

# Chris Graves

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

*Assistant professor, 2020-present*

- Teach reporting, editing, solutions journalism
- Research focused on crime and justice reporting, marginalized communities, empathy in reporting, solutions journalism
- Researching non-fiction book on eight-person homicide in the foothills of Appalachia

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

*Graduate Faculty Associate, 2020-present*

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

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

*Lecturer, Spring 2020*

- Taught graduate-level solutions journalism course in online format

### Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

*Adjunct professor, 2014-2017*

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

## TEACHING

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

*Fellow, 2020-2021*

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

## SERVICE

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

*Member, 2020-present*

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

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

*Member, 2020-present*

- Help develop mission and vision statements as well as architect a series of goals for a five-year plan to increase diversity and inclusion

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

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

- Serve as 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.

**PUBLICATIONS & CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

**“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

**PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

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

*2016-present*

- Narrative nonfiction book examining the role of family — particularly of matriarchs — in Appalachia researched through immersive reporting into the 2016 killings of eight members of a southeastern Ohio family allegedly at the hands of four members of another family.
- Represented by MacKenzie Wolf, New York

**CONTRIBUTOR**

CNN

National Public Radio

Dateline NBC

USA Today

Investigation Discovery's Six Degrees of Murder

Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege, and Justice

## **HONORS**

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

*Fellow, 2021*

- Selected to receive grant that will allow for continued research into “Death in the Foothills’ book

### **Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting**

2018

- Newsroom award for “Seven Days of Heroin: This is What an Epidemic Looks Like,” Cincinnati Enquirer

## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

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

- Coursework in news-editorial track including depth reporting classes; minors: English, philosophy, politics, American history
- William Randolph Hearst Award, 1988
- First generation college student
- Reporter and news copy desk at Daily Nebraskan

### **Nebraska Wesleyan University**

Attended, 1983-1985

## **RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST**

Intersection of crime with systematic, societal ills

Marginalized and rural communities and media coverage

Solutions journalism

Empathetic reporting

## **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
- Collaborated with executive leadership to set strategy to grow audiences and 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 regions
- Hyper-focused on 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

**SKILLS**

- Newsroom strategies and tactics, digital news transformation, creating newsrooms for digital news coverage, Google tools, digital media and deadline writing, smartphone apps, smartphone video and photo applications, writing for social media, empathy and solutions journalism, the art of the interview, reporting on and for marginalized communities

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Summer Institute for Online Teaching, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2020*

*Online News Association, attended 2017*

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

*Google Analytics, individual qualification, 2017*

*Implicit bias training, MPR News, 2018*

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

## **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

## **MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS**

*Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*, member

*Online News Association*, member

*Society of Professional Journalists*, member

*Investigative Reporters and Editors*, member

*Criminal Justice Journalists*, (founding member)