

# Chris Graves

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she/her/hers



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## EDUCATION

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Bachelor's degree in journalism, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, December 1987

- First generation college student

### Nebraska Wesleyan University

Attended, 1983-1985

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications

*Assistant professor of practice, Deepe Family Chair in Depth Reporting, 2023-current*

*Assistant professor, 2020-2023*

- Lead instructor, JOUR107, information gathering course required for all journalism and broadcast majors. Developed course.
- Depth reporting, 400-level course in investigative and narrative journalism, ongoing.
- Lead instructor, JOUR490A, an endowed study-abroad multimedia and depth reporting program. Course focuses on bias, trauma-informed and accountability reporting and reporting for and about diverse cultures and marginalized communities abroad
  - o Traveled to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, May 2022
  - o Planned international travel, winter 2024
- Instructor, JOUR200A, fundamental editing course required for all college majors
- Instructor, JOUR200B, fundamental reporting/writing course required for all journalism majors

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Graduate College

*Graduate Faculty Associate, 2020-present*

- Teach graduate courses
- Direct master's thesis
- Serve on/or chair Master's degree examining committees

### Nebraska Public Media

*Workshop, Summer 2022*

- Instructor, writing across platforms

### **USA Today, Cincinnati Enquirer**

*Workshop, September, 2021*

- Instructor, reporting with compassion for professional journalists in Ohio

### **U.S. State Department, IREX, Mandela Fellowship Reciprocal Exchange**

*Workshop leader, July 2021*

- Co-instructor, solutions journalism workshop for 13 Kenyan journalists

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communication**

*Lecturer, Summer 2020*

- Instructor, JOUR891, special topics course in solutions journalism

### **Miami University, Oxford, Ohio**

*Adjunct professor, 2014-2017*

- Taught beginning news writing and reporting
- Developed first-of-its-kind web site and associated curriculum to publish student work for the city of Oxford as part of public affairs, capstone reporting course

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## **RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST**

Crime and justice reporting

Reporting on and about marginalized and rural communities

Solutions and accountability journalism

Empathetic and trauma-informed reporting

## **PUBLISHED RESEARCH**

**“Fundamentals of Editing and Reporting I: Teaching lead writing for digital/print, broadcast and social media simultaneously”**

*Author, June 2021*

- Peer Review of Teaching Project portfolio that examined my own methods tied to teaching lead writing differently

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

**“Death in the Foothills: Love, loss and murder in Appalachia”**

*2016-present*

- Book proposal to publishers, 2023
- Research for a planned narrative nonfiction book examining the role of family — particularly matriarchs — in Appalachia researched through immersive reporting into the 2016 killings of eight family members in southern Ohio

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

**“Warning: These classes are academic rigorous and emotionally challenging,” Nebraska Quarterly, Summer 2023**

*Author, June, 2023*

- Magazine cover story on challenging classes in each of UNL's nine colleges

**“Man in notorious Ohio mass family killing sentenced to life without parole” Washington Post, Washington, D.C.**

*Author, December 19, 2022*

- National news story on sentencing of George Washington Wagner IV. Subject of ongoing research

**“Change Agents,” Nebraska Quarterly, Winter 2022**

*Author, December 1, 2022*

- Feature story on five UNL alumni working in careers different than their degrees

**“Ohio jury convicts George Wagner IV in 2016 killing of Rhoden family” Washington Post, Washington, D.C.**

*Author, November 30, 2022*

- National news story on the conviction of George Washington Wagner IV. Subject of ongoing research

**“Eyewitness to History,” Nebraska Quarterly, Fall 2022**

*Author, September 1, 2022*

- Feature story about storied career of retired FBI agent and UNL alumnus Greg Stejskal

**“In Ohio, prosecutors say they have uncovered scheme by one family to kill another” Washington Post, Washington, D.C.**

*Author, July 31 2022*

- National news story setting the stage for first trial in Ohio's mass killing of one family by another. Subject of ongoing research

**“North Star Journey,” MPR News, St. Paul, Minnesota**

*Partnership Coordinator, April-July 2022*

- Created partnership strategies between MPR News and other statewide news outlets for 175-story special project

**“After Guilty Plea, Jake Wagner Faces Life Without Parole And The Daughter He Killed For” WVXU-91.7, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Author, April 23, 2021*

- News story on surprise guilty plea in Ohio's most complex homicide investigation. Subject of ongoing research

**“Angela Wagner Pleads Guilty In Rhoden Family Murders” WVXU-91.7, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Author, September 21, 2021*

- News story on guilty plea in Ohio's most complex homicide investigation. Subject of ongoing research

**Copy editing and writing, MPR News, St. Paul, Minnesota**

*Contributor, December 2021-January 2022*

**“Music Scores in Stadium Spotlight: Farm Aid III was the first concert in Memorial Stadium, followed by Garth Brooks three decades later” Nebraska Quarterly, Winter 2021**

*Author, December 1, 2021*

- Feature story about historic Garth Brooks concert more than 30 years after Farm Aid III

**“Leonard Manley, outspoken patriarch of 5 murdered in Rhoden family killings, dies” WVXU-91.7, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Author, December 13, 2021*

- News story about death of a family patriarch in the ongoing story of Ohio’s most complex homicide investigation. Subject of ongoing research

**“Purpose + Action: Moving Purpose-Driven Storytelling from Message to Mission” Brand Storytelling**

*Co-author, December 2020*

- Examination of how companies are increasingly connecting their purpose-driven storytelling to actions to affect change in the social causes that affect employees, customers and consumers

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**CONTRIBUTOR**

- Washington Post
- National Public Radio
- CNN
- Dateline NBC
- USA Today
- Court TV
- WVXU (Cincinnati)
- Minnesota Public Radio News
- iHeartRadio
  - “Piketon Massacre: Return to Pike County,” Season 2, Episode 6 — *The Victims Need a Voice*, June 16, 2021. Ten million downloads.
  - “Piketon Massacre: Return to Pike County,” Season 2, Episode 12 — *Crime and the Media*, July 28, 2021. Eight million downloads
- Investigation Discovery
- Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege, and Justice

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**SERVICE**

**First Generational Advisory Board, University of Nebraska - Lincoln**

*Member, Fall 2022-ongoing*

- Serve on board that develops, implements and assesses First Generation Nebraska programs and events.

**Teaching Support Network, University of Nebraska, Center for Transformative Teaching**

*Inaugural member, Fall 2022-ongoing*

- Serve as a resource of instructors to provide support/mentoring for UNL faculty on teaching methods/course design.

**State of Nebraska, Judicial Branch**

*Organizer, presenter, participant: "Covering Nebraska Courts," February, 2022*

- Developed, organized and presented a workshop for working Nebraska journalists on how to effectively cover the Nebraska court system. 70+ registrations.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**

*Member, 2020-ongoing*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Media  
Law Professor Search Committee**

*Member, 2022*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communication,  
Assistant Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs Search Committee**

*Member, 2021*

**Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Public Communications, Robin Toner Program  
in Political Reporting**

*Juror, Toner Prizes in Excellence in Political Reporting, 2021, 2022, 2023*

- One of three jurors reviewing 10 to 12 entries of either national or local political reporting to award Toner Prizes, which honor an extraordinary journalist and encourage high-quality political reporting vital to a healthy democracy

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, Global  
Eyewitness Reform Committee Task Force**

*Member, Spring 2021-Fall 2021*

- Reviewed concerns and "A Call to Reform" report of course alumni, calling for the college to reform its premiere global studies program
- Met with stakeholders
- Listened to feedback to inform changes to the program

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, Global  
Eyewitness Reform Faculty Committee**

*Member, Spring 2021-Fall 2021*

- Met bi-weekly with faculty members in spring, summer and early fall to take committee recommendations to restructure Global Eyewitness program
- Named lead instructor of the program in late fall 2021; created syllabus, learning outcomes and course content to move from eight-week course to 16-week course

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications,  
Strategic Planning Committee Task Force, External Relations Committee**

*Member, 2020-May 2021*

- Helped develop goals and guidance for the college-wide strategic planning process with focus on external relations with industry partners, funders, alumni and external communities

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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Solutions Journalism Educators 2.0 Academy, Solutions Journalism Network and the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Mass Communication**

*Participant and presenter, July 2022*

- Two-day training and presentation related to teaching solutions journalism at collegiate level. Presentation focused on how merging trauma-informed reporting practices with solutions journalism can reframe deficit narratives – especially in marginalized communities with survivors of generational trauma

### **Solutions Journalism Educators Academy, Solutions Journalism Network and the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Mass Communication**

*Participant, June 2021*

- Two-day training to learn how to teach solutions journalism at collegiate level. Specifically, how solutions journalism can engage students and audiences; how to teach students to frame, source, interview for and structure solutions stories for print and multimedia; and how to develop class lectures, discussion, exercises and assignments for solution journalism courses and/or modules within existing journalism courses

### **Poynter, Diversity Across the Curriculum**

*Participant, May 2021*

- Participant in four-week program examining existing curriculum for oversights and opportunities, applying strategies to develop new materials that emphasize diversity and inclusion and devising ways to infuse inclusion and diversity into teaching

### **University of Nebraska, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, Accountability Journalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Questions We Ask Have Consequences**

*Organizer, May 2021*

- Invited speakers for a faculty seminar examining how to build DEI measures into upcoming teaching courses

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2021 Spring Teaching and Learning Symposium, "Confronting Realities in the Classroom: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"**

*Participant, March 2021*

- Symposium to better understand connections between inclusive practices and education as a general practice of freedom

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Peer Review of Teaching Project**

*Fellow, 2020-2021*

- Campus-wide program designed to assist faculty in examining teaching through the lens of intellectual content, teaching practices and student understanding

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Transformative Teaching, Summer Institute for Online Teaching**

*Participant, June 2020*

- Three-week remote learning sessions on how to prepare for and execute online teaching; including backward design in curriculum development, setting course goals and objectives that are student centered
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**HONORS**

**Maude Hammond Fling Faculty Research Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Research Council**

*Fellow, 2021 (extended to 2022)*

- Selected to receive grant that will allow for continued research into “Death in the Foothills”
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**JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE**

**Minnesota Public Radio News, St. Paul, Minnesota**

*Managing Editor, 2017-2020*

- Responsible for all aspects of digital news presentation and distribution of MPR News stories and products
- Managed a staff of 10 editors and producers
- Worked across the newsroom with reporters and editors to develop stories from ideation to execution, including COVID-19 and George Floyd digital coverage
- Collaborated with executive leadership to set strategy to grow audiences and to execute MPR mission to serve our audiences across multiple platforms and distribution channels

**Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Metro Columnist, 2015-2017*

- Covered issues affecting women and children in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
- Crime and justice issues, childhood poverty, violence against children, family homelessness, wage disparity, reproductive rights
- Continuing investigative reporting on the 2016 Rhoden family massacre in Pike County, Ohio
- Host of Parents Storytellers Project, a public engagement event curated for the community

**WCPO-TV, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Managing Editor, 2013-2015*

- Helped develop first-of-its-kind, digital-first team of 10 enterprise beat reporters in a broadcast newsroom

- Led and collaborated with beat and enterprise reporters, technologists, data journalists, visual journalists and an editorial cartoonist to deliver award-winning, high-impact stories using multimedia tools across digital and social platforms
- Devised, orchestrated and edited long-form / video documentary piece on a medical program in Afghanistan rooted in Cincinnati; project meant we sent a reporter to Bagram Air Force Base for 10 days
- Edited multiple long-form investigative pieces as well as multimedia, non-fiction narrative piece on an unsolved killing of a police officer that won regional, state and national awards
- Worked closely with marketing and PR as well as the larger broadcast managers and Scripps executives to brand and communicate mission of WCPO Insider program

**Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Deputy Managing Editor, 2005-2011*

- Created, grew and managed a team of 12 digital editors
- Integrated all aspects of Web operations into print newsroom
- Developed and executed targeted online and community-based strategies to grow the digital footprint in the Cincinnati market
- Managed large-scale projects from ideation to implementation
- Analyzed web traffic trends to find content opportunities to grow digital audiences
- Collaborated with technologists to create content plans and new digital news products
- Devised and executed the first external blogging network to build revenue and readership; replicated throughout Gannett
- Created and hosted the first live event on consumer savings strategies for readers
- Page views grew 38 percent and 35 percent in consecutive years; awarded best website by the Ohio Associated Press in 2007, 2006, 2005; awarded Gannett's most improved newspaper for Web innovation

**Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Assistant City Editor, 2003-2005*

- Managed a team of six reporters whose work uncovered lead in housing that made children sick; large-scale lapses in city-wide fire inspections; sex-harassment scandal of county prosecutor that ended in his resignation and subsequent write-in election

**Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*Reporter, 1992-2003*

- First to document gang and drug culture fueling Minneapolis' record rise in its homicide rate; led to initiatives lauded by the U.S. Department of Justice and replicated across the nation. Work nominated for Pulitzer Prize
- Reported on spree killer Andrew Cunanan, whose last killing of fashion icon Gianni Versace led to international media coverage; work featured in books, magazines, cable and television programs, including Dateline NBC, 20/20, CNN specials. Work nominated for Pulitzer Prize
- Investigated and chronicled clergy sex abuse in Minnesota
- Among first nationally to report on emergence of identity theft



- Reported extensively on terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui and his pre-9/11 activities in Minnesota

**Cincinnati Enquirer**, Cincinnati, Ohio

*Reporter, 1990-1992*

- Wrote stories on Northern Kentucky politics, police and courts

**The Lansing State Journal**, Lansing, Michigan

*Reporter, 1987-1990*

- Wrote stories on higher education, breaking news, drug culture, crime and courts
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**SKILLS**

- Curriculum development
  - Writing across platforms
  - Trauma-informed reporting
  - The art of interviewing: Reporting with empathy & reporting on and for marginalized communities
  - Newsroom strategies and tactics, digital news transformation, creating newsrooms for digital news coverage, digital media and deadline writing, smartphone apps
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**JOURNALISM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Implicit bias training*, MPR News, 2018

*Myers-Briggs (ENTJ)*, MPR News, 2018

*Online News Association*, attended 2017

*Society of Professional Journalists*, *Google Tools training*, 2018 and 2015

*Google Analytics*, individual qualification, 2017

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**JOURNALISM AWARDS**

Pulitzer Prize, Local News Reporting, “Seven Days of Heroin: This is What an Epidemic Looks Like,” 2018. (Newsroom award)

Best columnist in Ohio, APME, 2016

Spot News Coverage, Rhoden Family Massacre, APME, 2016

Best Column, Dear Mrs. DuBose, Cleveland Press Awards, 2015

Dozens of AP and SPJ awards throughout career, primarily for breaking news, explanatory and investigative work

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**MEMBERSHIP**

*Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*

*Online News Association*

*Society of Professional Journalists*

*Investigative Reporters and Editors*

*Criminal Justice Journalists* (founding member)