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“Bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen, and even drug lords often cut elaborate deals with reporters and editors as a way to guarantee that coverage is spun in a particular fashion,” Rick Rockwell wrote in the book *Latin Politics, Global Media* about Mexico. Since 1993, Rockwell has actively studied the media systems of Latin America and he has produced 19 book chapters, government reports, and refereed academic journal articles about Latin American media.

In addition, he is the co-author of the book *Media Power in Central America* (University of Illinois Press), which won a Choice Award from the American Library Association as one of the best academic books of 2004.

Rockwell brings his years of experience covering Latin America as a journalist and author to the classroom. In the course *Media Power in Latin America*, Rockwell introduces students to the world of developing communications throughout the hemisphere. In 2007 and 2008, the course featured a unique connection to the award-winning Link TV satellite network and its new “Latin Pulse” initiative to highlight Latin American news for an audience in the United States. As part of the project, students in Prof. Rockwell’s class began watching and studying network television from 11 different Latin American countries. Rockwell also pioneered the adaptation of the basic level *Understanding Media* course for American University’s new *Global Media/Global Politics Learning Community* for freshmen students.

Extensive Journalism Experience

Rockwell has more than 25 years of experience practicing and teaching journalism. In his career he has worked in a variety of positions in television, radio and newspapers, including jobs as a reporter, producer, and news manager. He has worked for the ABC network as a TV and radio producer, The Discovery Channel as a senior producer, and *The NewsHour* on PBS, as a freelance reporter. As a freelance writer, he's contributed to *The Baltimore Sun*, *Newsday* and *In These Times* magazine, among other publications.

Rockwell began covering Mexico in 1979. From 2001-2002 Rockwell served as the Washington correspondent and political commentator for the magazine *Quehacer Politico*, a national magazine in Mexico. As a reporter, he wrote about the historic 1994 and 2000 elections in Mexico for the Associated Press and a variety of other publications.

As a television reporter and producer, Rockwell reported from Nicaragua during the Contra War and covered the visit of Pope John Paul II to Central America in the 1980s. He also covered the Nicaraguan presidential race in 2001. As a reporter and television producer, he's also filed stories from Cuba and Guatemala. Also, as a television producer, Rockwell has produced documentaries in Europe, Russia, Canada, and Pakistan. As a consultant on media projects he's traveled extensively in Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Rockwell's documentary work in Russia won a regional award from the RTNDA in 1991. During his career, Rockwell has also won numerous awards from the Associated Press, the Society for Professional Journalists, and other organizations. During 2003-2004, as part of a prestigious Congressional Fellowship from the American Political Science Association, Rockwell served on Capitol Hill as an advisor on telecommunications policy.

Connecting With Students

Students often rate Prof. Rockwell highly for his classroom work. The Student Confederation at American University awarded him the Open Door Award in 2001 for his extraordinary assistance to students. Students sometimes come to Prof. Rockwell's office to study, chat, or ask for advice.

Before coming to AU, He taught journalism for three years at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he also earned his undergraduate degree in journalism. He received a masters' degree in international journalism from the University of Southern California in 1994.

During both 2006 and 2007, Prof. Rockwell's documentary class produced in-depth television pieces, which eventually became television specials. These specials about immigration and America during wartime had a limited national release to millions of viewers on the non-commercial MHz Networks. Rockwell's honors section of Understanding Media created a popular blog, which now continues with voluntary contributions from honors and graduate students, along with alumni. In addition, Rockwell's broadcast journalism classes have produced popular podcasts that were distributed internationally via iTunes. These weekly news podcasts

produced by American University students were heard by thousands on six different continents.

Current Work

Rockwell recently completed a chapter on Latin America for the fifth edition of the book *Global Journalism: Topical Issues & Media Systems*. He is currently working on his second book project: this one is about conflicts between the government and the media in Venezuela.