



Faculty Biographies

Dean Miller was named Director of the Center for News Literacy on August 25, 2009. The center, established in September 2007 and housed at Stony Brook University's School of Journalism, is the nation's first Center for News Literacy designed to educate current and future news consumers on how to judge the credibility and reliability of news.

For more than 25 years, Miller was a reporter and editor at newspapers in the Northern Rockies. For 14 of those years he was managing editor and then executive editor of the *Post Register*, the employee-owned daily in Idaho Falls, Idaho. During his tenure, the *Post Register* won numerous national journalism awards and grew readership against the national freefall in newspaper circulation.

Under Miller's stewardship, the *Post Register* won the E.W. Scripps Distinguished Service to the First Amendment award in 2006 for its investigation of the Boy Scouts organization's failure to drum out pedophile staffers. The Scout investigation was the subject of "In a Small Town," a WNET documentary. For his first-person account of the organized backlash against the newspaper, Miller won the national Mirror Award for media writing.

Selected for a Nieman Fellowship in Journalism at Harvard in 2007, Miller filmed and edited a documentary film about the Idaho songwriter whose hit tune Paul McCartney played to get into John Lennon's Quarrymen.

Miller has been an Ethics Fellow at the Poynter Institute since 2006. A First Amendment advocate, Miller taught workshops across Idaho on issues related to public records and open government.

Miller was a reporter on the *Spokesman-Review* team that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the FBI's shooting of four citizens at Ruby Ridge. He also wrote in a freelance capacity for the *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *International Herald Tribune*, *High Country News* and *US News & World Report*.

Michael "Mike" Spikes is a new digital producer here at Stony Brook University. He will be handling the creation of a digital resource center that will allow us to share our curriculum to a wider audience. Formerly a television and radio production teacher in Washington, D.C. at Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School, Mike grew up in Maple Heights, OH and earned an AAS in Audio Engineering from Cuyahoga Community College. He is finishing up his BA in Mass Media at the University of the District of Columbia. His first memories of paying attention to the news were as a child when he aspired to become a meteorologist, however that changed at age 14, when he became a youth reporter for a local radio program in Cleveland, Ohio. When not working, Michael likes to play piano, write jazz music, and collect old ephemeral 16mm films and educational filmstrips from the 40's through the 80's. Mike is an alum of our 2010 institute and was a presenter at our recent News Literacy Conference: Building on Success.

Special Thanks

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Participants

Adenike Akorede, Olive-Harvey College

Jennifer Armendarez, Harold Washington College

Julia Dockery, Harry S. Truman College

Vernese Edghill-Waldem, *Interim Provost*, City Colleges of Chicago

Michael Hanna, Alternative Schools Network

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Cassandra Powell, Richard J. Daley College

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La Sandra Skinner, Harry S. Truman College

Sharon Silverman, Oliver-Harvey College

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Michelle Yisreal, Kennedy-King College

Leanne Wiseman, American Society of News Editors