



## Mollenkamp joins Daily Sentinel news staff

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By Beverly Van Buskirk Lifestyles editor



Daniel Mollenkamp

LE MARS -- The new staff writer at the Le Mars Daily Sentinel isn't in a hurry for winter to make an appearance.

Daniel Mollenkamp, who came to Le Mars from Virginia, has been on the job two weeks and already experienced the changing weather of fall in Iowa.

"I'm barely prepared for Virginia's winters, but I've been warned about Iowa winters," he said.

He added he'll be drinking a lot of hot coffee.

Mollenkamp spent his first 18 years in California.

He earned an associate degree in social science from Thomas Nelson Community College, in Hampton, Virginia, and then attended The College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia. There he earned a degree in government.

He has worked as freelance writer and contributing editor for several publications.

"As a contributing editor, I spent as much time writing as editing," he said. "When I write, what I enjoy most are things I need to stick my neck out for."

Mollenkamp also spent a year as an intern for The Department of Homeland security, working toward briefings, researching and collecting information for the advisory council.

He also studied music, film and theater, at a local community college.

He also taught music theory, both classical and jazz theory, and performance and film.

Asked about hobbies, Mollenkamp said he reads nonfiction as much as he can, because it's useful to read.

Moving to Iowa is a big change, according to Mollenkamp, who has lived on both coasts.

"It should expand my universe rather than shrink it and that's always good," Mollenkamp said. "It's interesting and different."

He added he's looking forward to getting to know Le Mars and the area, and writing about the community.

"I like how quickly the stories move. That's different than what I've done," he said.

Mollenkamp is the oldest of four children, with two brothers and one sister. His parents live in Virginia.