

Eric Adler

Work Experience:

2003 - present

The Kansas City Star, Features Reporter.

New senior duties: Concentrate on "stories of impact," - long-term narrative projects and other stories for Sunday A-1 and features. National award-winning stories include "Mending Marcus," a chronicle of a mentally and emotionally ill child, "The Good Day: An Alzheimer's Love Story," "Sarah's Hope," and the short-feature, "Equine Friend Helps Woman Reconnect to Other Humans."

2003 - present

The University of Kansas, William Allen White School of Journalism, Lawrence, Kan., Lecturer

Instruct aspiring college journalists in J310 basic research and news reporting course and co-teach in J415 multimedia reporting courses.

1993 – 2003

The Kansas City Star, Features Reporter.

Responsible for writing news features, narratives, local and national trend stories. Award winning highlights include "Sarah's Hope," a three-part saga of one teen's attempt to overcome her troubled past and become high school valedictorian; a three-part series called "Grief: How it Affects The Living" that led to a community symposium and request for 10,000 reprints; a single-day narrative "Ashlee's Miracle," which prompted a deluge of organ donation inquiries to the regional organ bank.

1985 – 1993

The Kansas City Star, Science/Medical Reporter.

Hired by *The Star* in 1985 to write science and health stories for Page 1 Sundays, the daily paper and for *StarTech*, the paper's then-new Tuesday health and science section. Wrote breaking news, trend pieces and local and national features stories related to any scientific discipline: medicine, physics, anthropology, computers, paleontology, psychology, genetics. National issues included the human genome project, in-vitro fertilization, addiction, gene therapy, the "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative, the super-conducting supercollider, cold fusion, the Hubble Space Telescope, unmanned space exploration and the Challenger explosion. A series on the inequities of organ donation led to new laws in Missouri.

- June 1985 – Sept. 1985 *The Omaha World-Herald, night general assignment reporter.*
- July 1981 - August 1984 Hoffman-LaRoche Pharmaceuticals, Nutley, N.J, lab assistant.
Performed long-term toxicological animal studies and liver enzyme experiments as part of development of future drugs.
- 1979 – 1985 Montclair Volunteer Ambulance Unit, Montclair, N.J., Crew Chief.
Helped as many people as I could as medic on volunteer ambulance squad in my hometown, Montclair, N.J. Walked away with a tremendous appreciation for the human spirit and so many odd, disturbing and heart-warming tales that I eventually ended up studying journalism. Ask me sometimes about the two old ladies who had tea and cookies while we performed CPR on their maid of 20 years.

Education:

- Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Knight Science Journalism Fellowship, Cambridge. Mass., 1991
- M.S., Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism, New York, N.Y., Masters of Science in Journalism. Concentration in science and medical reporting, 1985
- B.A., Rutgers University, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, Newark, N.J. Bachelor of Arts in physiology and zoology, 1981

National and other awards

2008 Excellence in Public Service Journalism Award, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation, “Jessica’s Trial.”

2007, Heart of American Award, Kansas City Press Club, 1st Place, Features, “Mending Marcus.”

2007, Kansas Press Association, 2nd Place, “Mending Marcus.”

2007, Missouri Press Association, 3rd Place, “Mending Marcus”

2007, Outstanding Media Award for Feature Writing, NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, “Mending Marcus.”

2007, Missouri Mental Health Association Media Award, “Mending Marcus.”

2006, AASFE, American Association of Sunday and Features Editors, 1st Place, short features, “Equine Friend Helped Woman Reconnect to Other Humans.”

2006, Missouri Press Association, Division , Best News Story, 1st place, shared prize with other reporters on DNA and crime solving.

2004, Missouri Lifestyle Journalism Award, 1st Place, Features, “The Good Day: An Alzheimer’s Love Story.”

2004, AASFE, American Association of Sunday and Features Editors, 2nd Place, Narrative Feature, “The Good Day: An Alzheimer’s Love Story.”

2004, AASFS, American Association of Sunday and Features Editors, Honorable Mention, General Feature, “The Good Day, An Alzheimer’s Love Story.”

2002, AASFE, American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, Honorable Mention, “Ashlee’s Miracle.”

2002, Missouri APME, Associated Press Managing Editors Award, 1st Place, Features, “Ashlee’s Miracle.”

2002, Missouri Press Association, 1st Place, features, “Ashlee’s Miracle.”

2001, National Headliner Award, 1st Place, best feature writing of the year, “Sarah’s Hope.”

2001, American Association of Sunday and Features Editors, Honorable Mention, Long Features, "Sarah's Hope."

2001, EMMA Award, National Women's Political Caucus, National News, 1st Place, Features, "Sarah's Hope."

2001, Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors Award, 1st Place, Features, "Sarah's Hope."

2001, Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors Sweepstakes Award for single best story in the state, "Sarah's Hope."

2001, Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors Award, 1st Place, a shared prize with other reporters for political story, "The Campaign That Nobody Wanted," on the deadly plane crash of Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan and his wife ascension to the U.S. Senate

1998: Missouri Press Association, Third Place Features, "A Special Love, A Rare Day"

1996, Kansas City Press Club, First Place Features, "Grief: How Death Affects the Living"

1996, American Psychiatric Association, Robert T. Morse Writer's Award, Commendation, "Grief: How Death Affects the Living"

1996 Missouri Mental Health Association, First Place, Excellence in Reporting, "Grief: How Death Affects the Living."

1992, Kansas City Association of Black Journalists, Outstanding Enterprise, "Black Health, Medical Crisis."

PERSONAL:

- Married to Tamara Morris, political and marketing consultant, former executive director of the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus.
- Have 10-year-old son, Aidan.
- Written plays for local theaters including "Connections," which received a staged-reading at the Missouri Repertory Theatre, now called the Kansas City Repertory Theatre..
- Author of a children's book, *Is The Sky Always Blue?*, published by Star Books, 2002.

REFERENCES:

- Bill Luening, retired associate features editor, senior writing editor, *The Kansas City Star*, 816-333-3827

- Steve Kraske, Senior Political Correspondent, *The Kansas City Star*, 816-234-4312
- KU School of Journalism references: Professor Rick Musser, Patty Noland, Associate Professor Max Utsler, Associate Professor Carol Holstead, Professor Ted Frederickson, Lecturer John Hudnall