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ROCIO GRIMALDO

Work Experience

Dec. 2001– the present (on leave) DIARIO LA PRENSA, Panama
Staff writer and reporter for the daily lifestyle/cultural section of the paper (called “Revista” until Jan 18, 2005, “Vivir +” since then)

Write, report, research, edit, investigate, select photos, diagram pages.
Covering culture, the arts, psychology, environment, health, beauty, science, technology, home, garden, food, nightlife.

March 11-June 28 2002 Language center at the University of Panama
English instructor

Taught a basic ESL course to adults, two days a week.

September 14, 1998– December 2001 DIARIO LA PRENSA, Panama
Staff writer /reporter/copy editor for the national news section (“Nacionales”)

Edit text sent by correspondents in the interior of the country, diagram pages.
Report and investigate stories of interest to readers from the interior or of national interest.

March- June 1998 PANORAMA CATOLICO, Panama
Ad honorem writer

Type up text, research, diagram pages, translate, write, edit section B of the Catholic church’s weekly publication.

Sept. 1996– Feb. 1997 Texas A&M University Food Services, MSC
Catering, College Station, Texas

Student worker

Performed general catering duties for university events.

June 3-August 23, 1996 Panama Canal Commission, Office of Public
Affairs, Balboa Panama

Student assistant

Write, revise and translate articles for the biweekly publication Spillway and perform general office tasks.

Special projects, awards, etc.

I was assigned to coordinate DIARIO LA PRENSA’s coverage of the Miss Universe 2003 pageant (held in Panama). Was in charge of a daily page about the event that published from May 16 to June 4, 2003, and of a special daily 4-

page supplement published from May 18 to June 4, 2003. For that I supervised, coordinated and directed activities of four reporters, four photographers and did some reporting of my own. This project resulted in a \$30,000 profit for the newspaper.

I won an award for an environmental story in a contest held by Rainforest Alliance and my story was included in their Wetlands Guide for Central America. The story's title: "Peligra el ecosistema bocatoreno", published in March, 28, 1999, in La Prensa.

"Bueno para unos, malo para otros", published June 19, 2001. Investigative story about the building of a wall on the banks of the Sixaola River -- unilaterally by the Panamanian government-- to prevent the annual floodings. The river is located on the border with Costa Rica and the building of the wall was a violation of a binational treaty.

"El hanta panameno", published September 1, 2001. A year after a hanta virus outbreak in Panama. I described how the hanta virus in Panama was different from other strains and I did a follow-up on three survivors and how they were doing (2-page spread).

"Encuentro entre la Tierra y Marte", August 20, 2003. A story about the unique Mars-Earth approximation that occurred in 2003. It won best news of the month in the paper's internal monthly contest.

Significant interviews or coverage:

Interviewed Dr. Karl Johnson (one of the discoverers of the hantavirus and ebola virus) about the possibility of a biological attack, in Oct. 2001.

Interviewed Dr. Robert Ballard, the discoverer of the Titanic, in January 2004, during the making of the Jason Project in Panama.

Covered prince Albert of Monaco's visit to Panama in 2002.

Education

Expected December 2006 University College Falmouth, Falmouth, UK
Master of Arts in Professional Writing

May 1997 Texas A & M University College Station, TX
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, minor in English

June 1994 Panama Canal College Panama City
Associate in Arts in General Studies With Honors

June 1991 Colegio St. Mary's Panama City
Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras

Computer skills

GN3 Publishing System, Windows (Internet Explorer, Word), Outlook, knowledge of QuarkXpress, knowledge of Dreamweaver and Photoshop.

Travels

Because of my parents' studies during childhood lived in Austria for a year and a half, and then six months in England. Studied in the US for four years. Have visited Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, France, Spain, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Brazil, Argentina, Taiwan.

Hobbies

Reading, walking/jogging, dancing, drawing, oil-painting, cooking.

Languages

Fully bilingual in English-Spanish: Knowledge of French.

References

Antonia Gutierrez, subdirector of the daily Mi Diario, former editor of “Nacionales” for Diario La Prensa, Panama. Telephone: (507) 222-9000 ext. 705. E-mail: agutierrez@midiaro.com

Daniel Dominguez, staff writer for the department of Supplements of Diario La Prensa, former editor of “Revista”. Telephone: (507) 222-1222, ext. 358; (507) 323-7358 (direct). E-mail: ddomingu@prensa.com

Martirene Ostrander, former editor of “Vivir+” (former “Revista”) from August 2002 to April 2005. E-mail: martirene@hotmail.com

Academic reference: Douglas Perret Starr, professor of Agricultural Journalism, Address: 2116 Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2116. Office: (979) 458-3039. Fax: (979) 845-6296. E-mail: d-starr@tamu.edu

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