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Rex Smith is Editor and Vice President of the Times Union, the dominant communication medium in New York's Capital Region. He has led the Albany newspaper since mid-2002 to national recognition for writing, reporting, photography and design, both in print and digitally. He is a former national correspondent and bureau chief for Newsday, and previously edited community newspapers in Troy, N.Y., and in Rensselaer, Ind.

Earlier in his career, he was a congressional aide in Washington for four years and a television reporter and anchor in the metropolitan New York region. He has received numerous professional citations and awards, including the Distinguished Service Award of the national Society of Professional Journalists, a Pulitzer Fellowship and a Rotary Fellowship. He is a graduate cum laude of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and received his master's degree with highest honors from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Rex hosts a nationally syndicated weekly program, "The Media Project," on Northeast Public Radio. He is chair of the New York News Publishers Association, vice-chair of the state Fair Trial/Free Press Conference and past president of the state editors association. He has been a national leader in efforts to build a news literacy curriculum in high schools and colleges. Rex is in demand as a speaker and contest judge, and has twice been a juror for the Pulitzer Prizes.

Outside journalism, Rex is known as a singer: He is a member of Albany Pro Musica, one of the Northeast's premiere choral ensembles. Rex lives in Rensselaer County with his wife, the author Marion Roach Smith; their daughter, Grace, is a student at Georgetown University.