# Michelle C. Lavergne

(985) 662-4438 • michelle.lavergne06@gmail.com • 6900 E Riverside Dr, Unit 9, Austin, TX 78741 • https://www.michellelavergnewrites.com/

Passionate communications professional with 10 years of experience in journalism experience and 4 years in corporate communications. A U.S. Army veteran, highly skilled in magazine production, photojournalism, and writing compelling long-form and feature narratives. Adept at cultivating trusted sources to uncover impactful stories.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editor-in-Chief August 2023 – May 2025

HerPWR | Austin, TX

- Led editorial direction and enforced publication standards for a community-focused approach, resulting in increased readership, social media engagement and overall content consistency.
- Reviewed and approved all editorial content to ensure accuracy, quality and mission alignment, which reinforced HerPWR's brand identity across all content channels.

# Military Pay Specialist and Administrative Assistant

September 2019 – July 2023

U.S. Army | Schofield Barracks, HI

- Coordinated communication efforts to keep soldiers and leadership updated on the latest Army regulation.
- Processed over 4,000 military pay transactions with 99% accuracy rating, ensuring timely and accurate financial support to service members and their families.

#### Managing Editor, Agos Magazine

April 2013 - March 2017

Manila Water Company, Inc. | Manila, Philippines

- Spearheaded the publication's transition to compelling character-focused storytelling, earning <u>national</u> recognition from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines.
- Directed the production of 10+ issues of *Agos*, showcasing Manila Water's organizational impact on the communities it served and driving increased demand for print copies.
- Managed editorial calendar, led content development and maintained photography archives.
- Implemented visual design updates that modernized the publication and enhanced reader experience.

## **Internal Communications Manager**

April 2013 – March 2017

Manila Water Company, Inc. | Manila, Philippines

- Drafted, edited and distributed 500+ company news updates to over 1200 employees across headquarters, water treatment plants and subsidiaries throughout the Philippines and Southeast Asia.
- Planned and coordinated high-profile corporate events including townhalls, annual stockholders' meetings and leadership forums enhancing executive engagement and fostering clear, impactful communication.

# **Freelance Feature Writer**

February 2013 – August 2016

ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. | Manila, Philippines

- Authored 100+ feature articles and long-form pieces, including cover stories, for <u>StarStudio</u>, the Philippine's premier lifestyle and entertainment magazine.
- Co-wrote the <u>ASAPedia</u> book, a definitive guide to ASAP, the Philippine's leading musical variety show, combining in-depth research with engaging storytelling.

# Editorial Assistant and Section Editor, Celebrity Living Magazine

November 2011 – February 2013

One Mega Group | Manila, Philippines

- Copyedited and proofread 250+ articles, ensuring clarity, accuracy and consistent adherence to style guidelines.
- Wrote 100+ human-interest and lifestyle features, including cover stories, delivering impactful and relatable articles that deeply resonated with readers and elevated the publication's profile.
- Represented the magazine at press conferences, media events and other industry functions to build relationships with sources, publicists and brand ambassadors.

#### **EDUCATION**

## Master of Arts, Journalism and Media

August 2023 - May 2025

University of Texas at Austin

- Recipient of the Arch Campbell Endowment for Creativity
- Recipient of "Best Community Story" from the School of Journalism and Media

AB Journalism June 2007 – March 2011

**University of Santo Tomas** 

## **SKILLS**

- Interviewing and source cultivation
- Long-form feature writing
- News writing
- Photojournalism
- Copyediting and proofreading
- Fact-checking and verification
- Deadline management

- Data journalism using RStudio and research
- AP Stylebook
- Microsoft Office 365
- Adobe Acrobat
- Adobe Lightroom
- Google Suite