

Mary C. Curtis

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Summary

An award-winning journalist and manager with experience as a writer and editor. A creative thinker and enterprising writer/reporter who has adapted core journalism skills and values to print and electronic media. A public speaker and media expert who offers insight and commentary on journalism, diversity, politics and other topics making headline news. My goal -- to quote the Nieman mission -- is "to promote and elevate the standards of journalism," in my writing, editing and teaching.

Highlights

- Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, 2006
- Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs, journalism's first social media fellowship, at Ohio State, 2011
- Political reporting and commentary in 2012 and 2008 presidential contests
- Expanded journalism skills into radio and television, with commentary on NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Tell Me More," PRI's "Here & Now," stories and reporting for WNYC's "Studio 360," appearances on BBC World News, CNN and MSNBC
- Thomas Wolfe Award for "My Rebel Journey," a narrative examination of Confederate heritage groups
- Recognition by such professional organizations as the Association for Women in Communications, National Society of Newspaper Columnists, Society of Professional Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists

Experience

Contributor, *She the People* blog, *Washington Post*, January 2012-present

National Correspondent, *AOL PoliticsDaily.com*, Charlotte, NC, April 2009 to April 2011

- Enterprise reporting and commentary. Coverage includes National Tea Party convention, National Rifle Association conference, Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally in Washington

Commentator, *Fox News Rising Charlotte*, 2009 to Present

- Offer weekly "Keeping It Positive" segment on Fox affiliate (WCCB-TV) morning show, political commentary, special reports

Freelance writer and journalist, October 2008 to Present

- *The Root*, including, on the 2010 50th anniversary of Greensboro Woolworth sit-in, interview with Franklin McCain, one of the four original North Carolina A&T student demonstrators
- *Creative Loafing*, Charlotte alternative newspaper, weekly column on 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte
- *NBC's The Grio.com*, political reporting and commentary
- WFAE-FM (Charlotte NPR affiliate), offered 2009 presidential inauguration coverage and other commentary
- Other assignments include reporter round-table on public radio's *Upfront With Tony Cox*, editorial placements in *Nieman Watchdog* blog, *EbonyJet.com*, *BlackAmericaWeb*, *Essence* and *Vibrant Living*

Columnist, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 2007 to 2008

- Syndicated on McClatchy-Tribune wire service

Dance Writer/Critic, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 2006 to 2008

- Cover dance in the region, with emphasis on North Carolina Dance Theatre

Executive Features Editor/Columnist, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 1994 to 2007

- Development of lifestyle and arts sections, creation of Faith & Values and Garden sections and E&T entertainment tab
- Write columns syndicated through McClatchy-Tribune wire

Editor, *The New York Times*, 1985 to 1994

- Deputy Education Editor (1993-94)
- Home Section Editor (1991-93): Guide coverage of home, style and family issues; manage a team of style reporters
- The Living Arts Editor (1989-91): Develop coverage of the national edition's arts and lifestyle section
- The Living Arts, Deputy Editor, (1988-1989): Part of the team that developed the section and implemented the roll-out
- Culture, Copy Editor/Sunday editor (1985-1987): Handled breaking culture news stories throughout the paper, including 1A

Features Editor for Arts and Entertainment, *The Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore, MD, 1983 to 1985

Copy Editor, *The Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, AZ, 1981 to 1983

Awards and Honors (partial listing)

- 2012 1st place, Green Eyeshade Award, Society of Professional Journalists, online serious commentary
- 2012, 2010 The Association for Women in Communications Clarion Award, Online Journalism, regular columns
- 2012/2011/2010 "Who's Who in Black Charlotte"
- 2008 1st place, National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence contest, "50 years after Integration," Charlotte Observer series on the violent and nonviolent history of Charlotte-Mecklenburg public school integration
- 2008 McClatchy President's Award, for "50 years after integration"
- 2007 1st place, commentary, Chuck Stone Salute to Excellence Award, National Association of Black Journalists, Region III
- 2005 1st place, Carmage Walls commentary award, for a collection of columns, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association
- 2004 Thomas Wolfe Award, for "My Rebel Journey," an examination of Confederate heritage groups
- 2004 1st place, commentary (over 150,000 circulation) National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence contest
- 2004 Inducted into the Hall of Fame, Region IV National Association of Black Journalists
- 2002 1st place, Green Eyeshade Award from Society of Professional Journalists, for cultural criticism
- 2000 1st place, North Carolina Press Association writing contest, serious column category

Media Appearances

- 2013 Media Ethics at Work (CQ Press), contributed an essay
- 2012 Michael Smerconish show to discuss N.C. politics
- 2012 Warren Olney's "To the Point" and "Hearsay with Cathy Lewis" on N.C. Amendment One on same-sex marriage
- 2009 "The Final Four of Everything," (Simon & Schuster) "bracketology" anthology, chapter on "Mary"

Public Speaking

- 2012 Columbia College, Chicago, keynote address for creative non-fiction conference
- 2012 University of North Carolina, "The Changing Face of the American South" conference
- 2012 Jackie Robinson Foundation, "Impact of Minorities on 2012 Elections"
- 2012 Johnson & Wales University, "How Have Electronic and Social Media Affected Political Campaigns?"
- 2010/2011 Onstage pre-performance interview of Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, N.C. Dance Theatre Director's Choice program
- 2009 Participant in conference, "The Madisonian System and Modern America: Is It Broken, and Can We Fix It?" sponsored by Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier home and the Brookings Institution
- 2008 Harvard Law School panel, "Will the 2008 Campaign Pave a Path Towards Inclusive Politics? America's Leading Journalists Discuss Race, Ethnicity, Age, Gender and Division"

Professional Organizations

National Society of Newspaper Columnists; Society of Professional Journalists; Trotter Group of African American columnists; National Association of Black Journalists; JAWS (Journalism & Women's Symposium), board member; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Women's Summit, Advisory Council

Community Associations

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Academic Internship Program, executive board member; Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, board member; The Males' Place/Wise Guys (offers guidance and life-skills coaching to boys ages 12-18), advisory board; Freedom School Partners, literacy program; St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte ministries

Education

Fordham University, New York, NY

- Bachelor of Arts, Communications, summa cum laude