

## Alton Miller Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor, Columbia College Chicago  
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### 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:

1999-2018 Associate Professor (tenured 2005)  
Columbia College Chicago  
Courses: Political/Governmental Public Relations,  
Public Relations Writing, Semiotics, Civil Rights in Chicago

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: Art History

### Research Interests:

2010-2013 Principal Investigator, *Crisis Communications Research Project*, \$1.5 million DOD grant: adapting social media for emergency management.

2005-2006 Co-Principal Investigator, *High Rise Crisis Response Simulation*, \$1 million DOD grant for training high-rise office workers in emergency response.

## **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

*Storytelling at the Speed of Now Academic Summit* (invitation) – June 2014 – Richard Edelman

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

## **Presentations, Papers, Panels and Recognition**

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

Miller, Alton, (September 2016). *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.

Alton Miller: Featured Speech of the Week. (May 2015) *The Speechwriters Life: Neil Hrab, Rhetoric Editor, Vital Speeches*

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, (September 2010). *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, (September 2009). *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, (October 2002). 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. Managing Director
- 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 **City of Chicago**  
Press secretary, speechwriter, Mayor Harold Washington
- 1989-90 **Editor, "Front Page"** (arts, politics and media) Chicago Times Magazine
- 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**

*Thirty-five years ago, Harold Washington changed what Chicago's mayor could be*, Chicago Reporter, May 2, 2018

*Julie and Me: Christie Helps One Fan Define a Decade*, Chicago Tribune, Sept.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