

Tom Benner

Lawrence, NJ | (609) 462-8616 | tgbenner@gmail.com | [LinkedIn](#)

JOURNALIST | EDITOR | INSTRUCTOR

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning journalist with extensive experience reporting and editing across a wide range of subjects. Skilled at guiding stories from conception to publication and mentoring emerging talent. Brings a track record of meeting tight deadlines while producing high-quality work, along with experience teaching journalism at the college level. A collegial, results-oriented professional with strong multimedia and social media skills and a commitment to both craft and collaboration.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Reporting & Feature Writing | ✓ Curriculum Design & Instruction | ✓ Editorial Planning & Strategy |
| ✓ Public Affairs & Policy Reporting | ✓ Professional Writing Instruction | ✓ Workshop Design & Facilitation |
| ✓ Research | ✓ Cross-Cultural Communication | ✓ Mentorship & Talent Development |

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Editorial Leadership in Asia: Served as Senior Editor at Forkast.News and Editor at *Forbes Asia*, leading teams and managing daily digital coverage across the Asia-Pacific region, including emerging technology, business, and policy.

International Reporting and Publication: Reported extensively from Asia and the U.S. with bylines in *Al Jazeera English*, *Nikkei Asia*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Atlantic*; covered major political, economic, and social issues with clarity and depth.

Journalism Instruction & Global Training: Taught journalism at Emerson College, Northeastern University, and Singapore Polytechnic; designed and led professional writing workshops for ASEAN, the U.S. Embassy, and international journalist training programs in Timor-Leste.

JOURNALISM & EDITING

Freelance Journalist and Editor, Singapore and USA | October 2012 – Present

- Bylines in *Christian Science Monitor*, *Nikkei Asian Review*, *Global Post*, *the Atlantic*, *the Straits Times*, *Today*, *Japan Today*, [NJ.com](#)
- Singapore correspondent, *Al Jazeera English*
- Columnist for *Mainichi Weekly*, published by Mainichi Shimbun. October 2015 – December 2020
- Editor at *Forbes Asia*. March 2019 – December 2022

Senior Editor, Forkast.News, Hong Kong | August 2021 – December 2022

Edited a daily online publication for digital media platform focusing on blockchain, cryptocurrency and emerging technologies in the Asia Pacific region. Mentored and trained writing staff.

Editor-in-chief, *Spare Change News*, Cambridge, Mass. July 2011 to September 2012

Edited a biweekly newspaper covering homelessness and related news and policy issues in the Greater Boston area.

Managed paid and volunteer staff, oversaw news coverage, led social media efforts, reported and wrote news stories and editorials.

Communications Director, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Boston, MA. March 2008 – March 2011

Oversaw and refined research publications for a nonpartisan policy center focused on advancing economic equity in Massachusetts, translating complex fiscal issues into accessible content for media, legislators, and the public.

State House Bureau Chief, *Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, MA. September 2000 – February 2008

Reported and oversaw coverage of Massachusetts state and legislative issues, government and elections for daily newspaper. Wrote editorials reflecting editorial board opinions.

Business Editor, *Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, MA. February 1999 – September 2000

Oversaw business news coverage and managed business reporting staff for daily newspaper.

PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications and editorial work across magazines, books, and major media outlets, reflecting a strong track record in long-form journalism and collaborative publishing.

Editor-in-Chief, *N3 Magazine*, official publication of the New. Now. Next. Media Conference, Asian American Journalists Association (Asia chapter). Published annually, 2018 – 2022.

Co-author, *The Singapore Lessons: Wheelock College's Early Childhood Learning Journey*, with Beth Fredericks. Published June 2018.

Editor, *Living in Singapore*, Fourteenth Edition Reference Guide, American Association of Singapore. August 2015 – May 2016.

Author, "Singapore: A Smart Living Laboratory," in *Scientific American's Singapore: A Smart Nation*, May 5, 2016.

Contributing Editor, *How to LEAD (Learn, Engage, Apply, Develop)*, Ranga Krishnan, MediaCorp Press Ltd, 2015.

Contributing Writer, *Influential Brands — A Documentary of Their Heroic Rise*, Brand Alliance, 2014.

TEACHING & TRAINING

Singapore Polytechnic – Lecturer, School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences

Singapore, April – August 2017

Taught News Writing for the Global Audience and Writing Across Media Platforms to undergraduates, with a focus on clarity, audience engagement, and digital adaptability.

Emerson College – Journalism Instructor

Boston, MA, September 2011 – May 2012

Taught Beat Reporting Across Media, a multimedia reporting course in which students produced stories in print, audio, and video while covering local beats across Boston.

Northeastern University – Journalism Instructor, School of Journalism

Boston, MA, January – May 2008

Taught *Introduction to Journalism* to undergraduate journalism majors, emphasizing news values, reporting techniques, and journalistic ethics.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) – Writing Workshop Facilitator

Jakarta, Indonesia, December 2019 – December 2020

Designed and delivered a series of professional writing workshops for ASEAN's multicultural staff, with a focus on effective communication, reporting, and cross-cultural clarity.

U.S. Embassy – Workshop Facilitator

Singapore, November 2018

Led writing workshops for professional staff on expository writing, grammar and usage, and social media communication for government contexts.

Singapore Press Club – Journalism Trainer, Timor-Leste

October 2013 and June 2015

Conducted journalism training workshops in Dili, Timor-Leste, focused on government accountability, parliamentary reporting, and national budget coverage for local journalists.

EDUCATION

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

B.A., Liberal Arts, 1981

Columbia University

Graduate coursework, School of International and Public Affairs and School of Journalism, 1987–1989

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan – Journalism Fellow

Dateline Tokyo Program, Fall 2014

One of six international journalists selected for a reporting fellowship supported by the Municipality of Tokyo to promote in-depth, on-the-ground coverage of the city.

Suburban Newspapers of America – National Third Place, Community Service, 2007

Shared in award for “*Melanie’s Law*,” a series on successful efforts to strengthen laws against repeat drunken driving.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving – National Print Media Award, 2006

Recognized for stories and editorials that led to passage of tougher repeat DUI legislation in Massachusetts.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving – National Print Media Award, 2004

Awarded for a special investigative report on habitual drunk drivers.

Inland Local News Writing Competition – First Place (National), 2001

Top honors in newspapers with circulations of 25,001–75,000 for a series on the economic and policy impacts of the state lottery.

Society of American Business Editors and Writers – Best in Business, Spot News, 1999

Recognized for spot coverage of the Raytheon Company’s Quincy plant closing.

Society of Professional Journalists – First Place, Daily Opinion Writing, 1990

New Jersey Chapter award.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Asian American Journalists Association – Asia Chapter Board Member

Elected, January 2016 – present

Active leadership role supporting regional journalism initiatives, conferences, and professional development.

Singapore Press Club – Management Committee Member

Elected, April 2013 – June 2023

Served on the governing body of one of Singapore's leading journalism organizations, contributing to programming, outreach, and professional advocacy.