

LESLI LOUISE HICKS

Personal and professional motto: "I am still learning (*ego sum etiam eruditio*)."

SUMMARY STATEMENT Passionate teacher /researcher/ writer-editor: U.S, World, Texas histories, Genealogy.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at San Antonio Master's degree: History, May 2007, Interests: Multiculturalism, Women and children in the Jewish Holocaust; Slavery in Bexar County; Modern and Ancient History (Asia, Europe, Africa, India)

The University of Texas at Austin Bachelor's degree: Liberal Arts (Government/Journalism), May 1986, Interests: The Daily Texan (editorial writer); The Texas Senate, full-time legislative aide to Sen. Cyndi Taylor Krier (May 1985 to May 1986); Miller & McCall, full-time public relations specialist (May 1984 to May 1985)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

August 2009 to present: The University of Texas at San Antonio, U.S., Texas and World History.

January 2008 to present: University of the Incarnate Word, primarily U.S. History, but also World.

August 2008 to 2010: Northwest Vista College, primarily U.S. History, but also Texas.

May 2007 to May 2008: Harvest Academy, U.S., World, Texas.

March 2004 to present: Free-lance writer-editor. Clients included USAA, Valero Energy Corp., Tesoro Companies Inc., Northwest Weekly, Adoption Today, UTSA's Sombrilla and Illuminations magazines, The Helotes Historical Association, and Ian O'Regan, author of *For Whom the Curtain Calls* (2018).

November 1996 to March 2004: USAA Corporate Communications, writer-editor, speech-writer, strategic communications planner for multiple lines of business, including property insurance, life insurance and banking. Modes of communication included magazine articles, newsletter articles, press releases, online and on-camera reports, meeting with the media internationally.

January 1990 to November 1996: The San Antonio Express-News, business writer, covering banking, retailing, tourism and multiple other areas.

May 1988 to January 1990: The Fort-Worth Star-Telegram, business writer, covering retailing and general business news.

September 1986 to May 1988: The Metrocrest News and Mid-Cities Daily News (Dallas-Fort Worth Suburban Newspaper Group, part of A.H. Belo Corp.)

May 1986 to September 1986: Free-lance writer-editor. Clients included The San Antonio Symphony (event invitation) and Methodist Hospital (seek-n-find brochure for children's floor).

May 1984-May 1986: Full-time internships with aforementioned publications firm and then state senator, one-year each.

Retail jobs 1980 to 1984: Mama's Restaurant hostess, food server; Shepler's Western Wear Layaway specialist / cashier; Gordon's Jeweler's credit-checker and sales clerk. Prior to that, I worked as both a child- and animal-sitter.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Hundreds of articles in The San Antonio Express-News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Hispanic Business (contributing editor), Adoption magazine, Mid-Cities Daily News, distributed via Associated Press. (Multiple local, regional and national awards.) Topics primarily business-related, but also on education, municipal and even culinary.

Original poem published in *A Surrender to the Moon* (Watermark Press, 2005), "Haunted"

Slow Takes a Long Time: A Special Orphan's Meditation on Love and Appreciation (Tate Publishing of Oklahoma, 2016), a book about a second child my husband and I adopted from The People's Republic of China in July 2008. Our son has been diagnosed with multiple special needs. The work has a section about the complexity of public special education, and it briefly made Amazon's Top 200 list after it came out. The book is in use by multiple area special-needs educators and students, and reprinted by Resource Publications of Oregon, 2020).

The 'Real' Help, a work in progress about a San Antonio-area woman who was one of fifteen children and the only to graduate high school and periodically required public assistance as she got her four children through one of the best high schools in South Texas, Alamo Heights.

Polishing a lecture, "Sewell Schultz's Fanny Pack," based upon the contents of an Army-issue container from a World War I veteran (and mustard-gas victim) from South Texas, for submission to a historical publication.

Editor, *The Sun Also Fries Us* (Black Castle Press, 2018) by Ian O'Regan.

Editor, *The Dead Man and the CEO* (Black Castle Press, 2012) by Ian O'Regan.

Tapped for book review, *War and Peace on the Rio Grande Frontier, 1830-1880*, August 2020, for West Texas Historical Association, to be published in Spring 2021.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Texas State Historical Association

American Historical Association

UTSA Alumni Association

Texas Exes

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Computer literate: including work with multiple text-publisher digital teaching programs and various search engines

Languages: English, German, some Dutch (Afrikaans), took a year of Latin and one semester of Greek, and can translate some Spanish, French and Italian; four phrases in Mandarin

MEMBERSHIPS / VOLUNTEER SERVICE (past, present)

The San Antonio Council for International Visitors (hosted visitors for in-home stays, including those from Argentina, Burkina Faso, Trinidad and Tobago, and Azerbaijan)

Families with Children from China

Journalism and Women Symposium

Women in Communications

Public Relations Society of America

The Association for Women Journalists (newsletter editor)

Texas Press Women (secretary, president)

The Scenic Loop Playground Association

Brain & Behavioral Research Foundation (fund for late sister, Laura Kathleen Hicks, who died from depression at age 51, and of whom I was primary caretaker)

Advocate for university psychological services for all students

American Cancer Society

United Way

Goodwill

South Texas Professional Golf Association junior golf program (daughter)

Special Olympics (son)

Continuing education through workshops on classroom techniques

Boy Scout Troop 484 (secretary)

San Antonio Food Bank

UTSA Food Pantry

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Student feedback.

Representing the Toepperwein family for a member's induction into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame for sport shooting.

Receiving a hand-written note from George H.W. Bush from Houston about POW/MIAs for a USAA article.

Covering the Los Alamos fires for USAA's in-house television network, print and online media.

Contributing to a "Dateline NBC" feature on a national lawsuit, receiving contributor credits.

Contributing to an ABC News "20/20" feature and "Texans" TV spot with former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros feature on former Texas Gov. John Connally, receiving contributor credits.

Interviewing former Texas Gov. Connally.

Interviewing U.S. House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

Corresponding with Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel.

Interviewing former White House advisor to Pres. Ronald Reagan, Michael Deaver.

Interviewing former New York City Mayor Ed Koch.

Investigating workers' compensation cases in Fort Worth sorting through old-fashioned paper records.

Constituent work for a state senator.

Organizing and staffing state Senate hearings on prison recidivism.

Serving as Queen of Leon Valley, senior year, John Marshall High School.

INTERESTS

Culture (music, dance, theater)

Travel (Mexico, Asia, Europe, The United States so far)

Hiking (Big Bend and a range of national and regional parks)

Reading (primarily non-fiction)

Film (Edison "shorts," film noir, history, drama, documentary)

Genealogical (aka "family history") Research (students and personal): ancestry includes Toepperwein-Luckenbach-Schultz northern Germans; Cherokees of Oklahoma and currently participating in "23 and me" DNA research, which revealed origins in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Ashkenazi Jewish community in addition to the British Isles. Husband's ancestry Hispanic; his great-great-great grandfather fought in the Battle of Bexar in 1835, and was a descendent of Canary Islanders who settled San Antonio. This work applies in class to an essay paper assignment and broader themes throughout courses: identity, culture, immigration, otherness, economic drivers, among them.

Special collections: Donated great grandmother's sole recording (1940s record to cassette to CD) to Institute of Texan Cultures (A. Woodlee); father-in-law's Stalag 17 prisoner-of-war letters to ITC (Harold O. Lee); father's papers to Texas Tech University (Lt. Col. Edward R. Hicks-USA-ret'd); personal teenaged letters to ITC (Lesli Hicks) and preparing materials from Toepperwein family for submission; photographs donated to S.S. United States Ship curator for proposed museum.

Married since February 1988 to Steven Lee, editor-writer. Two children, from China.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (2003)

Phi Alpha Theta history honor society (during graduate school)

University of the Incarnate Word Department of History, Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award, 2019

(Current as of February 2021)