

Alton Miller Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor, Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605
Email: amiller@colum.edu -- Web: www.altonmiller.com



Academic Background

Graduate Studies

2003- 2005 Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont
M.F.A., Creative Writing, 2005
Thesis: *Chicago Power & Light*, a political
novel exploring the Chicago of Mayor
Harold Washington's "Council Wars"

Undergraduate Studies

1999-2003 Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1964-1966 American University, Washington, D.C.
1961-1962 George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Academic Experience: (Columbia College Chicago, tenured 2005)

1999-present Associate Professor
Courses: Political/Governmental Public Relations,
"50 Years of Civil Rights in Chicago," "Semiotics"
"Communication Ethics," "Public Relations Writing"
(classroom and online)

2005-2012 Associate Dean
School of Media Arts
Columbia College Chicago

1990-1999 Assistant Professor (adjunct)
Columbia College Chicago
Courses: Political/Governmental Public Relations, PR Writing

1978 Visiting lecturer
Georgetown University Summer Associates Program
Course: Art History

Research Interests:

- 2010-2013 Principal Investigator, *Crisis Communications Research Project*, studying the efficacy of social media in emergency management and crisis response.
- 2005-2006 Co-Principal Investigator, *High Rise Crisis Response Simulation*, to develop a video game to prepare office workers for crisis events.

Conferences Attended

The Chicago SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) History Project
Chicago – February 2017

6th International History of Public Relations Conference (IHPRC) – Bournemouth,
U.K. – July 2015

IADIS International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital
Age – CELDA – Freiberg, Germany, October 2008

Presentations, Papers, and Panels

Miller, Alton, (2018, July). *Teaching the history of public opinion and PR practice*.
9th International History of Public Relations Conference (IHPRC), in Manchester,
Dorset, U.K.

Miller, Alton, (2016 September). *Sen. Bob LaFollette's "Publicists" and the modern
origin of U.S. public relations*. Paper presented at the 7th International History of
Public Relations Conference (IHPRC), in Bournemouth, Dorset, U.K.

Invited Panelist, (January, 2014). IEEE CogSIMA Conference (Cognitive and
Computational Aspects of Situation Management), San Antonio, Texas, bringing
together academic, industry and military researchers to develop an
interdisciplinary approach to Situation Awareness as "a complex process of truth
maintenance of past situations, detection of current situations and prediction of
future situations."

Miller, Alton, (2010 September). *The political rhetoric of President Barack Obama
and Chicago Mayor Harold Washington*. Paper presented at Texting Obama:
Politics/Poetics/Popular Culture at the Centre of Research in English, Manchester
Metropolitan University, in Manchester, England.

Miller, Alton, (2009, September). *Comparisons of the political rhetoric of President
Barack Obama and Chicago Mayor Harold Washington*. Paper presented at the
Meeting of the 2nd International Conference on Political Linguistics, Lodz, Poland.

Miller, Alton, (2002 October). *Public relations writing moves from the classroom
online: An experience report*. Paper presented at the 7th Annual E-Learn
Conference in Montreal, Canada

Biographical & Career

1943-65 Checkered Youth

- Apprentice, lighting design, technical director, Washington Theater Club, 1960-61
 - Photographer's apprentice, George deVincent, Washington, D.C., 1961-62
 - Copy boy (sic), Washington Post, 1962
 - Furniture mover, Don Warren Modique, New York City, 1963
 - Script & continuity assistant, filming of National Guard documentary,
in N.J., Ariz., Nev., Texas, S. C., Washington, D.C., 1963
 - U.S. Marine Corps (Res.) Basic Training, Parris Island, S.C., Hon. Dis. 1963
 - Forklift operator, Mainz-Kastel, Germany, 1964-65
 - Mail clerk, U.S. Embassy, Brussels, Belgium, 1965
-
- 1965-66 **Arena Stage**, Washington, D.C.,
Sound technician, lighting assistant
-
- 1966 **Houghton Lake Playhouse**, Summer 1966, Houghton Lake, Mich.
Technical director, set designer
-
- 1966-68 **Washington Theater Club**, Washington, D.C.
Press & Public Relations
-
- 1968 **Wayside Theater**, Summer 1968, Middletown, Va.
General Manager
-
- 1968-76 **Arena Stage**, Washington, D.C.
PR & Marketing Director, Associate Producing Director
-
- 1976-80 **Washington Calendar Magazine** (1976-80), **Washington Star**, (1979-80)
Drama Critic
-
- 1976-78 **Coolfont Conference Center**, Berkeley Springs, W. Va.
Marketing Consultant
-
- 1977-83 **Washington Ballet**, Washington, D.C.
Marketing Consultant (1977), Managing Director (1978-83)
-
- 1983-84 **Chicago City Ballet**
General Director
-
- 1984-85 **Ohio Ballet** (Akron)
Marketing consultant, Acting General Manager
-
- 1985-87 **Press secretary, Speechwriter**
Mayor Harold Washington, City of Chicago
-
- 1987-91 **Freelance Writer**
Author, columnist, speechwriter (books, articles detailed below)

1991-2001 **Political Communications Consultant / Director**

Speechwriter, consultant, Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Philadelphia, Pa. 1991
Communications director, Carol Moseley-Braun for Senate, 1991-92
Community relations consultant, United Auto Workers, 1993-98
Marketing Communications consultant, lobbyist, Illinois Arts Alliance, 1995-99
Author & designer, *The Arts in Illinois are a Billion-Dollar Business*, Illinois Arts Alliance CD-ROM presentation, 1996
Culture Editor, In These Times Magazine, 1996
Campaign manager, Miriam Santos for Attorney General, 1997-98
Campaign manager, re-Elect Miriam Santos City Treasurer, 1998-99
Editor, special Columbia College issues of StreetWise, Fall 2000, Spring 2001
Author, advocacy handbook, Ill. Arts Alliance, *Democracy in Action*, 2000

Books Published

- 1988 *Climbing a Great Mountain: Selected Speeches of Mayor Harold Washington*, foreword by Coretta Scott King, Chicago, Illinois: Bonus Books, Inc.
1989 *Harold Washington: The Mayor, The Man*, Chicago, Illinois: Bonus Books, Inc.
1991 Warfield, William, with Alton Miller, *William Warfield: My Music & My Life* Champaign, Illinois: Sagamore Publishing Co., Inc.

Online Articles (retrieved at <http://work.colum.edu/~amiller/commongood.htm>)

- 2003 (June 10), *Nuking Iraq*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (May 27), *Weapons of Mass Distraction*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (May 13), *The Book on Richard Perle*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (April 29), *Needed: A New Vision for America*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (April 15), *Working Against the Grain*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (April 1), *When Worse Comes to Worst*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (March 18), *The Best of Times, the Worst of Times*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (March 4), *The Alternative to Bush's War*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (February 18), *Could It Happen Here?*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (February 4), *To Save the World*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (January 21), *101 Reasons Not to Go to War with Iraq*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
2003 (January 7), *Liberal Values and Public Opinion*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good

- 2002 (December 24), *A Defining Moment for Liberals*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
- 2002 (November 27), *Ten Things I Learned from Harold Washington*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good
- 2002 (November 12), *An Appetite for the Real Thing*, originally published by Protestants for the Common Good

Published (Print) Articles

Julie and Me: Christie Helps One Fan Define a Decade, Chicago Tribune, September 12, 1991

After the Bread, the Circuses; Making the Case for the Arts; Free WFMT!; Not a Minute Too Soon, Chicago Times Magazine, March/April 1990

Arrogance and Acquiescence; Climate of Fear; Washington on the Lake; High and Wide, Chicago Times Magazine, January/February 1990

The Mayor Makes a Miracle, Chicago Times Magazine, July/August 1989

The Media Take a Break, Chicago Times Magazine, November/December 1989

They Can Dish It Out but They Can't Take It, Chicago Times Magazine, September/October 1989

In Charge, But Not in Control, New York Newsday, August 18, 1989

A Rich Topic: Theater About a Subject Everybody Loves, Chicago Times Magazine, July/August 1989

Happy Warrior: The Book on Harold, Chicago Times Magazine, March/April 1989

A Remembrance: The Final Day, Chicago Tribune Magazine, February 18, 1989

World Puppetry Fest Comes to Washington, Washington Calendar Magazine, June 1980

A Joyous "Dreamcoat", Washington Star, April 14, 1980

Preoccupied with Decay, Washington Star, April 10, 1980

A Top-Hat Tip to Tip-Top Fun, Washington Star, April 3, 1980

"Swing" Doesn't, Washington Star, March 7, 1980

"A Powerful 'Elephant Man', Washington Star, February 28, 1980

"Day by Day" Out of Context, Washington Star, February 25, 1980

Lame-Brained "Gotham Gal", Washington Star, February 14, 1980

Love, Death at Folger, Washington Star, February 10, 1980

"Filumena" Full of Heart, Washington Star, January 11, 1980

A Sex Comedy That's Neither Sexy nor Funny, Washington Star, January 6, 1980

On Stage, Push and Pull of Pressures, Washington Star, December 30, 1979

On Swinging in Baltimore, Washington Star, December 24, 1979

A Forceful Production of Fugard, Washington Star, December 13, 1979

The Soaring Poetry of Wole Soyinka, Washington Star, December 5, 1979

Joseph Papp Serves Up a Tasteful Theater Experience, Washington Calendar Magazine, December 1979

Jean Stapleton's "Daisy Mayme" Keeps it All in the Family, Washington Calendar Magazine, November 1979

An Unholy Alliance, Washington Calendar Magazine, October 1979

"Daddy Goodness" Brings That Old Black Magic to the National, Washington Calendar Magazine, September 1979

A Noteworthy Work by Tom Stoppard, Washington Calendar Magazine, August 1979

If You Believe, Clap Your Hands, Washington Calendar Magazine, July 1979

A Fats and Sassy Revue at the Warner, Washington Calendar Magazine, June 1979

Paris When it Sizzled, Washington Calendar Magazine, May 1979
The Gospel According to St. Mark and McCowen, Washington Calendar Magazine,
March 1979
Pillow Talk, Washington Calendar Magazine, February 1979
A Tragic King with a Poet's Soul, Washington Calendar Magazine, January 1979
Play it Again, Joe, Washington Calendar Magazine, December 1978
Peter O'Toole and Company, Washington Calendar Magazine, November 1978
Singing the Danube Blues, Washington Calendar Magazine, October 1978
Hats Off - "Dolly's" Back in Town, Washington Calendar Magazine, September 1978
"Oh, Kay!" Opening, Washington Calendar Magazine, August 1978
Lifting the Bamboo Curtain, Washington Calendar Magazine, July 1978
Baum Explodes in "The Wiz", Washington Calendar Magazine, June 1978
From Russia with Feeling, Arena's Latest, Washington Calendar Magazine, May 1978
D'Oyly Carte Presents the Operas that Bloom in the Spring, Washington Calendar
Magazine, April 1978
To See Or Not To See Two, Washington Calendar Magazine, March 1978
An Impounded Poet's Story, Washington Calendar Magazine, February 1978
Paradise is Stranger Than Ever, Washington Calendar Magazine, January 1978
A Controversial Man - "Paul Robeson" Plays the National, Washington Calendar
Magazine, December 1977
Realities Etched in Acid Rock, Washington Calendar Magazine, November 1977
A "Cantata" of Simple Joys at Arena, Washington Calendar Magazine, October 1977
New Insights, Many Pounds of Flesh: Mostel as "The Merchant", Washington Calendar
Magazine, September 1977
"Somersaults" for Mary Martin's Return to the Kennedy Center, Washington Calendar
Magazine, August 1977
Taking Stock of Summer Theater, Washington Calendar Magazine, June 1977
A Theatrical Rite of Spring, Washington Calendar Magazine, April 1977
A Constellation of Dinner Theaters - a Steady Diet of Fun, Washington Calendar
Magazine, March 1977
Washington's Own Arena of Talent, Washington Calendar Magazine, February 1977
With a Little Bit of Puck, Washington Calendar Magazine, January 1977
"Hellzapoppin" Out All Over and It's a Lot of Fun, Washington Calendar Magazine,
December 1976