A lifelong resident of northeast Mississippi, Michael H. Miller has education running through his veins.

Whether it is from his mother, who clocked over 45 years in the public school system teaching high school math (primarily Algebra), or his aunt clearing almost three decades in first the public school system before finally retiring from the industry as the principal of a private school on the gulf coast or another family member taught in the Shelby County School District for many years, education has had a strong influence on his life.

Even his grandfather served as a security guard for Blue Mountain College (Blue Mountain, Miss.) for over three decades – most of the time walking to work from his home close to campus.

However, education found him later in life after he served nearly a decade at the University of Life-Hard Knocks campus as a webmaster, photo manager, sports reporter and finally a news reporter at Mississippi's ninth-largest newspaper for six-and-a-half years - the Daily Corinthian in Corinth and The Banner-Independent in Booneville.

Miller began his educational ascension in 2008 when he joined the staff at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Mississippi and has worked his way up from being a part-time employee to a Public Information Specialist for the college.

During his daily responsibilities, Miller wears many hats in addition to his trademark Fedora. At Northeast, Miller has been in charge of the college's 10 social media accounts, co-advised not only the student newspaper (The Beacon) but the student yearbook (The Torch), as well as a liaison between the college and the media.

In addition to those roles, he has served as chair of the Cultural Arts Committee and is a member of the Employee Association, where he serves as a Staff Representative on the Presidential Advisory Committee along with membership on the Faculty/Staff Development committee, the Graduation Rate & Retention committee, the Most Beautiful Pageant committee, the Public Relations committee, the Social Committee, the Sports Information committee, the Student Recruitment & Marketing committee, the Technology Committee and the Web Page committee.

Miller currently serves as a team lead for one of the college's Strategic Doing Teams. His team is focused on "increasing communication between the college and the community."

As the co-advisor for The Beacon (NEMCC's student newspaper) and The Torch (the college's yearbook), Miller steadily saw the student publications rise in the state rankings after being brought back into production in 2012. The Torch has gained ground in the rankings and finished fifth in the state for the 2014-15 academic year and was awarded a national award for general excellence by Balfour Publishing and inclusion into the company's Yearbook Yearbook for 2015, which contains examples of the best yearbooks that the company publishes.

Miller sees a connection between technology and education and has pushed to include technology in his everyday life. Miller was one of the first people on the Northeast campus to use an iOgrapher setup to live broadcast events from the campus. Before the invention of the iOgrapher, he could be routinely seen with his iPhone rubberbanded to a monopod to do interviews with the mobile device to help connect the audience with the event in a way that was convenient for them.

Previously, he was a newspaper reporter for almost a decade. He served in various functions at the Daily Corinthian in Corinth while also serving as the sports writer at The Banner-Independent in Booneville. For his work at both newspapers, Miller won numerous awards for his writing and photography, including a first-place award in the Mississippi Press Association for Hurricane Katrina coverage (2005). He was the webmaster for the Daily Corinthian's Net Edition and a photo manager for the newspaper's magazine products, such as the Crossroads Magazine. During his time at the Daily Corinthian, he was once TASERed in pursuit of a story about the Corinth Police Department receiving TASER training – and wrote a first-hand column on what it feels like to be Tasered.

He is the former co-owner of Take 5 Studios in Saltillo, Miss., where he banded with three other photographers to open up a full-service photography studio that offered both in-the-studio as well as on-location family portraits (baby photography, children photography and family groups), senior portraits, pet photography, engagement and wedding photography as well as other special occasions.

In addition to his employment at Northeast Mississippi Community College, Miller has been a stringer for The Associated Press for over 10 and has had his work featured in various publications such as the Omaha World-Herald, Washington Post and New York Times and websites of ABC News, Boston Herald, Chicago Tribune, Fresno Bee, Kansas City Star, Sacramento Bee, MSNBC, USA Today, Washington Post, and New York Times along with publications in Europe, Africa, India and Asia.

Miller's work has been published on six of the seven continents. One day, his goal is to be published in The Antarctica Sun publication to finish all seven continents.

Miller holds a Master's of Business Administration from Mississippi State University (Starkville, Miss.), a Bachelor's of Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Project Management from Union University (Jackson, Tenn.), where he was named a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda – the national honor society for non-traditional undergraduate students, and an Associate of Arts in Journalism from Northeast Mississippi Community College. He most recently completed extra graduate work in management from Delta State University (Cleveland, Miss.) to reach an 18-hour certification in business management.

In his spare time, Miller is an active member of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. He is a former member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (Co-SIDA) and the and the University Photographers Association of America. He has had volunteer memberships as a committee member of the Corinth/Alcorn County Convention and Visitor's Bureau's Outdoor and Sports Recreation sub-committee and a member of the Young Professionals Association of Corinth.

Miller also serves as one of the state judges for the annual Mississippi Scholastic Press Association and a southeastern member of the Society of Professional Journalists.

One can find Miller on the sidelines of over 1,000 events at Northeast Mississippi Community College each year, where he documents the history of the college. If not witnessing history, Miller also devotes time to his family – his mother, who taught nearly a half-century in the public-school ranks, his nephew, who affectionately calls him "Bubba," his fiancé, Janie and step-daughter Claira.

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