories included uncovering the lengthy disciplinary record of a police officer who threatened to shoot a driver, leading to his resignation and a community dialogue on policing; and digging up a state inspection report detailing dozens of sanitary and safety violations at the outdated police headquarters, shining a light on 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 of 90,000-plus readers
- Traced earthquake that rattled Chicago area to nearby rock quarry; followed up rare event with unmatched reporting on scientists' pursuit of relationship between rock blasting and quake.

MAY - AUGUST 2011

📍 Chicago

Associate Reporter, MLB.com

- Filed reports on tight deadlines before and after games, in addition to writing features, while covering the Cubs for Major League Baseball's website

MAY - AUGUST 2010

📍 Chicago

Writer/Editor, ESPNChicago.com

- Part of three-person daytime editorial team running what was then Chicago's most visited sports site

OCTOBER 2009 - APRIL 2010

📍 Columbia, Mo.

Reporter, Columbia Missourian

- Beat reporter covering University of Missouri men's basketball team

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). Worked as writer/editor/translator for Threeview GmbH, a Munich-based marketing agency.