

Chris Evans

Multimedia Journalist and Educator

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English

University at Albany, State University of New York

Dissertation director: Edward Schwarzschild

Anticipated conferral: 2022

M.F.A. in Fiction Writing

New York University, 2002

Thesis director: E.L. Doctorow

M.A. in English

University of Central Florida, 1998

Thesis director: Pat Rushin

B.S. in Journalism — Kappa Tau Alpha

B.A. in French — Phi Beta Kappa

University of Kansas, 1991

CURRENT POSITION

Clinical Assistant Professor of Journalism.

Director, Illinois Student Newsroom at Illinois Public Media.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2020 to present.

- Conceive and establish the Illinois Student Newsroom at Illinois Public Media, where students train to produce audio and video journalism for broadcast on IPM.
- Supervise students' daily production of audio and multimedia web stories to ensure they meet NPR-affiliate standards.
- Contribute to and help shape IPM's regional news coverage.
- Develop leadership training for student newsroom producers and team members.
- Direct design of web and social media presence to showcase student work.
- Serve as lead teacher for all majors' first journalism class.
- Collaborate with other professors to establish and update curriculum.
- Sit on journalism department and College of Media diversity committees.
- Teach multimedia journalism courses at undergraduate and graduate levels.

TEACHING AND ADVISING HISTORY

Student Life Assistant Director / Student Media Adviser.

University of Vermont. 2006-2020.

- Advised students working for a weekly newspaper, 24/7 radio station, cable television station and related websites.
- Trained members of media organizations ranging in size from 25 to 125, with members ranging in age from 18 to 80, in leadership, financial management and organization-specific skills related to journalism, broadcast radio and video.
- Taught courses in news writing, media law and leadership.
- Chaired departmental and national committees focusing on social justice, professional development and First Amendment advocacy.

News Adviser / Journalism Professor

Valencia Community College. Orlando, Florida. 2004-2006.

- Trained and advised student staff in weekly production of campus newspaper and daily production of the newspaper's website.
- Taught introductory courses in journalism and mass media.

Faculty Writing Instructor / Teaching Mentor

New York University. New York, New York. 2000-2004.

- Mentored instructors in the university's Expository Writing Program.
- Facilitated program design and implementation.
- Taught beginning and advanced expository writing courses, including business ethics and business writing.

Peace Corps Volunteer / English Teacher Trainer

Zigong Teachers College. Zigong, Sichuan, China. 1998-2000.

- Designed and taught advanced English proficiency courses with focus on writing, aural comprehension, literature, culture and theatre.
- Conducted workshops in writing pedagogy for peer teachers/volunteers.
- Wrote, directed and produced English-language plays for Chinese students.

WRITING & EDITING HISTORY

Editor. The Vermont Student Media Blog. www.uvmmedia.net. 2006-2020.

Editor. COMPASS, the newsletter of the department of Community Development and Applied Economics, University of Vermont. 2013.

Editor and Designer. The WRUV Reader, a book-length anthology of Vermont writers. 2012.

Editor-in-Chief. College Media, the quarterly publication of College Media Association. 2006-2008.

Contracted News Writer. The Freedom Forum Online, a national forum for free-speech stories published for the First Amendment Center in New York, New York. 2000-2001.

Editor. The Tang-Cu Times, the publication of Peace Corps volunteers in China. Chengdu, Sichuan, China. 1998-2000.

Assistant Fiction Editor. The Florida Review. University of Central Florida. 1997.

Bureau Chief and News Reporter. Florida Today. Melbourne, Florida. 1993-1996.

News Reporter. The News-Press. St. Joseph, Missouri. 1992-1993.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Board Member. Illini Media. 2022 to present.

- Provide direction, leadership and support for University of Illinois students involved in three independent media organizations: The Daily Illini newspaper, WPGU-FM radio and Illio yearbook.

Vice President for Member Support. College Media Association. 2020-2021.

- Directed First Amendment advocacy efforts for national organization's educator and student members.
- Oversaw recruitment and retention efforts.
- Provided leadership and support for a standing Diversity and Inclusion committee

President. College Media Association. 2017-2019.

- Led an international organization of more than 600 college media advisers who seek to develop strong, student-led media programs at colleges and universities.
- Developed and supervised annual \$385,000 budget.
- Served as national spokesman and advocate for college press freedoms.

Diversity and Social Justice Committee Chairman. Department of Student Life, University of Vermont. Designed diversity and social justice trainings for staff and students. 2011-2017.

New Voices Vermont Director. Organized and led a free-press lobbying effort, coordinated nationally by the Student Press Law Center, that resulted in the 2017 New Voices Act, 16 V.S.A. § 1623, which protects journalism students and advisers in both high schools and post-secondary institutions from administrative censorship. 2015-2017.

Pacemaker Award Judge. Associated Collegiate Press. 2017.

Advisory Board Member. Associated Collegiate Press. 2012-2017.

First Amendment Advocacy Chairman. College Media Association. 2012-2017.

Board Secretary. Vermont Community Access Media. 2011-2013.

TV News and Radio Judge. Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc. 2010-2011.

Professional Development Committee Chairman. Department of Student Life,
University of Vermont. 2008-2011.

Newspaper Critiques Judge. Associated Collegiate Press. 2007-2010.

Convention Assistant Director. Associated Collegiate Press. 2005-2006.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

“Ethical Standards for College Media Organizations.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national convention. Panelist. Detroit, 2022 (scheduled).

“An Analysis of Student Newspaper Web and Social Media Presence.” AEJMC national convention. Co-author and presenter. Virtual, 2021.

“Audio Reporting as a Creative Outlet.” National College Media Convention: joint conference of Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) and College Media Association (CMA). Presenter. Virtual, 2021.

“An Opinion-Writing Shortcourse: Beyond the Hot Take.” College Media Mega-Workshop, hosted by College Broadcasters, Inc., College Media Business and Advertising Managers, ACP and CMA. Co-instructor. Virtual, 2021.

“The Four Phases of the Digital Natives Debate.” Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies Volume 2, Issue 3. Lead author. 2020.

“How to Teach Writing.” CMA National College Media Convention. Repeat session: 12 times since 2007. Presenter. New York City, 2020.

“First Amendment Advocacy.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2019.

“Storytelling Short-Course for Narrative Journalism.” College Media Mega-Workshop. ACP, CBI, CMBAM and CMA. Repeat session: three times since 2017. Co-instructor. University of Minnesota, 2019.

- “Lao Tzu, Machiavelli and Leadership: Developing Your Communication Style.”
College Media Mega-Workshop, ACP, CBI, CMBAM and CMA. Presenter.
University of Minnesota, 2018.
- “Special Report: Threats to the Independence of Student Media.” Issued jointly by the
American Association of University Professors, National Coalition Against
Censorship, Student Press Law Center and CMA. Co-author. 2016.
- “Ethical Advising.” CMA National College Media Convention. Presenter. Atlanta, 2016.
- “Fiction-writing techniques for objective journalists.” ACP National College Media
Convention. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2016.
- “Building Better Relationships with Administrators.” ACP/CMA National College Media
Convention. Presenter. Austin, 2015.
- “Social Justice Journalism.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Co-
presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “Managing Students and Money.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention.
Repeat session: five times since 2009. Co-presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “How to Motivate Student Journalists.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention.
Presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “The Adviser’s Guide to Establishing Policies.” ACP/CMA National College Media
Convention. Co-presenter. New Orleans, 2013.
- “The Adviser’s Guide to Law and Ethics.” CMA National College Media Convention.
Co-presenter. New York City, 2013.
- “Get That Internship!” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Co-presenter.
Orlando, 2011.
- “Nurturing Relationships Between Advisers and Students.” CMBAM Convention.
Presenter. Nashville, 2011.
- “Opinion-writing Workshop.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Co-
instructor. Louisville, 2010.
- “Advising Millennials.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Repeat
session: five times since 2008. Presenter. Louisville, 2010.
- “Best Practices for the Practicum: Measuring Student Success.” CMA National College
Media Convention. Presenter. New York City, 2009.

- “New Adviser Short Course: Budget Management, Advertising, Staff Recruitment and Training.” CMA National College Media Convention. Co-instructor. Washington, D.C., 2007.
- “Finding Stories on a Two-Year Campus.” ACP National College Newspaper Workshops. Instructor, Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “News Writing Essentials.” ACP National College Newspaper Workshops. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “Advanced Reporting Short Course.” ACP National College Newspaper Workshops. Instructor. Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “Improve Your Interviewing Skills.” ACP National College Newspaper Convention. Presenter. Los Angeles, 2006.
- “Investigative Journalism Short Course.” ACP National College Newspaper Convention. Instructor. Los Angeles, 2006.
- “What’s Your Problem, Buddy? Finding the Conflict in Every Reporting Situation.” ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. Presenter. Kansas City. 2005.
- “Reporting Using All Five Senses.” CMA National College Media Convention. Presenter. New York City, 2005.

PUBLISHED FICTION

- “Button Jar #1.” Beloit Fiction Journal. Beloit College, Wisconsin. 2017.
- “By the Rails.” South Dakota Review. The University of South Dakota. 2016.
- “1.2 Seconds Before the Boom.” Green Hills Literary Lantern. Truman State University. 2016. Nominated for Pushcart Prize.
- “Candidate Clinton Visits the Bronx.” Apalachee Review. Florida State University. 2004.
- “Cheated.” Washington Square. New York University. 2004.
- “Colic.” The Florida Review. University of Central Florida. 2004.
- “Alpha Female.” Thought Magazine. Independent: Burlingame, California. 2003.
- “Amnio.” Soundings East. Salem State University, Massachusetts. 2003.
- “New Family Life.” Confluence. Marietta College and Ohio Valley Literary Group. 2003.

SELECTED HONORS and AWARDS

- Eugene Garber Award for Short Fiction.** Recognition in excellence in fiction writing for a single short story awarded by the State University of New York at Albany Ph.D. program in English. 2018.
- Board of Directors Award for First Amendment Advocacy.** Recognition from the board of College Media Association for efforts in protecting students from censorship and prior review as chairman of the CMA First Amendment Advocacy Committee. 2017.
- Distinguished Multimedia Adviser Award.** The nation's top award for mid-career college media advisers, awarded by College Media Association. 2014.
- Montana Prize in Fiction (Finalist).** Cutbank Literary Magazine. 2014.
- Top 100 Key Ethics and Media Law Resources for Journalists.** The University of Vermont Journalism and Media Blog. JournalismDegree.com. 2014.
- The 100 Best Sites for Journalists.** The University of Vermont Journalism and Media Blog: UVMmedia.net. JournalismDegree.com. 2012.
- The 40 Best Blogs for Student Journalists.** The University of Vermont Journalism and Media Blog: UVMmedia.net. The Open Education Database. 2012.
- College Media Association Board of Directors Award.** National award for excellence in college media advising and advocacy. 2011.
- Very Short Fiction Award (Finalist).** Glimmer Train. 2010.
- Student Choice Award for Excellence in Teaching.** Valencia College. 2006.
- Program Director's Award for Teaching Excellence.** New York University Expository Writing Program. 2002, 2003, 2004.
- Very Short Fiction Award (Finalist).** Glimmer Train. 2002.
- Best Education Reporting.** School Bell Award: Florida Education Association. 1996.
- Best Single Newspaper Section.** National Award: Education Writers Association. 1995.
- Benjamin Fine Award for Outstanding Education Reporting.** National Association of Secondary School Principals. 1995.
- Best Education Reporting, Overall and Series Reporting.** School Bell Award: Florida Education Association. 1995.

SELECTED STUDENT JOURNALISM AWARDS

Hearst Audio News and Features Awards. Two students in top 20, nationally. One of those two students selected to compete in the National Audio Championship. 2022.

Hearst Audio News and Features Awards. One student in top 20 nationally. 2021.

Public Media Journalists Association Audio Spot News. (2nd place.) 2021.

Outstanding radio news reporting, student category. The Illinois News Broadcasters Association. 2020.

Photo of the Year: Environmental Portrait. (2nd place.) ACP. 2018.

Advertisement of the Year: House Ad. (4th place.) ACP. 2018.

Pacemaker Award Finalist: Print Newspaper. ACP. 2017.

National Diversity Story of the Year. ACP. 2016.

National Story of the Year. (2nd place.) ACP. 2015.

Top 20 College Newspapers (#18). Princeton Review. 2014.

Best of Show: Multimedia Package. ACP Midwinter National College Media Convention. 2014.

Best of Show: Website, Small School. ACP National College Media Convention. 2014.

Best of Show: Special Edition. ACP. Midwinter National College Media Convention. 2014.

Best of Show: Multimedia Package. CMA/ACP National College Media Convention. 2013.

Best of Show: Special Edition. CMA/ACP National College Media Convention. 2013.

Pacemaker Award: News Website. ACP. 2012.

Best of Show: Weekly University Newspaper. CMA/ACP National College Media Convention. Chicago. 2012.

Pacemaker Award: Print Newspaper. ACP. 2011.