

Chris Evans

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Multimedia Journalist and Educator

byChrisEvans.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English

Anticipated conferral May 2023.

University at Albany, State University of New York.

Dissertation committee: Edward Schwarzschild (chair), Mike Hill, Aashish Kaul.

M.F.A. Fiction Writing

New York University 2002.

Thesis director: E.L. Doctorow.

M.A. English

University of Central Florida 1998.

Thesis director: Pat Rushin.

B.S. Journalism

B.A. French Language and Literature

University of Kansas 1991.

CURRENT POSITION

Clinical Assistant Professor. Department of Journalism.

Senior Producer and Director. Illinois Student Newsroom at Illinois Public Media.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2020 to present.

- Train college audio journalists to produce spot news and features for Illinois Public Media and its affiliated stations.
- Design and direct the Illinois Student Newsroom project with the goal of broadcasting 350-plus stories a year, produced to NPR standards.
- Work with the IPM news team to shape regional public radio coverage.
- Conduct leadership training for student newsroom producers and reporters.
- Direct design of web and social media to showcase student newsroom work.
- Teach multimedia journalism courses at undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Contribute to development of departmental and college diversity initiatives.
- Supervise honors and graduate student theses.
- Serve on departmental and college committees.

TEACHING & ADVISING HISTORY

Director of Student Media. Department of Student Life.

Lecturer. Department of Community Development and Applied Economics.
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 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.

Journalism Professor. Newspaper Adviser. Communications Department.

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 courses in mass communication and multimedia journalism.

Faculty Writing Instructor. Teaching Mentor. Expository Writing Program.

New York University. 2000-2004.

- Mentored instructors in the university's first-year essay-writing curriculum.
- Taught beginning and advanced expository writing courses, including business ethics for undergraduates in the NYU Stern School of Business.

English Teacher Trainer. Volunteer. U.S. Peace Corps.

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

- Designed and taught advanced English proficiency courses with focus on writing, aural comprehension, literature, culture and theater.
- 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](#). 2006-2020.

Editor. Compass, the newsletter of the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, University of Vermont. 2013.

Editor and Book Designer. The WRUV Reader, an anthology of Vermont writers. 2012.
Published by the University of Vermont Department of Student Life.

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 City. 2000-2001.

Editor. The Tang-Cu Times, the publication of Peace Corps volunteers in China. 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 & SERVICE

Board Secretary. Illini Media. 2021 to present.

- Set policies and conduct financial oversight for three University of Illinois independent student media organizations: newspaper, radio and yearbook.

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

- Directed First Amendment advocacy efforts for national organization's educators and student members.
- Served as board liaison to CMA Diversity and Inclusion committee.
- Oversaw recruitment and retention efforts.

President. College Media Association. 2017-2019.

- Led an international organization of more than 650 college media advisers charged with developing and supporting student-led media programs at colleges and universities across the United States and internationally.
- Successfully increased membership and reduced debt, reversing a yearslong deterioration in both areas.
- Developed and supervised an annual \$385,000 budget.
- Served as a national spokesman and advocate for college press freedoms.

Lead organizer and lobbyist. New Voices Vermont. 2015-2017.

- Worked with the Student Press Law Center to organize a team of Vermont lawmakers, journalists, educators and students to draft and pass the 2017 New Voices Act, which established and increased protection from administrative censorship for journalism students and advisers in Vermont high schools, colleges and universities.

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

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

Diversity and Social Justice Committee Chairman. University of Vermont Department of Student Life. 2011-2017.

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

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

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

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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

[“Threats to the Independence of Student Media.”](#) Co-author with Frank LoMonte, director of the Student Press Law Center, and Hank Reichman, chairman of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors. This special report was published simultaneously online by the American Association of University Professors, Student Press Law Center, College Media Association and National Coalition Against Censorship. 2016.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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

“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.” College Media Association and Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention. Presenter. Virtual, 2021.

“Beyond the Hot Take: an Opinion-Writing Short Course.” College Media Mega-Workshop, co-sponsored by College Media Association, Associated Collegiate Press, Collegiate Broadcasters, and College Media Business and Advertising Managers. Co-instructor. Virtual, 2021.

“How to Teach Writing.” College Media Association spring convention. Repeat session: 12 times since 2007. Presenter. New York City, 2020.

- “First Amendment Advocacy.” National College Media Convention. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2019.
- “Narrative Journalism: a Storytelling Short Course.” College Media Mega-Workshop. 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. Presenter. University of Minnesota, 2018.
- “Ethical Advising.” College Media Association spring convention. Presenter. Atlanta, 2016.
- “Fiction-writing techniques for objective journalists.” Associated Collegiate Press spring convention. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2016.
- “Building Better Relationships with Administrators.” National College Media Convention. Presenter. Austin, 2015.
- “Social Justice Journalism.” National College Media Convention. Co-presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “Managing Students and Money.” National College Media Convention. Repeat session: five times since 2009. Co-presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “How to Motivate Student Journalists.” National College Media Convention. Presenter. Philadelphia, 2014.
- “The Adviser’s Guide to Establishing Policies.” National College Media Convention. Co-presenter. New Orleans, 2013.
- “The Adviser’s Guide to Law and Ethics.” College Media Association spring convention. Co-presenter. New York City, 2013.
- “Get That Internship!” National College Media Convention. Co-presenter. Orlando, 2011.
- “Nurturing Relationships Between Advisers and Students.” College Media Business and Advertising Managers National Convention. Presenter. Nashville, 2011.
- “Opinion-writing Short Course.” National College Media Convention. Co-instructor. Louisville, 2010.
- “Advising Millennials.” National College Media Convention. Repeat session: five times since 2008. Presenter. Louisville, 2010.

- “Best Practices for the Practicum: Measuring Student Success.” College Media Association spring convention. Presenter. New York City, 2009.
- “New Adviser Short Course: Budget Management, Advertising, Staff Recruitment and Training.” College Media Association spring convention. Co-instructor. Washington, D.C., 2007.
- “Finding Stories on a Two-Year Campus.” Associated Collegiate Press college newspaper workshops. Instructor, Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “News Writing Essentials.” Associated Collegiate Press college newspaper workshops. Presenter. Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “Advanced Reporting Short Course.” Associated Collegiate Press college newspaper workshops. Instructor. Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “Improve Your Interviewing Skills.” Associated Collegiate Press spring convention. Presenter. Los Angeles, 2006.
- “Investigative Journalism Short Course.” Associated Collegiate Press spring convention. Instructor. Los Angeles, 2006.
- “What’s Your Problem, Buddy? Finding the Conflict in Every Reporting Situation.” National College Media Convention. Presenter. Kansas City. 2005.
- “Reporting Using All Five Senses.” College Media Association spring convention. Presenter. New York City, 2005.

SELECTED SHORT 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. Burlingame, California. 2003.
- “Amnio.” Soundings East. Salem State University, Massachusetts. 2003.

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Students. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2020, 2021.

Eugene Garber Award for Short Fiction. Top Ph.D. candidate award for fiction, presented by the State University of New York at Albany English program. 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 College Media Association First Amendment Advocacy Committee. 2017.

Distinguished Multimedia Adviser Award. College Media Association's top award for mid-career college media advisers. 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. JournalismDegree.com. 2012.

The 40 Best Blogs for Student Journalists. The University of Vermont Journalism and Media Blog. The Open Education Database. 2012.

College Media Association Board of Directors Award. National award for media advising excellence. 2011.

Students' Choice Award for Teaching Excellence. Valencia Community College. 2006.

Program Director's Award for Teaching Excellence. New York University Expository Writing Program. 2002, 2003, 2004.

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.

Phi Beta Kappa. University of Kansas. 1991

SELECTED STUDENT JOURNALISM AWARDS

Hearst Audio News National Championship Medallion. Second place. 2022.

Hearst Audio News and Features Awards. Two students in the top 20 nationally. 2022.

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

Public Media Journalists Association Audio Spot News. Second place. 2021.

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

Photo of the Year: Environmental Portrait. Second place. ACP. 2018.

National Diversity Story of the Year. ACP. 2016.

National Story of the Year. Second place. ACP. 2015.

Top 20 College Newspapers. Princeton Review. 2014.

Pacemaker Award: News Website. ACP. 2012.

Pacemaker Award: Print Newspaper. ACP. 2011.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Illinois.

Introduction to Journalism.
Audio Journalism.
Radio Newsroom Experience.
Public Radio Practicum.
Masters projects supervision.
Internship supervision.

University of Vermont.

Communication Law.
News-writing Across the Media.
Advanced Multimedia News Writing.
Newspaper Practicum.
Radio Practicum.
TV Practicum.
Internship supervision.

Valencia Community College.

Introduction to Mass Communications.
Multimedia News Writing.
Student Newsroom.

- New York University.** Introduction to Creative Writing.
Writing the Essay.
Writing the Essay 2: Business and Its Publics.
- Zigong Teachers College, China.** American Literature and Culture.
English Listening and Speaking.
English-language Theatre Production.
- University of Central Florida.** Composition I: Writing and Rhetoric.
Composition II: Writing and Rhetoric.

References and letters of recommendation are available.