

Jack Lessenberry

Jack Lessenberry, a member of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University, is WUOM-FM's senior political analyst and the host of "The Jack Lessenberry Show," on Michigan Radio, the only daily talk show designed to discuss important Michigan issues.

He also is or been a writer for many national and regional publications, including Vanity Fair, Esquire, George, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Boston Globe. Currently, he is a contributing editor and columnist for the Metro Times, the Traverse-City Record Eagle and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade, and formerly for the Oakland Press and the Heritage Newspaper Group in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. He also serves as The Blade's writing coach and ombudsman.

Lessenberry is also a former foreign correspondent for and executive national editor of The Detroit News, during which time he reported from more than 40 countries. He has also worked for other newspapers in Michigan, Tennessee and Ohio, and was Editor-in-Chief of both Detroit Monthly and Corporate Detroit magazines.

He was also editorial vice-president of Hometown Communications Network, a group of 66 small newspapers in the Midwest, until that company was sold to Gannett in March 2005. For many years he directed and supervised all internships for WSU's Department of Communication, and works to place many graduates in jobs.

In 1998 he served as co-chair of Michigan State University's Alcohol Action Team. Earlier, he ran the graduate workshop and the internship program for the MA's program in print journalism at the University of Michigan for three years in the 1980s.

He is WJBK-TV's regular political analyst, and also does occasional analysis for two other television stations in Detroit, and won a National Emmy award in 1995 for one of two Frontline documentaries he helped report and produce on Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

Lessenberry also was featured in a March 1996 A&E Biography he helped produce on Kevorkian, and has assisted on two more for British television, and on a Court TV documentary about Detroit and the Belle Isle bridge slaying. He has ghostwritten the autobiography of the portrait painter and Michigan NOW founder Patricia Hill Burnett, and planned a book on the mysterious death of Viola Liuzzo, the Detroit woman slain after the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

He was named the Journalist of the Year in 2002 by the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Lessenberry, 55, has a master's degree in Journalism and East European studies from the University of Michigan. His wife, Karen, teaches AP history at Groves High School in Birmingham, Mich.

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