

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

I became an independent journalist in March 2015, following nearly four decades as a newspaper reporter and editor. Starting in the mid-1970s at a weekly in an ethnic Cleveland neighborhood, I spent 10 years at *The (Elyria, Ohio) Chronicle-Telegram*, where I won numerous awards as a reporter and left as city editor. In 1991, I joined the *Akron Beacon Journal*, where I was a member of the team of the reporters involved in the yearlong examination of the state of the black community awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service. In 1999, I was named the *Beacon Journal's* first computer-assisted reporting manager. I was senior reporter on the 2008 series, "The American Dream – hanging by a thread," which was grounded in research I did as a 2007 fellow of the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism, at Ohio State University. In July 2012, I became managing editor of *The (Medina County, Ohio) Gazette*, responsible for the paper's local news content, both in print and online. The Cleveland Press Club named *The Gazette* best among Ohio newspapers 75,000 and under circulation in 2015 and 2014. In recognition of the 2015 award, the Ohio General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing *The Gazette* for its "comprehensive coverage of current events." *The Gazette* also won first place in General Excellence in the 2013 Ohio Associated Press Media Editors' competition among 20 newspapers with circulations of 8,000 to 12,999 and placed third in 2012 and 2014.

SELECTED NATIONAL AND STATE AWARDS

2017 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First place, investigative reporting, freelance digital media, for "[Kasich's job claims don't add up](#)," published in Salon.com. Judge's comments: "Nice job digging beyond political spin for a data-driven look at Ohio's actual job growth."

2017 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB

First place, Election 2016 coverage, presidential conventions (no circulation classes) to the *The Chronicle-Telegram* for "Tale of Two Cities." I provided all the stories, photos and live coverage of the Democratic Convention, in Philadelphia, as well as joining the staff coverage of the Republican Convention, in Cleveland.

2014 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First place, social justice reporting, and second place, public service (newspapers less than 75,000 in circulation), for "[Anatomy of a teen suicide](#)."

First place, in both investigative reporting and educational issues: K-12 (newspapers less than 75,000 in circulation), for "[School district in crisis](#)."

2013 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First place, enterprise reporting (newspapers 8,000 to 12,999 circulation), for "[Ohio losing high-tech jobs](#)," Ohio Associated Press Media Editors' contest.

2011 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, first place, public records (over 100,000 circulation), for "[Pension Transparency](#)," an investigation into Ohio's financially strained state retirement programs.2011 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS, best news series (publications under 150,000 circulation), for "[Tough Times](#)," an examination of the impact of the Great Recession on Akron's African-American community.2009 CASEY MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS JOURNALISM, Casey Journalism Center on Children and Families (under 200,000 circulation), senior reporter for "[The American Dream – Hanging by a thread](#)." This year-long investigation of the economic forces threatening the middle class was runner up for the Scripps-Howard award for public service reporting and won a "best project" award from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers and the National Headliners award for journalistic innovation.2005 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN BUSINESS EDITORS AND WRITERS, best special project for "[Life and debt](#)," a series based on a computer analysis of the record number of bankruptcies in the Akron area. A

comparison to census demographics showed that instead of extravagant or careless lifestyles, most bankruptcy filers living modestly until toppled into debt by illness, divorce or job loss.

2002 CASEY MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS JOURNALISM, honorable mention (newspapers 75,000 to 200,000 circulation) for “Fatal Distraction,” an analysis of federal highway safety data that found novice teenage drivers are much more likely to be involved in crashes when there are no adult passengers in the vehicle.

1994 [PULITZER PRIZE GOLD MEDAL FOR PUBLIC SERVICE](#), byline reporter for “[A Question of Color](#),” a year-long exploration of race relations and the state of the black community in the Akron-Canton area.

1981 NATIONAL HEADLINERS CLUB, outstanding newswriting award by a newspaper with circulation up to 50,000 for expose of drug-dealing doctors.

PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES

- “[Widening wage gap](#),” in *The IRE Journal*, the quarterly publication of Investigative Reporters and Editors, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 7-8, Summer 2009.
- “[Teacher, student exodus](#),” in *Uplink*, the bimonthly publication of IRE’s National Institute for Computer-Assisted Journalism, July/August 2001: 3-5.
- “[Blue-Collar donors? Not in this election cycle: Uncovering who really gives in the 2000 presidential race](#),” in *Tracker*, the online newsletter of IRE’s Campaign Finance Information Center, Summer 2000.

BLOG

[A Skeptical Eye: Commentary on the future of journalism](#) (<http://skepticaleye.blogspot.com>), April-June 2007.

CITATIONS

- Dēmos/Ohio Policy Matters, [Building Ohio’s Future Middle Class](#), by Viany Orozco, Amy Hanauer and Nancy K. Cauthen (April 26, 2010)
- U.S. Census Bureau, [A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What the media need to know](#), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (November 2008):13.
- *Columbia Journalism Review*, “[Comparing Ohio and Ontario by the Numbers: The Beacon Journal points to better health stats in Canada](#),” by Trudy Lieberman, July 29, 2008.

EDUCATION

- KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, M.A. journalism, 2007. Adviser: Tim Smith. Research project: “[Incredible Shrinking Paycheck – The Impact of Declining Wages and Salaries on the Middle Class](#),” published in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Sept. 30, 2007.
- DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, Monterey, California, diploma in Russian, certificate of attendance in Arabic, 1972-73.
- JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, B.A., English literature, 1971.

FELLOWSHIPS

- KIPLINGER PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNALISM, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Ohio State University, January-June 2007.
- NATIONAL PRESS FOUNDATION, Spanish language fellowship, Cemanahuac Educational Community, Cuernavaca, Mexico, September-December 1987.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Kent State University, adjunct instructor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2012-present.
- University of Akron, assistant lecturer in the School of Communications, 2009-11.

□ Ohio State University, mentor to staff of the student newspaper, *The Lantern*, January-June 2007.

MILITARY SERVICE, 1971-74

Russian translator with the Army Security Agency; stationed 17 months in Berlin; held cryptographic security clearance; honorably discharged as sergeant (E-5); awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

OTHER STATE AWARDS

2015 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB

Second place, breaking news: single-day package (no circulation classes), "[Flooding, rescues and heroes.](#)" This coverage also won second place for deadline reporting (newspapers less than 75,000 in circulation) in the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists competition.

Third place, business, "[Job growth stunted.](#)"

2015 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Second place, explanatory journalism (newspapers less than 75,000 in circulation), for "[Recession scars county.](#)"

2013 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First place, enterprise reporting (newspapers 8,000 to 12,999 circulation), for "[Ohio losing high-tech jobs.](#)" Ohio Associated Press Media Editors' contest. This story also won third place, business reporting (no circulation classes), in the Cleveland Press Club competition.

First place, illustration, "Puff Balls" (photo)

2012 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB

Second place, investigative reporting (no circulation classes), "Charters go off course."

2011 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, first place, public records (over 100,000 circulation), for "[Pension Transparency.](#)" an investigation into Ohio's financially strained state retirement programs.

2011 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB, First place, breaking news, single story, for "Thousands sink funds," coverage of a fraud scheme that cost ordinary investors millions.

2002 OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, first place, explanatory journalism for "[The Story of Us.](#)" coverage of the 2000 Census.

2001 ASSOCIATED PRESS SOCIETY OF OHIO, first prize in enterprise reporting for "[Destined to fail.](#)" an investigation into a chronically poor performing cluster of Akron public schools. The series also won the Ohio SPJ award for best explanatory journalism.

1994 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB, second place in breaking news reporting for "[Hunter of Humans.](#)" a portrait of Thomas Lee Dillon, the serial killer of five Ohio outdoorsmen.

1990 ASSOCIATED PRESS SOCIETY OF OHIO, second place for series about local National Guard unit's two-week tour of duty building roads in Honduras. The series placed second in feature writing in the Cleveland Press Club/SPJ competition.

1989 OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION for a report revealing that more than a third of the judicial candidates in the 1988 Lorain County primary were considered unfit for the bench according to a survey of nearly 300 local attorneys.

1987 OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION for an investigative series about no-contest plea that left an indigent man, accused of murder, sentenced to death without trial testimony.

1986 ASSOCIATED PRESS SOCIETY OF OHIO, second place in enterprise reporting (Division II) for a week-long series about Nicaragua, written after accompanying a Midwest Witness for Peace delegation on a two-week tour of that country.

1982 ASSOCIATED PRESS SOCIETY OF OHIO, third place in investigative reporting (Division II) for series on the low pay given the workers at Lorain County's workshop for the developmentally disabled, the high staff turnover at the associated school and deceptive financial reporting on capital projects.

1980 CLEVELAND PRESS CLUB, best editorial in a weekly: "Vote Against Issue 1 and Save Munny."