

Susan Kellam, word sharpener

Word sharpening services

Substantive editing, annual reports, opinion piece writing, manuscript shaping, communications strategies

Communications Experience

June 2007 – August 2011 The Brookings Institution Washington, DC

Senior Communications Advisor for domestic policy

- Wrote, edited, produced [Brookings annual reports](#)
- Staff lead on quarterly Brookings “[How We’re Doing](#)” Index in *The Washington Post*
- Worked on opinion pieces with Alice Rivlin, Martin Baily, Strobe Talbott, Jason Furman, Isabel Sawhill, Doug Elmendorf, Martin Indyk, Michael Greenstone, C. Eugene Steuerle, Bruce Katz, Darrell West, Christine Romer and nine other former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers
- Developed communications strategy plans with economic and political scholars.

September 2003 – June 2007 The Urban Institute Washington, DC

Research Writer/Editor

- Wrote Annual report.
- Book edits on:
 - *Contemporary U.S. Tax Policy*, C Eugene Steuerle, The Urban Institute Press, 2004
 - *The Gay & Lesbian Atlas*, Gary J. Gates & Jason Ost, The Urban Institute, 2004
 - *Medicare: A Policy Primer*, Marilyn Moon, The Urban Institute, 2006
 - *Taxing Capital Income*, Henry J. Aaron, Leonard E. Burman, and C. Eugene Steuerle, eds. 2007

1995 - 1997 American Public Welfare Association Washington, DC

Communications Director

- Improved communications by state and local human service directors during welfare reform.
- Managed nine-person staff.
- Oversaw publications and the development of a web site.
- Surveyed state human service offices to determine child care capability and widely communicated findings.
- Worked with Celinda Lake on focus groups on public perception of child deaths and neglect cases in the child welfare system. Used findings to help train child welfare directors to speak with the press in crises.

1978 - 1981 The MUSE Foundation New York City

Co-Director

- Launched nationwide communications campaign around safe energy/anti-nuclear power with scores of rock and roll musicians, including Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, and James Taylor.
- Raised millions of dollars through five concerts at Madison Square Garden, three-record set, and a feature documentary.
- Helped market NO NUKES, the three-record set from the concert and a full-length feature film.
- Distributed money through grants to grassroots groups across the country.

**Journalism
Experience**

1990 - 1995 Congressional Quarterly Washington, DC

Assistant managing editor, reporter, Almanac Editor

- Wrote in-depth reports on social policy programs for CQ Researcher.
- Founding editor of "The Pulse" column for CQ Daily Monitor; managed several reporters.
- Social policy reporter for CQ Weekly.
- Edited CQ Almanac in 1991 and 1992.

1984 - 2003 The Washington Post Washington, DC

Stringer and freelance writer

- Told the story of Terry Harrak for Sunday magazine. After aging out of the foster care system at 18, Terry became homeless in Fairfax County.
- Wrote numerous articles for Style Section and Monday Business.

1983 - 1988 The New York Times New York City

Stringer

- Won 1985 Folio Award for series on FCC process, "Battling for a Prize: Radio Station License."

1976 - 1978 Rolling Stone Magazine New York City

Editorial Staff

- Worked with Howard Kohn on Karen Silkwood series.
- Raised \$10 million for Silkwood case by organizing May 9, 1978 benefit concert with Bonnie Raitt and surprise guests – James Taylor and Carley Simon.

**Academic
Experience**

2001 - 2003 George Washington University Washington, DC

Lecturer in English

- Composition.
- Thesis writing.

1999 - 2003 American University Washington, DC

Adjunct Faculty

Recent Publications

- Writing for Mass Communications
- Dissident Media
- Opinion Writing
- Composition
- *Washingtonian*, "[Do It](#)," April 2008 – feature story
- "Teens and Single Parents," [Like, Whatever](#), Capital Books, Inc., March 2008
- "Navigating State and Local Finances," with Kim Rueben and Therese McGuire, *Land Lines*, October 2007
- "Public and Private Roles in Supporting Working Families," An Urban Institute Roundtable, with Karin Martinson and Pamela Winston, 2007

Film and Conferences

1982 The Atomic Cafe

Consultant

1980 The War at Home

New York City opening organizer

2002 Sewanee Writers' Conference Sewanee, TN

Contributor

2006 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Middlebury, VT

Contributor

Education

1975 University of Wisconsin Madison, WI.

Bachelor of Arts

2002 Johns Hopkins University Baltimore

Master of Arts in Writing