

**CHARLES LEDFORD**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM, COLLEGE OF MEDIA**  
**AFFILIATE, CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES (0% APPOINTMENT)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**  
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**I. Personal History and Professional Experience**

**A. Educational Background**

- 1. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**May 1986**  
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology  
(Double Major)
- 2. University of Miami**  
**May 2011**  
Master of Arts in Multimedia Journalism

**B. List of Academic Positions Since Final Degree**

- 1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Media**  
**August 2011 – Summer 2018**  
Assistant Professor of Journalism
- 2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Media**  
**Summer 2018 – Present**  
Associate Professor of Journalism

**C. Other Professional Employment**

- 1. *The State, Columbia, S.C.***  
**Summer 1983**  
As a photojournalism intern, researched and produced original news and sports photographs for publication by this regional daily newspaper.
- 2. *The Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, N.C.***  
**Summer 1984**  
As a photojournalism intern, researched and produced original news and sports photographs for publication by this regional daily newspaper.
- 3. *The Associated Press***  
**1984 – 1986**  
As a photojournalism stringer, researched and produced original news and sports photographs for distribution by the AP's Raleigh, N.C.,

bureau and New York photo desk for publication in newspapers throughout the United States.

4. ***The St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Fla.***  
**Summer 1985**  
As a photojournalism intern and Poynter Institute Scholar, researched and produced original news, sports and feature photographs for stand-alone content and to support written stories published by this multiple Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper.
5. ***The Durham Morning Herald, Durham, N.C.***  
**1986 – 1987**  
Staff Photojournalist  
Researched and produced original news, sports and feature photographs, feature articles and enterprise photo packages.
6. ***The St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Fla.***  
**1987 – 1990**  
As a staff photojournalist, researched and produced original news, sports and feature photographs for stand-alone content and to support written stories published by this multiple Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper.
7. **Southern Baptist Convention, International Mission Board, Richmond. Va.**  
**1990 – 1993**  
As an overseas photojournalist, researched, produced and edited stories for the board's bi-monthly magazine, *The Commission*, focused on educating donors on issues related to the cultural and socioeconomic landscapes within which Baptist relief workers and missionaries lived and worked.
8. **Freelance Photographer (Incorporated in Virginia as Stretch Photography, LLC)**  
**1993 – 2011**  
As principal photographer and managing partner, traveled to 52 countries on five continents to research, produce and disseminate photojournalism, photo-illustration and multimedia content for domestic and international editorial, commercial, advertising and not-for-profit clients.

D. Honors, Recognitions and Outstanding Achievements

*(Please note that most citations below are hyperlinked to online resources)*

1. **Finalist, Community Collaboration, Online News Association**  
[Videos and Website: "Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
September 2011

2. **Short Film Gold Award, Horizon Interactive Awards**  
[Video: "A Possum's Tale"](#)  
 October 2011
3. **Silver Award for Advocacy/Non-Profit Websites, Horizon Interactive Awards**  
[Video and Website: "Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
 October 2011
4. **Short Film Gold Award, Horizon Interactive Awards**  
[Video: "First God, Then Michael Jackson" \(Part of "Overtown: Inside/Out"\)](#)  
 October 2011
5. **Short Film Gold Award, Horizon Interactive Awards**  
[Video: "The Eye of Overtown" \(Part of "Overtown: Inside/Out"\)](#)  
 October 2011
6. **Short Film Gold Award, Horizon Interactive Awards**  
[Video: "This Is Overtown" \(Part of "Overtown: Inside/Out"\)](#)  
 October 2011
7. **Best Class Project, College of Engineering Open House**  
[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)  
[Department of Journalism Independent Study Project, JOUR460,](#)  
["Virtual Dugout"](#)  
 March 2012
8. **Best of the Web, First Place Individual Innovation**  
[Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication](#)  
[Video and Website "Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
 September 2012
9. **Finalist, Moving Image Photographer of the Year**  
[Lucie Foundation's International Photography Awards](#)  
[Video: "The Eye of Overtown" \(Part of "Overtown: Inside/Out"\)](#)  
 October 2012
10. **Digital Medal Finalist (As Contributing Editor)**  
[Society of Publication Designers](#)  
[Tablet: Video/Series: "Your World: The March on Washington Then and Now"](#)  
 April 2014
11. **Third Place (Tie) Best of the Web**  
 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication  
 JOUR460 Independent Study Class Project: ["Virtual Dugout"](#)  
 August 2014

12. **Innovator of the Year for College Students**  
[Associated Press Media Editors](#)  
[Department of Journalism Independent Study Project “Virtual Dugout”](#)  
September 2014
13. **Fellow, Center for Advanced Study**  
[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)  
Fall 2015
14. **Filter Photo Festival, “Power and Politics” Exhibition**  
Photograph: “Our Family, Our Guns”  
September 2016 – October 2016, Chicago  
Juror: Barbara Tannenbaum, Curator of Photography,  
Cleveland Museum of Art
15. **Tokyo International Foto Awards**  
Photograph: “Our Family, Our Guns”  
Bronze Medal: Personality  
December 2016
16. **Regional Finalist, Best Use of Multimedia, Society of Professional Journalists**  
**Mark of Excellence Awards**  
[Department of Journalism Independent Study Project](#)  
[“#BlackScienceMatters”](#)  
April 2017
17. **National Finalist, Best Use of Multimedia, Society of Professional Journalists**  
Mark of Excellence Awards  
Department of Journalism Independent Study Project  
#BlackScienceMatters”  
May 2017
18. **Second Place, Creative Projects Competition**  
**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**  
“America First, Everyone Else Last: The (Un)Intended Consequences of the 2017  
Global Gag Rule”  
August 2017
19. **Third Place, Creative Projects Competition**  
**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**  
“The Luckiest Unlucky Person:  
When a Half-Mile Away from a Gun Range is Too Close”  
August 2017

20. **Illinois Student Government Teaching Excellence Award**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
May 2020
21. **Homecoming Hero**  
University of Illinois Alumni Association  
November 2020
22. **Gold Selection Winner**  
**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**  
**Broadcast Education Association**  
Southeast Colloquium Creative Contest  
"Campus Life Under the Shadow of a Pandemic"  
March 2021

E. Invited Lectures and Conferences

1. **VISCOM: The Visual Communications Conference**  
[University of Utah Department of Communication](#)  
["Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
June 2012
2. **International Visual Sociology Association Conference**  
[St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY](#)  
["Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
June 2012
3. **Mobile Development Day**  
[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Research Park](#)  
["Virtual Dugout"](#)  
January 2013
4. **"What Is Documentary?" Conference**  
[University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication](#)  
[Video and Website: "Overtown: Inside/Out"](#)  
April 2014
5. **Center for Advanced Study Spring Symposium**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
"Shooting with the Gun Guys"  
April 2016
6. **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**  
**Annual Conference Visual Communication Division**  
Chicago, IL  
August 2017

7. **Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium**  
Elon University  
“Campus Life Under the Shadow of a Pandemic”  
March 2021

F. Offices Held in Professional Societies

1. **Journal of Video Ethnography**  
Editorial Board / Reviewer, 2014 – Present
2. **American Society of Media Photographers**  
National Board of Directors, 2014 – 2020

G. Grants Received Since Last Promotion at UIUC

1. **Campus Research Board Scholars’ Travel Fund – \$750**  
March 2014
2. **NASA, Co-Principal Investigator, “CAPSat: The Process of Discovery,” – \$200,000**  
April 2016 – December 2018  
Co-Principal Investigator for a \$200,000 grant from NASA’s Undergraduate Student Instrument Project for “CAPSat: The Process of Discovery,” a nanosatellite project that brings together undergraduates from the University of Illinois, Bradley University and Northwestern University to collaborate on a CubeSat project.
3. **University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study – \$20,329**  
April 2018  
Grant to bring visual journalist Christopher Capozziello to campus as a Visiting Scholar / Artist in Residence
4. **University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study – \$4,500**  
October 2021  
Grant to bring visual journalist and scholar Tara Pixley to campus under the auspices of the CAS/MillerComm public lecture series
5. **University of Illinois / University of Birmingham (UK) – \$6,500 Birmingham-Illinois Partnership for Discovery, Engagement & Education (BRIDGE)**  
May 2023  
Seed grant to initiate long term research and creative collaboration on the project “From Shame to Celebration: A Reframing of the Global Culture of Menstruation” with UoB behavioral health professor Dr. Sophie King-Hill. This initiative is developing a cross-

disciplinary collaboration with Fourah Bay College and other partners in Sierra Leone, along with University of Illinois journalism students, to produce a library of short documentary films that will raise awareness of the global issue of “period poverty” while catalyzing solutions-focused discussions.

**6. University of Illinois – \$15,000**

**Vision 2030 Global Strategy Implementation Grant**

January 2024

Grant to continue long term research, creative and pedagogical collaboration on the project “From Shame to Celebration: A Reframing of the Global Culture of Menstruation” with Dr. Sophie King-Hill of the University of Birmingham (UK), Dr. Francis Sowa of Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Alison Davis of the University of Illinois. This initiative is developing a cross-disciplinary collaboration with Fourah Bay College and other partners in Sierra Leone, along with University of Illinois journalism students and University of Birmingham social science researchers, to produce a library of short documentary films that will raise awareness of the global issue of “period poverty” while catalyzing solutions-focused discussions.

**7. University of Illinois / University of Birmingham (UK) – \$10,000**

**Birmingham-Illinois Partnership for Discovery, Engagement & Education**

**(BRIDGE)**

April 2024

Grant to continue long term research, creative and pedagogical collaboration on the project “From Shame to Celebration: A Reframing of the Global Culture of Menstruation” with Dr. Sophie King-Hill of the University of Birmingham (UK), Dr. Francis Sowa of Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Alison Davis of the University of Illinois. This initiative is developing a cross-disciplinary collaboration with Fourah Bay College and other partners in Sierra Leone, along with University of Illinois journalism students and University of Birmingham social science researchers, to produce a library of short documentary films that will raise awareness of the global issue of “period poverty” while catalyzing solutions-focused discussions.

H. Review Panels

**1. Peer Reviewer, Prairie Research Institute Matching Research Awards Program**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Applying Augmented Reality to Enhance Perception of Flood Risk”

March 2014

## II. Publications and Creative Works

(Most citations below contain a hyperlink to the published work.  
# denotes derived from thesis, \* denotes stringent peer review, + denotes special prestige)

### A. Articles in Journals

1. # \* **News Photographer Magazine**  
(Journal of the National Press Photographers Association)  
[Ethics Column: "An Inviolable Trust"](#)  
October 2013
2. # \* **News Photographer Magazine**  
(Journal of the National Press Photographers Association)  
"Documenting a University Coping with the Pandemic is Challenging,  
Revealing"  
September/October 202

### B. Creative Works

#### 1. "A Possum's Tale"

Told from the point of view of the residents of a small community in the mountains of Western North Carolina, this quirky short film pits self-effacing rural traditionalists against the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in an annual showdown over a New Year's Eve celebration wherein a live possum, hoisted above a local general store, is lowered to the ground at the stroke of midnight.

##### a. Video Story

- a. + \* *The Atlantic*, December 2011
- b. \* *Daily Mail*, November 2012
- c. \* *Huffington Post*, November 2014
- d. \* *The Rachel Maddow Show*, December 2014
- e. \* *Daily Mail*, December 2014
- f. \* *Canadian Broadcast Corporation*, December 2014
- g. *WKMG News 6*, December 2015
- h. *The Idaho Statesman*, December 2016.

##### b. Photograph

- a. *The News and Observer*, November 2012
- b. *The Gazette*, December 2013
- c. \* *Daily Mail*, December 2014
- d. \* *Canadian Broadcast Corporation*, December 2014
- e. *The News and Observer*, December 2014
- f. *WCQS*, December 2015.



## 2. “Handguns and Humor in the Heartland”

My first video story after arriving at the University of Illinois was a video profile of the men and women behind these signs. I completed production of the story just days before the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and a few weeks before the Illinois legislature passed a law that would make Illinois the last state in the nation to allow residents to carry a concealed firearm.

- a. + \* The Atlantic, December 2012
- b. WILL-TV, January 2013
- c. + \* The BBC, January 2013
- d. + \* Globe and Mail, June 2013

## 3. Virtual Dugout

Cross-disciplinary independent study that brought thirteen students from Journalism, Advertising, Art & Design, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Statistics, and Computer Science into collaboration to produce a mobile app, “Virtual Dugout,” providing users with an inside look at the 2012 University of Illinois baseball season by presenting player video-bios through an augmented reality portal and by using live XML feeds from the stadium’s press box to provide users with win probability statistics in near real-time.

- a. Craig, Alan B., “Understanding Augmented Reality: Concepts and Applications,” 2013.

## 4. “Illinois Tornado Victim Finds Dog Buried Alive in Rubble After Thirty Hours”

Series of photographs showing a storm victim and his dog, missing for 30 hours, reunited.

- a. \* **The Weather Channel**  
“Heartwarming Reunion: Illinois Tornado Survivor Finds His Missing Dog”  
November 2013
- b. + \* **TIME**  
[“Illinois Tornado Victim Finds Lost Dog in Rubble”](#)  
November 2013
- c. \* **Daily Mail, London**  
[“Heartwarming Moment: A Father-Of-Four Who Lost His Home Was Reunited With Beloved Family Dog After Digging For 30 Hours In Tornado Rubble”](#)  
November 2013

- d. \* **Gawker.com**  
 “Tornado Victim’s Missing Dog Found Alive  
 Beneath Demolished Home”  
 November 2013
- e. \* **NBC News Network**  
 “Tornado Survivor Has Heartwarming Reunion After Finding  
 Dog Buried Alive in Debris”  
 November 2013 (Numerous Citations)
- f. \* **Huffington Post**  
 “Illinois Man, Jonathan Byler Dann, Reunites with Dog He  
 Thought He Lost to Tornado”  
 November 2013
- g. + \* **Today Show**  
[“It's unreal: Man finds dog alive in rubble left by tornado”](#)  
 November 2013
- h. + \* **NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams**  
 “Heartwarming Reunion: Illinois Tornado Survivor Finds His  
 Missing Dog Buried Alive Under Rubble”  
 November 2013
- i. \* **Nippon Television Network, Tokyo**  
 “Heartwarming Reunion: Illinois Tornado Survivor Finds His  
 Missing Dog Buried Alive Under Rubble”  
 December 2013

5. **#BlackScienceMatters**

I conceived and directed this independent study wherein nine Journalism and Graphic Design students collaborated to research and report on the disproportionate underrepresentation of African Americans in the sciences. The class produced eight short films examining this underreported national issue by reporting locally – telling stories through the eyes of students and faculty in the University’s College of Engineering.

Students concurrently designed, illustrated and coded the website [BlackScienceMatters.com](#), an interactive multimedia tour through a desert landscape where diversity is as scarce as a drop of water.

Launched in April 2016, the project [was featured on Illinois Public Media’s WILL-AM talk show “The 21st.”](#) WILL-TV also broadcast the component videos in late 2016 – early 2017.

Senior Journalism major Zila Renfro presented the project at the [University of Illinois 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium](#),

described by the university as a showcase for "...the best of undergraduate research and creative inquiry at the University of Illinois." Projects selected for presentation at the symposium "...demonstrate the ongoing commitment of our faculty to supporting and expanding undergraduate research opportunities on campus and beyond. The presentations, posters, and performances... address some of society's most pressing issues. As is true of the mentors who support them, these students and their projects hold the potential to change the world for the better. The featured lunch time session demonstrates the range of research that occurs at the University of Illinois, from the scarcity of African Americans in STEM fields to the future of renewable energy."

The project won Best Use of Multimedia, Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards, Region 5, in April 2017. In May 2017 it was named a finalist in the national Mark of Excellence Awards competition.

#### 6. The 2016 United States Presidential Election

Getty Images is one of the world's largest and respected distribution channels for news and feature photography. In December 2015, looking toward the presidential primaries that were to take place in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana in early 2016, I contacted Getty's Managing Editor with the following pitch – "Let me cover the primaries for you, but let me do it in a way that supplements, rather than duplicates, the work your staffers are already doing. I'll hit as many candidate events as my university teaching schedule allows and I'll shoot from the voters' angle rather than the usual press angle." He took me up on my offer. The resulting publications are below.

- a. + \* **ABC News/Good Morning America**  
[Photograph: "Calendar Could Be Bernie Sanders' Secret Weapon"](#)  
January 2016
- b. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Jeb! Comeback Watch: A Gentle Nudge Toward the Exit"](#)  
January 2016
- c. \* **New York Public Radio\_WNYC**  
[Photograph: "7 Things That Are the Same \(or Different\) About Hillary Clinton's 2008 & 2016 Campaigns"](#)  
January 2016

- d. + \* **TIME**  
[Photograph: "Bill Clinton Says Bernie Sanders' Health Care Plan Is Folly"](#)  
January 2016
- e. \* **Associated Press**  
[Photograph: "Hillary Clinton Campaign Deploys Husband Bill Very Carefully"](#)  
January 2016 (Multiple Citations)
- f. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Bernie Sanders Has a Solution for When People Get Upset Over the GOP Debate"](#)  
January 2016
- g. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Bernie Sanders and the New American Social Contract"](#)  
January 2016
- h. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Jeb Bush: I Misjudged the Intensity of GOP Voters' Anger"](#)  
January 2016
- i. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "The Big Short and Bernie's Plan to Bust Up Wall Street"](#)  
January 2016
- j. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Clinton Attacks Bernie Sanders on Guns, But Was a 'Pro-Gun Churchgoer' in 2008"](#)  
January 2016
- k. \* **Vox**  
[Photograph: "Bernie Sanders is on the Rise in Iowa – And It Looks Like He Could Win There"](#)  
January 2016
- l. \* **Jewish Telegraphic Agency**  
[Photograph: "For Jewish Campaign Staffers, A Welcome Respite at Iowa Shabbat Dinner"](#)  
January 2016
- m. \* **St. Louis Jewish Light**  
[Photograph: "Bernie Sanders Yarmulke"](#)  
January 2016

- n. \* **The Times of Israel**  
[Photograph: "Rugelach with a Side of Politics in Shared Shabbat for Campaign Staff in Iowa"](#)  
January 2016
- o. \* **The Times of Israel**  
[Photograph: "Did Bernie Sanders Just Steal Joe Lieberman's Jewish Crown?"](#)  
January 2016
- p. \* **The Times of Israel**  
[Photograph: "Why Sanders' Victory Is No Big Deal to Jews – or America"](#)  
January 2016
- q. \* **Houston Chronicle**  
[Photograph: "Iowa Caucuses: Other Things To Do"](#)  
February 2016
- r. \* **VICE**  
[Photograph: "Observant Jews Shut Out of Democratic Caucuses in Nevada on the Sabbath"](#)  
February 2016
- s. \* **Jewish Telegraphic Agency**  
[Photograph: "Nevada's Democratic Caucus Conflicts with Shabbat"](#)  
February 2016
- t. \* **Vos Iz Neias (The Voice of the Orthodox Jewish Community)**  
[Photograph: "Sanders Keeps His Judaism in the Background, Irking US Jews"](#)  
February 2016
- u. \* **The Week**  
[Photograph: "Ted Cruz Says He'll 'Welcome' Marco Rubio Supporters to His Campaign 'With Open Arms'"](#)  
March 2016
- v. \* **CBC News Canada**  
[Photograph: "Mini Super Tuesday: Follow our Results, Updates and Analysis"](#)  
March 2016
- w. \* **CBC News Canada**  
[Photograph: Ted Cruz: "Together, We Will Make Washington Less Relevant in All of Our Lives"](#)  
March 2016

- x. + \* **Forbes**  
[Photograph: "Missing Auto Loan Crisis Says Volumes About Student Loan Crisis"](#)  
March 2016
- y. + \* **The Guardian**  
[Photograph: "Absurd – Bernie Sanders Rejects Calls to Drop Out"](#)  
March 2016
- z. \* **HEAVY**  
[Photograph: "Anonymous Threatens to Reveal Info on Ted Cruz & Prostitutes"](#)  
March 2016
- aa. \* **Latin Post**  
[Photograph: "Jeb Bush Endorses Cruz for President over 'Vulgar' Donald Trump"](#)  
March 2016
- bb. \* **Newsday**  
Photograph: "Win or Lose, Bernie Sanders Revolution is Coming"  
March 2016
- cc. \* **CNN Affiliates**  
Photograph: "Cruz Ad Shares Story of Killing in Arizona"  
March 2016 (Multiple Citations)
- dd.\* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Mysterious Ted Cruz Super PAC Donor Tied to Company Accused of Stealing Seniors' Social Security"](#)  
March 2016
- ee. \* **Buzzfeed**  
[Photograph: "Cruz Remains Hopeful Despite Losses to Trump"](#)  
March 2016
- ff. + \* **Wall Street Journal**  
[Photograph: "Democratic Presidential Contest Sparks Tensions on College Campuses"](#)  
March 2016
- gg. + \* **GQ**  
[Photograph: "Fifteen Celebrities Who Are Older Than Ted Cruz"](#)  
March 2016
- hh.\* **Houston Chronicle**  
[Photograph: "Trump Continues March and Rubio Withdraws"](#)  
March 2016

- ii. \* **Observer**  
[Photograph: "Cruz Control: Why Ted Will Be Key at a Brokered Convention"](#)  
March 2016
- jj. \* **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**  
[Photograph: "Ted Cruz-Marco Rubio Ticket? Allies Say Yes, but Rubio Says No"](#)  
March 2016
- kk. \* **AOL News**  
[Photograph: "Trump, Clinton Might Not Be Best Candidates to Win General Election"](#)  
March 2016
- ll. \* **NY Daily News**  
[Photograph: "House Speaker Paul Ryan Coming to N.Y. for Secret GOP Fundraiser as He Denies Prez Campaign"](#)  
April 2016
- mm. \* **NY Daily News**  
[Photograph: "The Only Presidential Candidate Who Americans Have Liked Less than Donald Trump is KKK Grand Wizard David Duke"](#)  
April, 2016
- nn. \* **The Tablet**  
[Photograph: "Bernie Sanders' Jewish Problem, and Ours"](#)  
April 2016
- oo. \* **Daily KOS**  
[Photograph: "Guess What We Have to Look Forward To!"](#)  
May 2016
- pp. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Trump Supporters are Peddling Disgustingly Sexist Anti-Hillary Clinton Swag"](#)  
May 2016
- qq. \* **AOL News**  
[Photograph: "Hillary Clinton: Bill Clinton Will Be in Charge of 'Revitalizing the Economy'"](#)  
May 2016
- rr. \* **Huffington Post**  
[Photograph: "Indiana to Test Donald Trump's Staying Power with Evangelicals"](#)  
May 2016

- ss.+ \* **The Guardian**  
[Photograph: "And Then Came Indiana"](#)  
May 2016
- tt. + \* **New York Magazine**  
[Photograph: "The Last White Male Democratic President"](#)  
July 2016
- uu.\* **Vox**  
[Photograph: "Why Bernie Sanders Supporters Really Could Become the Tea Party of the Left"](#)  
July 2016
- vv. + \* **Esquire Magazine**  
[Photograph: "Does Trump Understand His Own Movement?"](#)  
(Two citations)  
August 2016
- ww. **The Times of London**  
["If the Polls are to be Believed, No One Believes the Polls"](#)  
November 2016
- xx. + \* **National Public Radio Morning Edition**  
[Photograph: "This Bellwether Has Picked the Winning Presidential Candidate Since the 1890's"](#)  
November 2016
- yy. **The Jewish Standard**  
[Photograph: "Important Jewish Moments Emerge During a Tumultuous Campaign"](#)  
November 2016
- zz. **Bustle.com**  
[Photograph: "The DNC Wants To Recruit Students Of Color To Help Win Back The White House"](#)  
February 2019
7. **Special Olympics International**  
[Video: "Korea International Cooperation Agency in Partnership with Special Olympics Uganda."](#)  
March 2017

I was asked by Professor Rich Beckman of the University of Miami School of Communication to supervise and mentor one of his multimedia journalism graduate students in the production of this short film. I guided the student through the initial research and pre-production phases of the shoot and subsequently traveled with her to Uganda to collaborate in filming and editing. The film premiered at the 2017 Special Olympics Winter World Games in Schladming,



Austria. It is part of a series wherein Special Olympics recognizes "...healthcare organizations and professionals who are on the frontlines of bringing essential and often unprecedented health care services to the most marginalized people on earth, those with intellectual disabilities."

8. **The COVID-19 Pandemic**  
Spring 2020 – Fall 2021

Because of my family's ties to Wuhan (our nine-year-old daughter was born in Hubei Province), I was aware of what was then known simply as the "novel coronavirus" in mid-January 2020, before it was a blip on the radar for most Americans. I knew the coronavirus was a going to be a big story – the most important story in the world, actually. But it wasn't yet a visual story, so I began researching the nascent local impact of the virus and filing audio stories for Illinois Public Radio and National Public Radio's Morning Edition. My contributions to the early domestic reporting of the story were amplified when I was asked to talk about my work on three Chicago radio talk shows.

Winter turned into a frightening spring and spring into a dolorous summer, and the visuals came. The University of Illinois, like colleges and universities around the country, made plans for a fall semester unlike any other. Illinois's hybrid learning approach – most classes taught online, masks and social distancing required for in-person instruction – was both representative of that broad effort and, in important ways, unique. Faculty researchers developed a saliva test that returned results in less than 48 hours, and everyone on campus was required to test twice a week. The administration, in conjunction with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, implemented an aggressive contact tracing regimen for positive tests. A mobile app allowed "Wellness Support Associates" stationed at the entrances to every building on campus to quickly verify the health status of students, faculty and staff. Only those with a recent negative test would be granted access.

From my perspective as a journalist, these efforts and, moreover, their impact on the lived experience of Illinois students, faculty and staff, made for a very visual, and visually underreported, story. I spent the 2020-2021 academic year researching and producing photo essays that were published by The Washington Post and The Chronicle for Higher Education and recognized by the National Press Photographers Association and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Some individuals weren't happy with the story I was trying to tell. A bar manager called the police to try to stop me from photographing a line of students on a sidewalk outside a local watering hole. (The

responding officers gave the bar manager a short lesson on the First Amendment.) A university administrator demanded that I delete photographs showing a housing worker in full PPE gear outside a dormitory. (I refused.) But as is usually the case when one is trying to tell the story of a community with honesty and empathy, most of my subjects respected what I was doing as the strangest college semester ever unfolded around us.

- a. **Illinois Public Media, WILL-AM**  
Audio Story: ["Concern & Solidarity Leads to Cancellation of Local Lunar New Year Celebration"](#)  
January 2020
- b. **Illinois Public Media, WILL-AM**  
Audio Story: ["Coronavirus Concerns Empty Local Stores of Masks"](#)  
January 2020
- c. + \* **National Public Radio Morning Edition**  
Audio Story: ["Coronavirus Concerns Weigh on Chinese Students at U.S. Colleges"](#)  
February 2020
- d. **Illinois Public Media, WILL-AM**  
Audio Story: ["University of Illinois Tells Students in Italy to Return Home Now"](#)  
March 2020
- e. **Illinois Public Media, WILL-AM**  
Audio Story: ["University of Illinois Administrators Plan for Disruptions Due to the Novel Coronavirus"](#)  
March 2020
- f. + \* **The Washington Post**  
Photo Essay: ["Campus Life Under the Shadow of a Pandemic"](#)  
September 2020
- g. **The Chronicle of Higher Education**  
Photo Package: [The 2021-2022 Almanac of Higher Education](#)  
August 2021
- h. **The Chronicle of Higher Education**  
Photograph: ["The Dystopian Delta University"](#)  
October 2021

9. **Sewn in Memory**  
January 20, 2022

I was co-executive producer, visual supervisor and editor of a series of package of eleven short video biographies [aired on WILL-TV](#) features as part of the 2022 exhibition “Sewn in Memory: AIDS Quilt Panels from Central Illinois” at the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures. The exhibition featured over one dozen quilt panels originally made in the 1980s and early 1990s for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, in Washington, DC. Each of the panels commemorates a person who died of AIDS, or of an AIDS-related ailment. Illinois Public Media, the Department of Journalism at the University of Illinois and students from the College of Media at Illinois worked together in the fall of 2021 to create video vignettes on the lives and legacies of these individuals.

10. **Other Publications and Exhibitions**

- i. **The Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University**  
Invited Contributor to Photographic Exhibition: “Beyond Portraiture: Childhood”  
February 2013 – April 2013
- j. + \* **Smithsonian Magazine**  
[Photographs: “Fairfield Iowa: One of the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2013”](#)  
April 2013
- k. \* **AARP Magazine**  
[Editor of Mobile Version of “The March on Washington, Then and Now”](#)  
June 2013
- l. **Education Week**  
[Video: “St. Louis Schools Leaders Team Up on Preschool Expansion”](#)  
March 2014
- m. **Smile Politely**  
[WILL to show BLACK SCIENCE MATTERS, eight-part documentary](#)  
December 2016
- n. **The University Herald**  
[Photograph: “University of Illinois to Freeze Tuition as Part of Enrollment Growth Initiative”](#)  
January 2017

- o. **Quartz Africa**  
[Photographs & Essay: “Trump’s Anti-Abortion Global Gag Rule and Its Impact in Uganda”](#)  
 August 2017
- p. **MacLeans**  
 Photograph: [“Did Trump Trigger the Movement Against Sexual Harassment?”](#)  
 November 2017
- q. **Lights, Camera, 305: A Miami Movie Night**  
 Knight Foundation  
 “First God, Then Michael Jackson”  
 November 2017
- r. **Lights, Camera, 305: A Miami Movie Night**  
 Knight Foundation  
 “The Eye of Overtown”  
 November 2017
- s. **The News-Gazette**  
 Commentary: [“Rosenstein’s Tragic Mistake in Pursuing a Story”](#)  
 January 2018
- t. **Copyright Alliance**  
 Commentary: [“Oregon Senator Ron Wyden’s Twitter Feed is Full of Righteous Admonitions and Noble Calls to Action”](#)  
 August 2020

### III. Resident Instruction

#### A. Summary of Instruction

##### 1. Descriptive Data

*(On Record with the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning)*

##### 2. Supervision of Graduate Students

###### a. **Lillian Barkley**

“The Circle of Death: Americans Return to Natural Burials”  
 Fall 2018

###### b. **Blake Dietz**

“The American Dream: Four Perspectives”  
 Fall 2021

- c. **David Zalaznik**  
“The Clear Creek Yearly Meeting House: A Visual Exploration of the Religious Society of Friends and Their Enduring Values”  
Fall 2022

3. Supervision of Undergraduate Students

- a. **Supervising Instructor, University of Illinois Edmund J. James Scholar**  
Alyssa Rege, Anna Hecht  
Fall 2014
- b. **Supervising Instructor, University of Illinois Edmund J. James Scholar**  
Zila Renfro, Cassidy Williams  
Spring 2015
- c. **Supervising Instructor, University of Illinois Edmund J. James Scholar**  
Grace Asiegbu, Natalie Stewart  
Spring 2016
- d. **Supervising Instructor, University of Illinois Edmund J. James Scholar**  
Chantal Vaca  
Fall 2017
- e. **Supervising Editor – Audio Story**  
Liv Barwinska  
Illinois Public Media WILL-AM 580  
[“How the Israel-Hamas War Affected One University of Illinois Student”](#)  
October 2023
- f. **Supervising Editor – Audio Story**  
John Shay  
Illinois Public Media WILL-AM 580  
“Poster Wars: University Quad Kiosk is a Microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”  
December 2023
- g. **Research Mentor, University of Illinois Undergraduate Research Symposium**  
Faith Lee, Nour Longi, Maggie Knutte, Elena Cleary, Stephanie Wayda, Piper Pascarella  
“Exploring Period Poverty in Sierra Leone”  
Spring 2024

#### 4. Other Contributions to Instructional Programs

a. **CU-CitizenAccess.org**  
Fall 2014 – Present

In addition to the Affordable Care Act project cited below, I have supervised and facilitated the publication of [19 stories](#) produced by my multimedia students for this online news and information project curated by the Department of Journalism.

b. **International Publication by Journalism Student**  
Fall 2014

Facilitated and supervised publication of JOUR215 student Anna Hecht's video story ["A One Way Trip to Mars"](#) by *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's newspaper of record. The video tells the story of Hecht's sister, Heidi Hecht, an early "Mars One" candidate.

c. **Teaching Assistant Supervision JOUR215**  
Spring 2016

Supervised and directed former JOUR215 student Zila Renfro as she guided current students along the technological learning curve of the Adobe Creative Cloud network of audiovisual editing tools.

d. **The ChairCam**  
Summer 2016, Fall 2017

Assisted multimedia journalism student Ryan Wilson as he reported on the 2016 basketball camps sponsored by University's Disability Resource and Educational Services and the Wheelchair Athletics Office. Wilson, a remarkable young man and gifted journalist, has *osteogenesis imperfecta*. He is not strong enough to walk, and operating traditional audiovisual equipment is impractical. In order to accommodate Ryan's disability, I constructed a wheelchair mount for his iPhone in order to allow him to drive his chair while shooting video, making photographs and recording audio.

e. **Regional Publication by Journalism Student**  
Fall 2020

Facilitated and supervised publication of JOUR215 student Owen Henderson's video story, ["The Lori Theater Adapts to COVID-19,"](#) by *The Bellevue News-Democrat*. The video shows how the owners of this independent movie theater adapted to survive the pandemic.

f. **Sewn in Memory: AIDS Quilt Panels from Central Illinois**  
Fall 2021

In collaboration with WILL, the university's History Harvest initiative and the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, facilitated and supervised 12 College of Media students as they researched and produced video biographies of 19 Central Illinois men who died of AIDS in the early years of the pandemic. Presented on an interactive kiosk to visitors to the Spurlock Museum, the films became part of [an exhibition of AIDS quilt panels memorializing the men](#). The works were also featured on [the WILL website](#) and as part of [The 21<sup>st</sup> Show](#).

B. Evaluation of Instruction

1. Student ICES Course Evaluation Questionnaires

**Campus-wide List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent**

- JOUR 410 Fall 2012
- JOUR 410 Fall 2013
- JOUR 410 Spring 2014
- JOUR 215 Fall 2014
- JOUR 215 Spring 2016
- JOUR 215 Spring 2017
- JOUR 215 Fall 2020
- JOUR215 Fall 2023
- JOUR335 Fall 2023

2. Candidate's Teaching Activities Report and Self-Review

Though the tools used to create it require a degree of technical proficiency, multimedia journalism is at its heart a creative enterprise. As such, its efficacy can be judged by how well it evokes emotion within a viewer, listener or user. Great multimedia journalism – to paraphrase E. L. Doctorow – "...is supposed to evoke sensation... Not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon."

Regurgitating facts isn't enough. The role of a journalist in a civil society is not just that of an agent dedicated to transmitting as much data as possible to as many people as possible as quickly as possible. It is

instead that of a humanist who understands that raw facts don't have a jot of importance unless they are contextualized within and animated by tangible human experience.

It is inarguable that, with the possible exception of scent, visual and audio imagery makes the most visceral and indelible mark on the human psyche – vivid memories are not recalled as words or phrases, but as images and sounds. An otherwise abstract line on a graph like the “poverty line” gains full meaning when we see and hear stories told from the point of view of an individual who actually lives in poverty. (Please see “Obamacare in Central Illinois: A Fragile Future,” and “As National Labor Shortage Drags On, Local Businesses and Workers Suffer Consequences of “The Great Resignation,” below.)

My primary goal as a teacher is to introduce students to this humanistic form of journalism and to champion it as a means of getting past the mere dissemination of information and toward shared public knowledge and societal understanding. Everything I do is designed to empower students with the creative energy, editorial sensibilities and technical skills that will allow them to leverage audiovisual narratives and multimedia platforms in service of humanistic journalism. And I want to acclimate students to the fact that this humanistic approach is not possible unless they commit the time and emotional capital necessary to establish an uncommon rapport with their subjects.

Our society is saturated with mediated visual and auditory stimuli. Yet though (or possibly because) they are among the most voracious consumers of media in history – especially audiovisual media – many students enter my class unfortunately hobbled by a reluctance to summon from within themselves the interpersonal skills that are necessary to do this kind of work.

Leading them into a sensibility where they embrace curiosity and recognize the unknown as a source of inspiration is a fundamental challenge. My primary strategy for meeting this challenge is to provide students with a series of assignments that require them to get out of their comfort zone, go off campus, expand their sphere of cultural and civic experience and report on the community around them. As they do so they learn that the most important lessons – not to mention the best stories – are found when they spend time with people they would otherwise never encounter and, possibly, in places their parents have told them to avoid.

I measure my students' progress through weekly classroom critiques and encourage them during as many one-on-one meetings as the students will countenance. And I frequently reinforce the fact that early failures can be the secret to long-term successes. But my entire teaching philosophy revolves around fieldwork, and a belief that in order to become a successful multimedia storyteller a student must



independently live the process outside the classroom. Then rinse and repeat.

To this end, I structure my JOUR215 Multimedia Reporting classes around a “semester focus” – an underreported or otherwise significant topic that I have researched and within which I task each student with finding and producing stories. Semester Focus topics have included:

- **Crossing the Tracks** – The highest calling of a journalist is to “give voice to the voiceless.” Our society, both domestic and global, is fractured along economic, cultural, religious and racial fault lines. In this world of oppositional interests, it is usually the individuals and groups wielding the most political and economic power whose message is most widely and forcefully disseminated by the popular media. Great journalists strive to resolve this imbalance by breaking away from the pack mentality to seek out and disseminate stories told from the point of view of under-represented groups. This semester focus required students to produce at least two projects that originated in Champaign-Urbana between Neil Street to the west, Lincoln Avenue to the east and north of the CSX rail line that bisects these two thoroughfares.
- **Bristol Place Speaks** – Students immersed themselves in an economically and socially marginalized African American neighborhood in north Champaign that the City of Champaign in 2012 decided to demolish and eventually rebuild.
- **Downstate Vietnam Stories** – In partnership with Illinois Public Media, WTVP-TV and WSIU-TV students produced stories about central Illinois residents who were directly impacted by the Vietnam War.
- **The Sciences: Diversity’s Desert** – Initial reporting on the underrepresentation of minorities and women in science, technology, engineering and math. This semester focus led to the more intensive independent study that produced [BlackScienceMatters.com](http://BlackScienceMatters.com)
- **Obamacare in Central Illinois: A Fragile Future** – My students spent a good part of the Spring 2017 semester reporting on the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act, finding local perspectives on this national story. After producing audio packages early in the semester, they eventually authored five short character studies that, because of their very narrow focus, distill a numbingly complex issue down to its human fundamentals in a way had not previously been seen in local media. The work was featured on [CU-CitizenAccess.org](http://CU-CitizenAccess.org) and

[Illinois Public Media's The 21st](#) as well as at a [town hall style community engagement event at the Champaign Public Library](#).

- **The 2019 World Championship Punkin Chunkin Competition**  
– In finding and reporting stories related to this quirky slice of Americana, my students interviewed physicists and engineers – and even built their own small trebuchets, catapults and air cannons, the machines Chunkers use to hurl Pumpkins up to a mile. They researched and reported on the history of Rantoul and the economic impact of events like the Chunk on the community. They traveled to Morton, IL, to report on the world's largest pumpkin processing factory. And they conducted more than 50 interviews with "Punkin Chunkers" from Colorado to Texas to Delaware ranging in age from 11 to 70.

Some of my students' stories ran in a special section of the News-Gazette newspaper. Others were broadcast on WDWS-AM. Two students, Madelyn Foster and Acacia Hernandez, presented the project at the 2020 University of Illinois Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Best of all, in producing print, audio and video stories about the strangely mesmerizing slice of Americana that is Punkin Chunkin, my students weren't just learning how to practice journalism, they were discovering that the learning is in the doing.

- **As National Labor Shortage Drags On, Local Businesses and Workers Suffer Consequences of "The Great Resignation"** – For their Fall 2021 final projects, my students worked in small teams and in collaboration with a student from the School of Art & Design to produce seven short films, an audio feature story and an essay explaining the national labor crisis through the stories of six local businesses and a self-employed mother who struggles to find adequate childcare for her disabled son. The work was featured on [CU-CitizenAccess.com](#) and by WILL's [Illinois Newsroom](#).

Additionally, I use my decades of experiences with a wide variety of subjects (some listed below) to demonstrate the efficacy of this field methodology that focuses on building qualitative relationships with the subjects of a story in order to find the best version of story's truth at a point well beneath the surface of the quantitative facts.

- The rhythm of life in Overtown, one of Miami's poorest neighborhoods
- The quirky story of an annual Western North Carolina New Year's Eve tradition involving a possum

- The unorthodox activism of a central Illinois pro-gun group
- The night I spent in an Ozarks jail when as a young photographer I failed to establish a proper rapport with the locals

Catalyzing and nurturing cross campus collaborations is also an important part of what I do –

- In my second semester at the University I brought together students from the colleges of Media, Fine and Applied Arts, and Engineering to create the “Virtual Dugout” mobile app.
- “Downstate Vietnam Stories” was the result of close collaboration with Illinois Public Media
- “Black Science Matters” not only required my students to spend significant portions of their semester working with Engineering students and faculty, it was featured on both WILL-AM and WILL-TV, reaching audiences throughout Illinois.
- “CAPsat,” my collaboration with Aerospace Engineering, Physics, *et al.*, was a multiyear project funded by NASA that has the potential to establish permanent teaching, creative and research opportunities for students and faculty in both the applied sciences and the humanities.

Finally, it’s important to note that notwithstanding the pedagogical and developmental value of my experiential approach to teaching, most students come out of my classes with a portfolio of multimedia work that is suitable for online or print publication by most media outlets on the planet. That leads to internships, employment opportunities, careers and, hopefully, supportive alumni.

## IV. Service

### A. Summary of Service

#### 1. Public Engagement

- a. **Speaker, Urbana High School Journalism Classes**  
University of Illinois College of Media Student Services Outreach  
October 2011

- b. **Speaker, Parents Advisory Council, Breakthrough Youth Network of Chicago**  
 "Overtown: Inside/Out"  
 March 2014
- c. **Family Host, Global Institute for Secondary Educators**  
 Center for Global Studies  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Summer 2014
- d. **WSIL-TV**  
 "Injunction Lifted at Tombstone Gun Range"  
 October 2014
- e. **Advisor, Parkland College Institute of Aviation**  
 Project to equip training aircraft with audiovisual recording capabilities  
 Spring 2015
- f. **Family Host, Global Institute for Secondary Educators**  
 Center for Global Studies  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Summer 2015
- g. **Guest, WILL-AM "The 21st"**  
 "Black Science Matters"  
 April 2016
- h. **Family Host, Global Institute for Secondary Educators**  
 Center for Global Studies  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Summer 2016
- i. **Guest Blog, Illinois News Bureau, "Behind the Scenes"**  
 "On the Campaign Trail: Breaking Away from the Pack"  
 April 2016
- j. **The News-Gazette**  
["Ask Mimi: What's Going On in Photojournalism Today?"](#)  
 October 2016
- k. **The News-Gazette**  
["Getting Personal: Charles 'Stretch' Ledford"](#)  
 October 2016
- l. **Quoted, The Daily Illini**  
["Students, Professors Opposed to Trump's Immigration Ban Sign Petition"](#)  
 January 2016

- m. **Family Host, Global Institute for Secondary Educators**  
Center for Global Studies  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
February 2017
- n. **Guest, “Good Morning Illini”**  
“Punkin’ Chunkin’: A Zany Post-Halloween Tradition Comes to Illinois”  
November 2019
- o. **Guest, WBEZ NPR Chicago “Reset”**  
[“Coronavirus Concerns Affect Campus Life for Illinois’ Chinese Students”](#)  
February 2020
- p. **Guest, WGN Chicago, “The Anna Davlantes Show”**  
[“The Impact of the Coronavirus at U of I”](#)  
February 2020
- q. **Guest, WCTP Chicago, “Joan Esposito Live Local and Progressive”**  
February 2020
- r. **The Daily Illini**  
[“New ‘Daily Illini’ Staff, Including Many Media Students, Adapt to Online Only Publication Due to COVID-19 Pandemic”](#)  
April 2020
- s. **Guest Speaker, Boy Scouts of America Troop 121**  
“Photojournalism: An Eye of Life at the Extremities”  
January 2021
- t. **Committee Member, Cub Scout Pack 121**  
August 2020 – April 2022
- u. **Creative/Technical Consultant**  
City of Champaign Planning and Development Department  
American Planning Association Illinois Spring Conference  
“Bristol Place Planning and Development Workshop”  
May 2021
- v. **Scouting, BSA, Troop 2119**  
Assistant Scoutmaster  
April 2022 – Present
- w. **The Daily Illini**  
[“DI Alum Wins Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Journalism”](#)  
May 2022

- x. **Bates University News Service**  
[Bates Photography Exclusively Featured in Special Issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education](#)  
My photo essay on campus life during the COVID-19 pandemic, published by The Chronicle of Higher Education, is cited as inspirational by Bates University Communications' photographer Phyllis Graber Jensen.  
August 2022
  
- y. **First Presbyterian Church of Champaign**  
Faith in the Real World Lecture Series  
"Visual Journalism: Finding Grace While Witnessing Life at the Extremities"  
September 2022
  
- z. **The Daily Illini**  
["Pulitzer-Winning Alum Eli Murray Returns to Campus for Q&A"](#)  
September 2022
  
- aa. **WCIA TV**  
Pulitzer Prize Winner Visits U of I Campus  
September 2022
  
- bb. **Scouting, BSA**  
Moviemaking Merit Badge Counselor  
Led Scouts from two troops as they learned the basics of filmmaking.  
February 2023
  
- cc. **Scouting, BSA**  
Photography Merit Badge Counselor  
Led Scouts from two troops as they learned the basics of photography.  
March 2024
  
- dd. **WILL-AM Illinois Public Media**  
["University of Illinois student journalists travel to Sierra Leone to document 'period poverty'"](#)  
Story about a team of University of Illinois students bound for Sierra Leone to film a documentary about women working toward local solutions to period poverty.  
March 2024

ee. **The News-Gazette**

["UI Student Journalists Travel to Sierra Leone to Film Documentary"](#)

Story about leading a team of University of Illinois students as they film a documentary about Sierra Leonian women working toward local solutions to period poverty.

March 2024

2. Service to Disciplinary and Professional Societies or Associations

a. **Coach, National Press Photographers Association Multimedia Workshop**

S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

Syracuse University

May 2013

b. **Director, National Board**

American Society of Media Photographers

2014 – 2020

Served as liaison between the ASMP National Board of Directors and the following chapters: Baltimore, Chicago/Midwest, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio Valley, Pittsburgh, South Carolina, St. Louis and Tennessee. Along with other visual industry and creative community leaders, led a nationwide effort that resulted in Congress passing and the US President signing the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019 or the *CASE Act* of 2019.

c. **Facilitator, American Society of Media Photographers Chapter Leader Training**

Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, Ill.

February 2015

d. **Judge, National Press Photographers Association**

Monthly Regional Clip Contest

April 2015

e. **Where We Stand in the Digital Age**

American Society of Media Photographers

North Carolina Chapter

Panel Discussion Participant

October 2015

f. **Judge, National Press Photographers Association**

Monthly Regional Clip Contest

January 2016

- g. **Where We Stand in the Digital Age**  
American Society of Media Photographers St. Louis Chapter  
Panel Discussion Participant  
February 2016
- h. **Facilitator, American Society of Media Photographers Chapter Leader Training**  
Sidecar Studios, Minneapolis, Minn.  
August 2017
- i. **Facilitator, American Society of Media Photographers Chapter Leader Training**  
White House Studios, Detroit, Mich.  
August 2017
- j. **Supervisor and Mentor, University of Miami Multimedia Journalism Graduate Student**  
Rabat, Morocco  
I served as supervisor and mentor to University of Miami Multimedia Journalism graduate student producing a short film for Special Olympics International.  
September 2017
- k. **Facilitator, American Society of Media Photographers Chapter Leader Training**  
St. Louis, Missouri  
February 2018
- l. **Supervisor and Mentor, Zayad University Graduate Students**  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
While supervising and mentoring a group of UAE graduate students, I serves as a consultant to a Special Olympics International project with a goal of live streaming each of the 7,000 participating athletes when they compete in 24 summer sports during the 2019 Special Olympics World Games.  
March 2018
- m. **Guest Expert, Photography Unit**  
Next Generation School STEAM Studio  
October 2018
- n. **Juror, International Photography Hall of Fame Induction**  
February 2019
- o. **Juror, International Photography Hall of Fame Induction**  
February 2020



- p. **Supervising Producer, Trainer and Facilitator**  
 American Society of Magazine Photographers  
 COVID-19 Zoom Initiative  
 By optimizing the technical back end of ASMP's Zoom account to facilitate and produce webinars and meetings for ASMP's 3800 members and others, this initiative brought timely and accurate information about federal and state relief programs to the many sole proprietorships, small businesses and gig workers whose economic models have been decimated by COVID-19.  
 April – September 2020
  
- q. **Multimedia Producer**  
 WHERE ARE ALL THE BLACK PEOPLE AT?  
 I produced the first multimedia promotional film for this community of Black and Brown artists in Boston, Massachusetts who are working to right the inequity of the disproportionate underrepresentation of works by people of color in the collections of major museums and galleries in the United States.  
 November 2020
  
- r. **Ex Officio National Director**  
 American Society of Media Photographers  
 2020 – 2021
  
- s. **Juror, International Photography Hall of Fame Induction**  
 February 2021
  
- t. **Judge, Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Student Awards for Excellence**  
 January 2022
  
- u. **Juror, International Photography Hall of Fame Induction**  
 February 2022
  
- v. **Judge, Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Student Awards for Excellence**  
 January 2023
  
- w. **Juror, International Photography Hall of Fame Induction**  
 March 2024
  
- x. **Illinois Broadcasters Association Academics Committee**  
 Fall 2021 – Present

3. University/Campus Service
  - a. **Speaker, National Association of Black Journalists Writers Workshop**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Journalism  
Fall 2011
  - b. **College of Media Technical Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2011 - 2012 Academic Year
  - c. **Department of Journalism Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2011 - 2012 Academic Year
  - d. **Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2011 - 2012 Academic Year
  - e. **Search Committee, Illinois Public Media News & Public Affairs Director**  
Illinois Public Media, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Spring 2013
  - f. **Speaker, Illinois Journalism Education Association Fall Conference**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
"Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities"  
September 2013
  - g. **Facilitator, University of Illinois Office of Technology Management**  
Brown Bag Presentation to Department of Journalism  
February 2014
  - h. **Speaker, Illinois Journalism Education Association**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
"Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities"  
September 2014
  - i. **Guest Speaker, Prof. Brian Johnson's Multimedia Reporting Class**  
Department of Journalism  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
"Photography as Methodology"  
October 2014

- j. **Guest Presenter, WILL-TV All Staff Meeting**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Downstate Vietnam Stories”  
March 2015
- k. **Speaker, Illinois Journalism Education Association Fall Conference**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities”  
September 2015
- l. **Guest Speaker, JOUR199**  
Department of Journalism  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Methodology of the Photographic Practice”  
September 2015
- m. **Guest Speaker, University of Illinois Department of Journalism Recruiting**  
Whitney Young High School, Chicago, Ill.  
“Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities”  
I created College of Media’s first professor-led in-class teaching model with this nationally ranked, selective enrollment public school, resulting in a more in-depth partnership with one of Chicago's most diverse and academically rigorous programs. This is a beta case for partnering more journalism faculty with high school teachers and students as a means of recruitment.  
August 2016
- n. **Guest Speaker, JOUR505**  
College of Media, University of Illinois at Urbana  
Champaign  
“Journalism in a Visual Society”  
November 2016
- o. **Illinois Public Media Search Committee**  
Producer/Director and Assistant Producer/Director  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2016
- p. **Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2016 – 2017 Academic Year

- q. **Guest Speaker, University of Illinois Department of Journalism Recruiting**  
Whitney Young High School, Chicago, Ill.  
“Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities”  
I created College of Media’s first professor-led in-class teaching model with this nationally ranked, selective enrollment public school, resulting in a more in-depth partnership with one of Chicago's most diverse and academically rigorous programs. This is a beta case for partnering more journalism faculty with high school teachers and students as a means of recruitment.  
May 2017
- r. **College of Media Technical Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2016 – 2018 Academic Years
- s. **Chair – Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2017 – 2018 Academic Year
- t. **College of Media Undergraduate Research Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2017 – 2018 Academic Years
- u. **Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Audio Storytelling Workshop  
“Sound Advice: Audio Storytelling for Everyone”  
March 2019
- v. **College of Media Innovation Fund Winner**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“A Proposal for Equipping the College of Media with Zoom, a Modern Enterprise Video Communications Tool”  
September 2019
- w. **College of Media Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2019 – 2020 Academic Year
- x. **Department of Journalism Promotion and Tenure Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2019 – 2020 Academic Year

- y. **“Advancing Excellence”**  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign College of Media  
Office of Advancement  
Photograph: “Facilities & Services employees prepare Room 100  
in Gregory Hall for safe in-person instruction”  
Fall 2020
- z. **Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2019 – 2021 Academic Years
- aa. **“Sonorities”**  
News Magazine of the University of Illinois at Urbana  
Champaign School of Music  
Photograph: “Making Music in the Time of COVID-19”  
2021
- bb. **College of Media Elections Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2021-2022 Academic Year
- cc. **Chair – Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2021 – 2022 Academic Year
- dd. **Speaker, Illinois Journalism Education Association Fall  
Conference**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Visual Journalism: Witnessing Life at the Extremities”  
September 2022
- ee. **Mediator: Q&A with Pulitzer Prize-Winning Alum Eli Murray**  
Richard and Leslie Frank Center for Leadership and Innovation in  
Media  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Media  
September 2022
- ff. **Panelist, Brown Bag Conversation: News, Stories & Information  
in the Peacebuilding Process**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
I joined BBC World Affairs Correspondent Mike Thomson and  
documentary filmmaker Jane Ray as a panelist for this brown bag  
discussion, which was part of Mr. Thomson’s visit to campus for  
the 32nd Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture  
September 2022

- gg. **Department of Journalism Search Committee**  
Assistant/ Associate Professor, journalism, focused on science,  
technology and data  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2022
  
- hh. **College of Media Promotion and Tenure Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2023 Academic Year
  
- ii. **College of Media Elections Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2023 Academic Year
  
- jj. **College of Media Dean’s Five-Year Review Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Spring 2023
  
- kk. **Department of Journalism Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2024 Academic Years
  
- ll. **Chair – Department of Journalism ad hoc Technology  
Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2024 Academic Years
  
- mm. **Chair – College of Media Executive Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2024 Academic Years
  
- nn. **College of Media Technology Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2024 Academic Years
  
- oo. **Faculty Advisor, Society of Professional Journalists**  
Student Chapter  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2023 – 2024 Academic Year
  
- pp. **College of Media Technology and Infrastructure Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
  
- qq. **Department of Journalism Grievance Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2023 – 2024 Academic Year

rr. **Department of Journalism Promotion and Tenure Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 – 2025 Academic Years

ss. **Department of Journalism Curriculum Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2023 – Spring 2025

tt. **Department of Journalism Ad-Hoc Technical Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
I proposed and catalyzed the formation of a new ad hoc technology advisory committee for the journalism department to facilitate greater communication between journalism's representative on the college technology committee, to coordinate to journalism faculty's pedagogical agendas across multiple classes to ensure students have a straightforward technological path through our audiovisual program, and to ensure the department head is made aware of technology needs as they develop and change over time.  
May 2022 – Present

uu. **Campus Faculty Advisory Committee**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2022 – Present

## V. Creative Endeavor

### A. Candidate's Statement of Creative Endeavor and Accomplishments

We fragile humans are more prone to label one another, to place one another into groups and to revert to the insularity of our various tribes than we are to recognize our innate commonalities. Doing so is easy, risk free and readily dismissed as "just human nature."

But there also exists a deeper human nature that longs for recognition by and connection with the phenomenological Other. If there's any single motivating factor behind my work it is my desire for it to provide a pathway for that deeper Self to recognize the connectedness it shares with the Other. Psychologists would call this "catalyzing humanistic empathy;" for journalists, it's "promoting civil discourse."

Due to the wide distribution of my work, it's not often possible to know when it succeeds in fostering this connectedness or breaking down stereotypes, but a few successes come to mind. Thanks to a fellowship from the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study, I am using photography and video to document various facets of

rural Illinois gun culture in an ongoing project called The Cultural Geography of Firearms.

One aspect of the work involves making a series of portraits of families with children who are named after guns. In conceptualizing the portraits, I knew I wanted to make the photographs in a way that would avoid giving a viewer any visual cues that might influence their perception of the people in the photos. I light and position the subjects as in a very traditional family portrait. The viewer is unaware of the parents' strong affinity for guns until s/he reads the caption, something like, "*The Wilcox family of Pontiac, Illinois – Tonya, Charlotte, Maverick, Lonny and Remington, who is named after his father's favorite gun, the Remington Model 11-87 shotgun.*" One of the first people with whom I shared these photographs, someone who views guns negatively and often refers to pro-gun individuals as "rednecks," said, "They look just like an ordinary family." This is a truism, of course, but with its verbalization the photograph becomes successful. It signals that viewer has recognized the unexceptional yet fundamental humanity she shares with the subjects of the photograph despite any political and moral divide that separates them vis-à-vis one of the most divisive issues in America. It's an affirmation that photograph elicits for the viewer a recognition of the Self within the Other, an empathy that is the first step toward understanding and if not acceptance then at least peaceful co-existence.

Another segment of my gun culture work is a short film called "The Luckiest Unlucky Person." It is the tale of how on February 19, 2014, Lyndsey Potts, a 30-year-old engineer's apprentice on a union training yard in Marion, Ill., was working 1/2 mile from the firing line of the Tombstone Gun Range when according to the local sheriff she was struck in the face with a .223 caliber bullet shot from an AR-15 rifle on the range.

Potts is suing the owners of the gun range, and it would be reasonable for her to have developed an antagonistic attitude toward guns as a result of the incident. In fact, the owners of the range believe the suit is part of a nefarious anti-gun conspiracy between Potts, her lawyer and the sheriff's office. Surprisingly, Potts is outspoken about her pro-gun views. "I think guns are great," she says in the video. "I date a guy that owns guns, all my friends own guns... they got lots of them." Her lawyer puts it this way: "She's not anti-gun. She's anti-getting shot in the face." That someone should have the right to not get shot in the face is a point upon which most everyone can agree. And though it's a tiny sliver of common ground, the current level of incivility in our public discourse makes eliciting any modicum of shared sensibility something worth latching onto.

My work is distributed across a variety of screens and in print. Finding, capturing and producing stories that foster a shared sensibility, a sense of community, requires a wide-ranging skillset: expertise in aspects of photojournalism (compositional precision and the creative use of light),



documentary cinema (sequencing video and audio into a cohesive narrative), television news (crisp, succinct editing) and a variety of software. Choosing the right tool at the right time requires acute discernment: *Will moving or still imagery produce the most engaging and evocative story? Which medium will allow it to be disseminated to the widest possible audience? Will audio be helpful?* Sometimes this decision is part of a much longer pre-production and relationship building process, like my master's thesis work in Overtown and my current gun culture project; sometimes it must be made at a moment's notice, like my coverage of the 2013 Illinois tornado.

In this case, I was originally commissioned by The Weather Channel to make photographic portraits of storm victims returning to what their homes in Washington, Ill. A combination of proper planning prior to my arrival on the scene and some tenacity while working in the area of destruction allowed me to animate the assignment in a distinctly humanistic way, fostering the kind of connectedness I strive for.

I arrived at the Illinois State Police's "press corral" at 5:30am the morning after the tornado struck. Dozens of journalists were there waiting for the state police to escort them through the affected area. Sensing that there wasn't much to be gained from remaining with the crowd, I left the pack and drove to a local church that was providing temporary housing to displaced homeowners. There I met a family who allowed me to accompany them as they returned to what was left of their home. Subsequently, I was able to wander unmolested through the neighborhood and make photographs. As the sun was setting at the end of that very long day, I made my way to the highest hill in the area in order to take advantage of the last moments of available light and make one final portrait. It happened to be of a man named John Byler-Dann.

Just after I finished making Byler-Dann's photograph, we heard a plaintive whimper coming from beneath the rubble of the house. Byler-Dann and his friends began digging, I began making photographs and soon they found Maggie, the family dog, buried in the debris. She was shivering and frightened but not seriously injured. Byler-Dann carefully cradled her in his arms and burst into tears. I was fortunate enough to photograph the only rescue of the day.

The photographs of Maggie's rescue went viral. They were published and re-published by some of the largest and most prestigious news organizations in the world: Gawker, Reddit, Huffington Post, Time, The Today Show, London's Daily Mail, The Weather Channel, NBC's Nightly News with Brian Williams, Japan's Nippon Television Network and numerous NBC affiliated television stations across the United States.

Through my photographs, millions of people shared in the experience of an Other, in this case one man's profound good fortune.

Since I began making photographs as a journalist in 1983, my cameras have taken me to more than 55 countries – places with exotic sounding names like Ouagadougou and as geographically isolated as the Sangihe Islands in the western Pacific. I have photographed Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office, Mother Teresa in an earthquake zone and both Bill and Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail. I have photographed people on the verge of starvation, several women giving birth and a number of weddings. I have been detained by police or military units in three countries as I worked to make photographs that would get below surface appearances and tell meaningful stories.

It's been quite a ride so far. Yet now and again, the world's creeping cynicism threatens to erode my commitment to the craft of non-fiction storytelling. *Does what I do matter?* It's an inevitable question for anyone who has been doing what I do for as long as I have. Affirmations – an occasional email, a share on social media, worldwide distribution of a story – come quietly. They are few and far between. But they are welcome reminders that the right light, the right angle, the right moment or the right question can indeed move an audience a degree or two toward the shared sense of humanity that I believe defines our deepest human nature.