
Times Facts

In 1983, Gretchen joined the *St. Petersburg Times* as an assistant newsfeatures editor. She later became managing editor of the *Evening Independent*, the afternoon paper which closed in 1986. Gretchen then returned to the *Times* where she held several positions including national editor, editorial writer, deputy newsfeatures editor, and lifestyles editor. In 2003, she moved to the business side as manager of the Newspaper in Education department.

Talking Points

• Literacy • NIE Program • Journalism Education

Education

Gretchen earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and psychology from Indiana University, after graduating from Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis. In 1978, she was awarded a Management Training fellowship from the Modern Media Institute in St. Petersburg (now the Poynter Institute).

Background

Following her graduation from Indiana, Gretchen went to work for the *Wichita Eagle* in Kansas where she held a variety of news editing positions, including A-section news editor and copy desk chief, where she helped launch the newspaper's first zoned tabloid editions. While Lifestyles editor at the *Times*, Gretchen was responsible for the Travel, Taste, Homes, Xpress, and Seniority sections. She also supervised the X-Team, 16 student writers (grades 4-12) chosen yearly to report and write for Xpress. Gretchen also coordinated the mentor program for Melrose Elementary Communications Magnet School, in which *Times'* staffers work with student journalists to produce the school newspaper. As manager of the Newspaper in Education department, Gretchen is responsible for leading the newspaper's efforts to train young readers through classroom education programs, teacher workshops and recruitment of sponsors that enable the *Times* to be used in schools as a teaching tool.

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