

**James Sheeler**  
[jsheeler@mac.com](mailto:jsheeler@mac.com)  
<http://www.jimsheeler.com>

---

## **BOOKS**

*Final Salute*, The Penguin Press, 2008  
*Obit: Inspiring Stories of Everyday People who led Extraordinary Lives*, Pruett Publishing, 2007, paperback published by Penguin Books, 2008

Co-author:

*Life on the Death Beat: A Handbook for Obituary Writers*, with Alana Baranick and Steve Miller, Marion Street Press, 2005

Contributions to:

*Faces of Freedom* Wentworth Publishing, 2007  
*Best Newspaper Writing*, CQ Press, 2006  
*Fodor's Colorado*, Fodor's Travel Publications, 2006  
*MusicHound Lounge: The Essential Guide to Martini Music and Easy Listening*, Visible Ink Press, 1998

## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

Pulitzer Prize for Feature Reporting, 2006  
Finalist: National Book Award, 2008  
Christopher Award, 2009  
American Society of Newspaper Editors, First Place, 2006  
American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, First Place, 2006  
Induction into International Obituary Writer's Hall of Fame, 2006  
Best of the West, First Place, 2006  
Best of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, First Place, 2006  
Best of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Second Place, 2004  
Best of the West, Second Place, 2002

## **EDUCATION**

University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado  
M.A. Journalism 2007

Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
B.A. Technical Journalism, 1990

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Case Western Reserve University Cleveland, Ohio*  
2010 - present

- Shirley Wormser Professor of Journalism and Media Writin, teaching introduction to journalism, multimedia storytelling and feature writing.

*University of Colorado* Boulder, Colorado

2008-2010

- Scholar in Residence, teaching advanced reporting and feature writing to undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Fall, 2007

- Taught advanced reporting as adjunct instructor

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*Rocky Mountain News* Denver, Colorado

2002 – 2008

News feature writer for 250,000 circulation (400,000 weekends) daily paper

*Freelance Writer* Boulder, Colorado

2000 – 2002

Created regular Sunday narrative obituary feature in the Denver Post, “A Colorado Life.” Wrote monthly stories about military veterans.

*Boulder Planet* Boulder, Colorado

1996 – 2000

- Senior staff writer at 35,000-circulation community weekly

*Boulder Daily Camera* Boulder, Colorado

1992 – 1996

- Worked on the following desks: City, Environment, Business, Entertainment

*Rocky Mountain Collegian* Fort Collins, Colorado

May 1987 to December 1988. August 1990 to December 1990

## **VISITING FACULTY/FEATURED LECTURER:**

2010 Aurora Multimedia Workshop Presented by Nikon, Boulder, CO

2009 U.S. Army Medical/Surgical Behavioral Science Conference, Germany

2009 Old Dominion University Literary Festival, “Writers in Peace and War,” Norfolk, VA

2009 Colorado Press Association annual meeting, Denver, CO

2008 Texas Association of Journalism Educators, San Antonio, TX

2008 Virginian Pilot newspaper, Norfolk, VA

2008 WORD writing conference, Kitty Hawk, NC

2008 Castle Rock Writer’s Conference, Castle Rock, CO

2007 Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida, “Narrative Writing on Deadline”

2007 American Press Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

2007 National Writing Seminar, Wichita, Kansas

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

2010 Featured panelist, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Denver CO

2010 Featured panelist, Associated Writers and Writing Programs annual conference,

Denver CO  
2010 Keynote speaker, Society of Professional Journalists Region 9 annual meeting, Denver CO  
2009 Keynote speaker, U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Tankers Association reunion, Charleston, SC  
2009 Keynote speaker, Colorado Gold Star Families annual meeting, Estes Park, CO  
2009 Featured speaker: American Library Association, Denver, CO  
2009 Featured speaker, "Final Salute," Colorado State University. Fort Collins, CO  
2009 Featured speaker, National Association of College Stores Convention Anaheim, CA  
2009 Featured speaker, Washington County Reads, Brenham, TX  
2009 Featured speaker at Rotary International of Denver and Fort Collins, CO  
2009 Featured speaker, Remembering the Brave, Washington, D.C.  
2008 Guest lecturer, USAA (Insurance for government employees), San Antonio, TX  
2008 Keynote speaker: No Greater Sacrifice Foundation, Chicago, IL  
2008 Speaker: Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, Greenwich, CT  
2008 Keynote speaker: University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication homecoming  
2008 Keynote speaker: Remembering the Brave Foundation ceremony, San Diego, CA  
2008 Speaker: Society of Professional Obituary Writers Conference, Portland, OR  
2008 Speaker: International Association of Obituary Writers Conference, Las Vegas, NM  
2008 Commencement speaker, University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication graduation, Boulder CO  
2008 Keynote speaker for various Colorado service organizations including Boulder Rotary Club and Denver Lions Club  
2007 Featured speaker, Colorado State University, creative writing series  
2007 Speaker, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia  
2007 Keynote speaker, National High School Journalism Convention, Denver, Colorado  
2006 Keynote speaker: Colorado Press Association, Denver, CO  
2006 Speaker, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas  
2006 Keynote Address, Journalism Day at Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO  
2006 Keynote speaker, International Association of Obituary Writers, Alfred, NY  
2005 Speaker, International Association of Obituary Writers, Las Vegas, NM  
2004 Speaker, International Association of Obituary Writers, Bath, United Kingdom  
2002 Speaker, International Association of Obituary Writers, Las Vegas, NM

#### **NATIONAL BROADCAST MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- Newshour with Jim Lehrer on PBS
- NBC Nightly News
- NPR's Fresh Air with Terri Gross
- Book TV on C-SPAN2

#### **STATEWIDE AWARDS**

2006 Best of Colorado in Print Journalism, Society of Professional Journalists  
1997 Best of Colorado in Print Journalism, Society of Professional Journalists  
1996 Best of Colorado in Print Journalism, Society of Professional Journalists

(judged best published newspaper story of the year among all circulations throughout the state)

2007 Colorado Book Awards

•Creative Nonfiction Finalist, *Obit: Inspiring Stories of Ordinary People who Led Extraordinary Lives*

2007 Colorado Press Association (circ 75,000 and above)

- First Place, Feature Story
- Second Place, Feature Story

2006 Colorado Press Association (circ. 100,000 and above)

- Achievement of the Year Award
- First Place, Story-Picture Combo
- Second Place, Feature Story

2006 Colorado Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, News Feature
- First Place, Reader
- Second Place, Reader

2006 Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, Feature Writing
- First Place, Beat Reporting

2006 Denver Press Club Denver Newspaper Guild Awards (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, Enterprise/Investigation
- Second Place, Feature Profile-News

2005 Colorado Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, News Feature
- Second Place, News Feature

2004 Colorado Press Association (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, Best Feature Story
- First Place, Best Special Section
- Third Place, Best Feature Story

2004 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, News Feature
- Second Place, News Feature

2004 Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters (circ. 100,000 and above)

- Second Place, Feature Writing

2003 Colorado Press Association (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, Best Feature Story

1999 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 100,000 and above)

- First Place, "A Reader"

1998 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, Science/Environmental/Medical reporting
- First Place, General Reporting, single story
- First Place, News Features
- First Place, Feature Writing, single story
- First Place, A Reader

- First Place, Arts and Entertainment reporting
- Second Place, General Reporting-single story
- Second Place, General Reporting-series
- Second Place, Business Reporting-feature

1997 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, Science/Environmental/Medical feature
- First Place, Feature Writing, single story
- First Place, A Reader
- Second Place, General reporting, single story
- Second Place, Science/Environment/Medical feature
- Second Place, Deadline Reporting
- Third Place, News Feature
- Third Place, Science/Environmental/Medical feature

1996 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, General Reporting
- First Place, Investigative/Enterprise Reporting
- First Place, Science/Environment/Medical
- Second Place, Feature Writing
- Second Place, Business Feature Writing
- Third Place, Science/Environment/Medical Writing
- Third Place, Investigative/Enterprise Reporting
- Third Place, Feature Writing

1995 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, Reporting, Arts and Entertainment
- First Place, Commentary/Criticism in Arts and Entertainment
- First Place, Feature: Science/Environment/Medical
- First Place, Business Feature Writing
- Second Place, Feature, Arts and Entertainment
- Second Place, Business Feature Writing

1995 Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters(circ. 10,000-100,000)

- Second Place, Business Writing
- Third Place, Business News

1994 Society of Professional Journalists (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, Business Feature Writing
- First Place, General Reporting
- First Place, General Reporting, Series
- First Place, Reporting Science/Environment/Medical
- First Place, Feature Writing
- First Place, General Reporting
- First Place, General Business Reporting
- Second Place, General Business Reporting
- Second Place, General Reporting

1994 Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters (circ. 10,000-100,000)

- First Place, Feature Writing
- First Place, Business Writing

## **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

- 2009 Scroll of Appreciation, U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command
- 2008 Certificate of Appreciation, Marine Corps League, Windsor Detachment
- 2007 Certificate of Appreciation, Colorado National Guard
- 2006 Certificate of Appreciation, First Battalion Ninth Marines Network
- 2006 Colorado American Legion Media Awards (circ. 100,000 and above)
  - First Place, Feature Writing
- 2000 American Legion Awards (circ. 100,000 and above)
  - First Place, Feature Reporter
- 1999 Community Educator of the Year, Developmental Disabilities Center, Boulder, CO

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2009 Final Cut Pro workshop, Boulder Digital Arts, Boulder, CO
- 2009 Multimedia Journalism for College Educators, Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2009 Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology Conference, University of Colorado
- 2005 Nieman Narrative Conference, Harvard University
- 2003 Nieman Narrative Conference, Harvard University
- 1990 National Press Photographer's Convention, Norman, OK

## **INTERNSHIPS**

- Cable News Network.** Atlanta, Georgia - March 1990 to June 1990
  - KCNC-TV.** Fort Collins, Colorado - August 1989 to December 1989
  - KPRC-TV.** Houston, Texas - August 1989 to December 1989
  - KIIX Radio.** Fort Collins, Colorado - January 1989 to May 1989
-