

ELIZABETH MEHREN

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PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan. 2007-present: Professor of Journalism, College of Communication, Boston University. Member of full-time teaching and research faculty. Classes taught include Introductory News Writing and Reporting, Beat Reporting and Feature Writing. All are small, writing-intensive, seminar-style courses. In addition, I developed and teach a course called the Literature of Journalism, also a seminar that examines nonfiction narrative by English-speaking journalists from Mark Twain to the present.

I also have taught classes at Boston University's Department of City Planning, School of Public Health and School of Medicine, as well as Harvard Law School.

Member: President's Task Force on the Culture and Climate of the Boston University Men's Ice Hockey Team. Member: University Advancement, Promotion and Tenure Committee. Member: Boston University Faculty Council and Committee on Faculty Advancement. Past member: Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee.

Co-creator and co-director, Boston University Program on Crisis Response and Reporting, a collaboration with the B.U. College of Communication, School of Public Health, Center for Global Health and Development and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting in Washington, D.C. Co-PI on the BU Program on Crisis Response and Reporting's recent grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation establishing a partnership and student-driven, global newsroom with two universities in western Kenya. Further details on this ongoing project can be seen at www.pamojatogether.com.

Faculty advisor to undergraduate and graduate students, counseling them on academic and professional decisions. Faculty advisor to Boston University student chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists (SPJ). Participant in faculty review process for graduate applicants to the Journalism Department.

Frequent commentary through Boston University New Office on topics ranging from presidential politics to media ethics; also, frequent radio and television appearances.

1990-Jan. 2007: New England Bureau Chief, Los Angeles Times. Responsible for news and feature coverage in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. Solo office created and staffed only by Elizabeth Mehren. Average annual story output: approximately 200, ranging from breaking news to longer feature and investigative pieces. About 20-30% of the stories appeared on Page One. The remained led the Nation page or ran elsewhere in the newspaper.

Thematic topics covered out of New England bureau: National and state politics. Regional economy. Environment. Education. Housing and urban affairs. Transportation. Social trends. Breaking news and disasters. Crime and major trials in state and federal courts.

1985-1990: National news and feature writer in the LA Times New York bureau. Coverage of the publishing industry, a field the Los Angeles Times had not concentrated on in the past, was among this job's mandates. This meant profiles of many well-known authors, including: Kurt Vonnegut, Toni Morrison, Eudora Welty, Salman Rushdie, Robert Penn Warren, Isabel Allende, Tom Wolfe, Jane Smiley and Anne Rice. This job also included coverage of the business end of publishing, especially the conglomeration of publishing houses. The New York bureau job also involved breaking-news coverage,

ranging from racial disturbances to gang shootings to financial scandals. The New York news-feature correspondent also provided “quirky” New York stories as well as participation in Washington stories, including national political conventions and campaigns.

1983-1985: National news and feature writer, based at the Times’ main office in Los Angeles. About 50-75 stories annually from around California and the West. Many profiles of public figures, creative leaders and unusual individuals. Also, many pieces involving individuals and trends from the state’s higher education system. Also served as one of the lead writers on the team that covered the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, contributing at least two stories per day.

1981-1983: Washington, D.C.-based news and feature writer for the LA Times. This assignment came about within days of Ronald Reagan’s inauguration as president. The task was to cover Washington as it adjusted to an onslaught of Californians. The job produced many front-page White House profiles, as well as stories about leading figures and institutions in Washington. In addition, the position involved covering the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Annual story output: about 75-100 byline pieces.

1980-1981: L.A. Times, news and feature writer based in Los Angeles. Primary assignment at that time was the View section, a daily magazine-style feature section. Most of my reporting centered on Southern California individuals and institutions.

1979-1980: San Francisco-based columnist for the Oakland Tribune. Daily column that ran in the main section of the paper, often on the front page. The column emphasized events, individuals and institutions in San Francisco.

1972-1979: News editor, The Washington Post. Initial assignment was to work on the news desk of The Post’s Style section, then the leading daily feature section in the country. Delegated during Watergate to work on the paper’s op-ed page. Edited and solicited opinion articles and columns as well as organizing letters-to-the-editor. After returning to the Style section: Worked with reporters to generate and edit stories on arts and cultural events as well as profiles and stories about social trends. Also did feature reporting, especially involving entertainment and culture. Covered the royal wedding of Princess Caroline in Monaco.

1970-1972: General assignment and feature reporter, San Francisco Chronicle. About 40-50 articles per year focusing on profiles and city trends. Also: editing, layout and copy desk work.

1969-1970: General assignment reporter, The Hayward (California) Daily Review. General news and feature reporting for the flagship newspaper of a family-owned chain in San Francisco's East Bay. Wrote four to six stories per week for the daily afternoon paper, covering local news and features. Also did layout, editing and copy desk work.

1969: Summer job as **education reporter at the Livermore (California) Argus** before being promoted to the Sparks Newspaper chain's larger paper in Hayward. Covered school board meetings that continued through the year as well as profiling individuals involved in regional education.

BOOKS

Author of **"Born Too Soon,"** published in hardcover by Doubleday and in paperback by Kensington Books. The book uses the story of the author's daughter Emily--who was born at six months' gestation and who died three months later—to describe the high-tech universe of neonatal medicine. The book also recounts the emotional and ethical dilemmas faced by families and physicians in that environment. "Born Too Soon" received strong reviews in The New York Times (daily and Sunday); Los Angeles Times (daily and Sunday); Washington Post; Publishers Weekly; USA Today; Boston Globe; San Francisco Chronicle; Kirkus Reviews; Chicago Tribune; Pediatrics magazine; and many regional newspapers. "Born Too Soon" was excerpted in Readers Digest and was made into an NBC movie of the week. The movie version of "Born Too Soon" continues to air regularly on Lifetime cable TV. The book has been used as a text in medical and nursing school curricula.

Author of **"After the Darkest Hour,"** published by Simon & Schuster. This book, subtitled "A Parent's Guide to Coping With the Loss of the Child," integrates narrative text from the author's experience with the voices of parents who have lost children of many ages to many causes. It includes the observations of well-known figures such as Abraham Lincoln, W.E.B. du Bois and Mark Twain, as well as the insights of ordinary people who have lost children. The book has been translated into a dozen foreign languages. Consistent positive reviews in newspapers as well as parenting and women's magazines.

Co-author, with reproductive endocrinologist Dr. Robert Nachtigall, of **"Overcoming Infertility,"** published by Doubleday. This book offers a practical strategy for couples who are struggling to conceive a child. Strong reviews in: New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Articles published in: Newsweek, McCall's, Ladies Home Journal, Publishers Weekly, Redbook, Los Angeles Times Magazine, Nieman Reports, Vogue, Elle, Show Daily, Town & Country, TV Guide, Modern Maturity, Working Woman, Signature magazine, Stanford Magazine, California Monthly, Travel & Leisure, Pediatrics Magazine.

Contributing editor to WomensENews, a Web-based news service focusing on national and international stories of interest to women.

TELEVISION AND RADIO EXPERIENCE

Today Show (multiple appearances); Canada Today; Fox News (multiple appearances); CNN (multiple appearances); news and feature shows on NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS; local television news and magazine shows in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, San Antonio, Dallas, Atlanta, Boston, New York City, Phoenix.

Co-host of "BW-5," a book-and-author show produced by Connecticut Public Television.

Radio: Numerous Los Angeles stations, including KABC, KUSC, KCRW. San Francisco Bay Area stations, including KGO, KYA, KPFA. Pacifica network shows. NPR, including Morning Edition and All Things Considered; also, appearances on WBUR-Boston. Additionally, WBZ-Boston talk and news show appearances. Other radio appearances in Texas, Chicago, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Washington, D.C.

SIGNIFICANT LECTURES AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Panelist and lecturer for seven years at Los Angeles Times Book Festival.

President's Annual Author Lecture, Dartmouth College.

Neonatal Nurses' Association.

American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dartmouth Medical School.

UCLA Medical School.

Compassionate Friends (parental bereavement organization) annual meeting.

Children's Hospital, Boston.

Harvard Medical School.

Harvard School of Public Health.

Harvard Law School.

Loyola Marymount Medical School, Chicago.

Lyndon State College, Vermont.

Council on Foundations.

American Association of University Women

Girls Inc., Los Angeles

University of Georgia—Visiting Scholar, Journalism

GUEST LECTURESHIPS/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Blue Hills Writing Institute, Curry College

Boston University, Dept. of Communications

Chabot College (California), journalism

Dartmouth College, Institute of Ethics

Dartmouth College, School of Medicine

California State University/Dominguez Hills, Journalism

California State University/Hayward, journalism

Emerson College, journalism

Harvard University, creative writing

Harvard University-John F. Kennedy School of Government, campaign strategies

Harvard University-John F. Kennedy School of Government, media and politics

Harvard University School of Medicine, neonatology

Loyola University-Chicago, neonatology

Occidental College, journalism

Simmons College, journalism/communications

University of California, Berkeley—journalism

University of California-Los Angeles, Journalism

University of Southern California, Dept. of Journalism

EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREE IN JOURNALISM, University of California, Berkeley.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HISTORY, University of California, Berkeley.

FELLOWSHIP

Casey Journalism Center, University of Maryland

ADVOCACY

The publication of “Born Too Soon” and ensuing reviews stirred controversy and colloquy among health care providers. The book was the impetus for a conference sponsored by the University of Vermont Medical School that attracted physicians, parents and other health care professionals from around the country. Out of the conference came a committee that established a first-ever set of family-centered guidelines for parents and medical professionals involved in the care of premature infants. These principles continue to be employed in many hospitals throughout the country.

Board of directors member emeritus, Discovering Justice. This Boston-based nonprofit organization brings elementary and middle-school aged youth to the federal court to help demystify the legal system. Discovering Justice has become a national model by offering litigation workshops to these young people in some of Boston’s leading law firms. The students participate in mock trials held in the federal courthouse and presided over by federal judges.

Boston Public Library, Literary Lights advisory panel. Annual participation in the selection of leading authors and poets from New England to be honored for their works.

Volunteer advocate and informal media consultant (also volunteer) for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.