

## **ALISON ROSTANKOWSKI**

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

*M.A., Journalism and Mass Communication*, May 1997.

*Thesis Title:* "The Documentary Tradition: A Cultural Critique of the Television Documentary."

*M.A., History*, December 1994.

*Thesis Title:* "The Impact of Robert Venturi on Postmodern Architecture: A New Direction for a Postindustrial Society."

#### **University of Nottingham, England**

*B.A., (Honors)*, American Studies, June 1992.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### 2004-Present, Lecturer, UW-Milwaukee

Introduction to Mass Communication (JMC 101)

Contemporary Non-Fiction Media (JMC 260)

Gender and the Media (JMC 460)

Documentary Production (JMC 660)

Mass Communication and Culture (JMC 662)

#### 2001-2004, Associate Lecturer, UW-Milwaukee

Updating and restructuring content of JMC survey course

Integrating multimedia approaches to large lecture settings

Supervising and mentoring five teaching assistants

Creating two new courses (JMC 260/660)

Developing student interest in documentary theory and production

Mentoring students and preparing them for professional careers in the media

#### 1992-1994 and 1996, Teaching Assistant, UW-Milwaukee

Leading discussion sections and providing research support for survey courses in American History and Journalism.

### **UNIVERSITY/FACULTY WORK**

#### 2005- Present, Co-Founder of docUWM

A new initiative expanding and enhancing UWM's research capacity by providing unmatched documentary services to campus clients and off-campus clients creating opportunities to significantly raise UWM's profile among both community leaders and the general public.

- Partnering with The Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning and other local nonprofits
- Developing projects with campus partners that utilize video and multimedia communication
- Providing students with professional experience

### 2002-Present, Environmental Health Programs (National Institute of Health Grants)

Collaborating with Distinguished Professor David Petering (Chemistry) and Professor John Dellinger (Health Sciences) and creating innovative videos communicating safe fishing practices to Wisconsin's Hmong and Native American populations.

- Partnering with The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center and Hmong American Friendship Association
- Partnering with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
- Integrating community input and balancing local concerns with scientific evidence
- Pioneering innovative approaches to communicating health messages
- Distributing completed videos to doctors and health care facilities

Collaborating with Distinguished Professor David Petering (Chemistry) and The United Community Center.

- Conceptualizing television series on healthy living that targets Milwaukee's Latino population

### 2003, Board of Regents Video

Initiating new class to produce video for Board of Regents meeting. Managing and coordinating all elements of production and eventual screening.

- Partnering with University Relations and Communications and Alumni Association
- Executing a professional production with high production values
- Video became part of university's scholarship recruiting materials

### 2000, Board of Regents Video: The Wisconsin Idea.

Collaborating with Senior Lecturer Mark Zoromski (Journalism and Mass Communication), staff at John Marshall High School, and UWM's University Relations and Communications to produce video for Board of Regents meeting.

- Identifying and conducting historical and archival research
- Leading student teams and interviewing former Wisconsin governors
- Advising script and final edit

### Committee Work

Journalism and Mass Communication-- Curriculum Committee

Journalism and Mass Communication—Scholarship and Internship Committee

### Grants /Research Money Awarded

Research Growth Initiative Award, 2006: University award to develop docUWM initiative (\$116,000)

National Institute of Health Award, 2002/2005: Funding for environmental health videos (\$80,000)

### Conference and Invited Presentations

- November 2006. "Risks of Consuming Chemically Contaminated Fish in the Hmong Community", APHA Symposium, Boston, (David H. Petering, LoNeng Kiatoukaysy, Peter McAvoy, Alison Rostankowski, Daniel Weber, Tess Gallun, John Dellinger, Mary Beth Driscoll, and Stephen Percy)
- 2006, Console-ing Passions, International Conference on Television, Audio, Video, New Media and Feminism, "Identify and Politics" –Chair.
- 2005, Common Ground Conference: Building Coalitions Against Racism and Privilege in Greater Milwaukee—Presenter
- February, 2005, "Risks of Consuming Chemically Contaminated Fish in the Hmong Community", AAAS meeting symposium on environmental justice strategies, Washington DC,

(David H. Petering, LoNeng Kiatoukaysy, Peter McAvoy, Alison Rostankowski, Daniel Weber, Tess Gallun, John Dellinger, Mary Beth Driscoll, and Stephen Percy)

- December, 2005, "The Fish are Contaminated with Mercury and PCBs: Collaborating with the Hmong Community in Milwaukee to Communicate the Risks and Benefits of Local Fish Consumption", Pacificchem 2005 meeting symposium (Chemistry and the Community) on Toxins, Food Safety, and toxicology and public the Public: Education, Outreach, and Medical Aspects, Honolulu, (David H. Petering, LoNeng Kiatoukaysy, Peter McAvoy, Alison Rostankowski, Daniel Weber, Tess Gallun, John Dellinger, Mary Beth Driscoll, and Stephen Percy)

### **Journal Feature**

"Environmental Health Perspectives feature: Fish Tales to Insure Health," *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 112, (2004): A738

### Guest Lectures/Campus Presentations

Guest lecturer: Urban Studies 250: Exploring the Urban Environment, (Kimberly Stephens, instructor)

Guest lecturer: Liberal Studies 722: War in the Media Age: Information, Entertainment, and Persuasion, (Jeffery Smith, instructor)

Documentary Presentation and talkback: *In A Just World*, UWM Union Theater

Presenter and Panelist: Race Relations in Milwaukee, UWM Union in collaboration with Sociocultural programming

### **NON PROFIT WORK:**

#### 2006, Documentary: Nindamwaa Giigoon: An Anishinaabe Guide to Eating Fish

Producer, director and writer for 20-minute documentary educating the Anishinaabe Native American community of Upper Michigan about the health problems associated with fish consumption.

#### 2005, McCormick Tribune Foundation: McCormick Tribune Museum

Member of curatorial team producing research and story content for national museum on freedom and the First Amendment.

- Leading research on the role of media in democracy and the marketplace of ideas
- Defining content and visual resources for all sections of museum
- Consulting with national exhibition designers
- Consulting on media installations and interactive programming
- Advising national film production company on research and script for museum orientation film
- Identifying, acquiring and negotiating rights to archive film and photography
- Reviewing exhibit script
- Communicating with academic experts on advisory team and maintaining high academic standards
- Producing, scheduling and interviewing U.S. President Jimmy Carter, U.S. Senator Barak Obama, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem, U.S. Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., Bill Maher, Reza Aslan and others.

#### 2004, Documentary: The Hands That Built the Sullivan

Creating relationship with Pier Wisconsin and leading a team of student filmmakers in the creation of a documentary profiling the volunteers who helped build the *Denis Sullivan* schooner ship

- Documentary aired on Milwaukee Public Television twice in 2004

#### 2004, Public Service Announcements

Producer, director and writer of short public service announcement encouraging Milwaukee's senior

population to participate in local politics.

2003, Documentary: *Below the Surface*

Producer, director and writer for 25-minute documentary educating the Hmong community about the health problems associated with fish consumption.

2002, Documentary: *Here to Help*

Producer and director for 20-minute promotional documentary for the Suburban Area Agency on Aging in Chicago encouraging Chicago seniors to volunteer for community programs.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2006, Documentary: *American Prayer: The Spiritual History of Our Nation* (Expected PBS release date, September 2007)

Producer, co-writer and researcher for 2-hour public television documentary on the impact of prayer on American history and culture. Responsibilities:

- Assembling an advisory panel of national religious scholars
- Conducting extensive research on the history of prayer and religion
- Defining content, treatment and storylines
- Supervising archival research process
- Directing and conducting on-camera interviews
- Writing script
- Advising on 4 –part children’s series for Discovery Education
- Working with Iowa Public Television and Outreach Extensions and designing national community outreach campaign.

2004, Documentary: *The Cost of Freedom: Civil Liberties, Security and the USA PATRIOT Act* (National public television release date, October 2004)

Producer, co-writer and researcher for program exploring tensions between civil liberties and national security throughout American history. Responsibilities:

- Conducting extensive research on the history of civil liberties during wartime
- Defining content, treatment and storylines
- Heading archival research process
- Directing and conducting on-camera interviews
- Writing script
- Facilitating outreach and public speaking engagements

2003, Documentary: *Beyond the Gridiron: The Life and Times of Woody Hayes* (Aired on Ohio Public Television 2003. National public television release date 2004.)

Producer, writer and researcher for biography of controversial Ohio State University football coach Woody Hayes. Responsibilities:

- Defining content, treatment and storylines
- Leading research process
- Identifying and acquiring archival research
- Directing and conducting on-camera interviews
- Writing script
- Liaising with university administration and faculty
- Coordinating production with Ohio Public Television WOSU

**2003, Documentary: *In A Just World: Contraception, Abortion and World Religions.* (National public television release date September 2003)**

Producer and researcher for documentary examining women's reproductive decisions and how they are shaped by religious teachings. National PBS broadcast 2003. Responsibilities include:

- Assembling an advisory panel of national religious scholars
- Conducting extensive research on world religions and the varied teachings on reproduction
- Defining content, treatment and storylines
- Supervising archival research process
- Coordinating international travel and filming (Ethiopia and Peru)
- Directing and conducting on-camera interviews
- Developing relationships with national nonprofit agencies, CARE and Save the Children
- Reviewing and consulting on script
- Coordinating production with Chicago Public Television station WTTW

**1999, Documentary: *Through One City's Eyes: Race Relations in America's Heartland* (Aired on Wisconsin Public Television 1999)**

Co-producer and researcher for documentary and community campaign examining race relations in Milwaukee.

- Assisting research process
- Supervising archival research process
- Creating website design and content
- Liaising with local non-profit organizations
- Facilitating community forums
- Coordinating and assisting traveling photography exhibit

**Major Documentary Funders:**

Harley Davidson Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, Fleck Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Fund for Investigative Journalism, The John Templeton Foundation

**Public Speaking Engagements**

- 2005, Milwaukee International Film Festival: Moderator of panel discussion on documentary film and distribution
- 2005, Presentation and documentary screening of *In A Just World*, to Planned Parenthood, Milwaukee
- 2004, Milwaukee Forum: Moderator of debate between US Attorney Steve Biskupic and Chris Ahmuty (Wisconsin ACLU)
- 2004, Presentation and documentary screening of *The Cost of Freedom*, at Milwaukee's Fourth Street Forum at Turner Hall
- 2004, Presentation and screening of *The Cost of Freedom*, to League of Women Voters
- 2003, Presentation at Ohio Premier of *Beyond the Gridiron*
- 2003, Presentation and documentary screening of *In A Just World*, at Alverno College.
- 1999-2001, community forums and presentations to school groups discussing *Through One City's Eyes*

**AWARDS**

***In A Just World***

- 2004 EMMY Award First Place –Documentary of Cultural Significance (regional competition)
- 2004 CINE Golden Eagle Award First Place (national competition)
- 2004 New York Festivals Award Bronze Medal (national competition)
- 2004 Worldfest Houston International Awards Bronze Medal (international competition)

*Beyond the Gridiron*

- 2004 EMMY Award First Place – Best Sports Program (regional competition)
- 2004 New York Festivals Award Bronze Medal (national competition)
- 2004 Telly Award Competition First Place (national competition)
- 2004 Worldfest Houston International Awards Silver Medal (international competition)

*Through One City's Eyes*

- 2000, Gabriel Award -Certificate of Merit (national competition)
- Worldfest Houston International Awards Gold Medal (national competition)