

Jeff South | Professor, journalist, traveler

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How I live my life: Learn something new. Help others succeed. Pay it forward. Don't make excuses.

Things I'm good at: Sticking with it. Critical thinking. Logic. Working with data. Writing. Ideas.

Education

Yep, just a B.A.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN JOURNALISM | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | 1974

Journalism and Teaching Experience

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY | RICHMOND, VA. | 1997-PRESENT

- Associate professor emeritus, Robertson School of Media and Culture. Tenured in 2005. Retired in 2020. I taught theory and skills courses, directed our Capital News Service and served as director of undergraduate studies. Students won [more than 65 state, regional and national awards](#) for work done in my classes.

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN | AUSTIN, TEXAS | 1989-97

- State editor, overseeing bureaus at the Texas Capitol, Mexico City and Washington, D.C. I also served as database editor, leading the newspaper's award-winning computer-assisted reporting efforts.

VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS | TEXAS, ARIZONA AND VIRGINIA | 1974-89

- Reporter and editor for the Dallas Times Herald, Phoenix Gazette, Virginian-Pilot and other papers. One interruption: Served as a teacher in the [U.S. Peace Corps](#) in Morocco in 1983-85.

Awards

EDITOR / MENTOR | STUDENT NEWSROOM & INNOVATION LAB | ONA17 & [ONA19](#)

[DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD](#) | SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS | 2016

BEST TEACHER IN SUMMER PROGRAM | FUDAN UNIVERSITY, CHINA | 2016

FULBRIGHT AWARD TO TEACH DATA JOURNALISM IN CHINA | 2014

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD | VCU | 2008

KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP | UKRAINE | 2007

Recent Research

['The bedrock of wealth inequality': Data shows big racial disparities in mortgage loans and homeownership](#)," Virginia Mercury, July 21, 2020

"Guest columnist: [Rename bases honoring Confederates](#)," *The Virginian-Pilot*, May 26, 2019.

"[1,000+ U.S. news sites refuse to comply with European privacy law](#)," Nieman Lab | Harvard, Aug. 7, 2018.

Speaker on [civic hacking and data journalism](#), Azerbaijan, for the U.S. State Department, May 2018.

"[People's Republic of Taboos](#)," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 2015.

Co-author, *Still Captive? History, Law and the Teaching of High School Journalism*, New Forums Press, 2015.

[@jcsouth](https://twitter.com/jcsouth)

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EDUCATION

Received a bachelor's degree in journalism, while graduating with high honors, from the University of Texas at Austin, in May 1974.

JOURNALISM AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 1997 to present – Associate professor emeritus, Robertson School of Media and Culture, Virginia Commonwealth University. Tenured in 2005. Retired from full-time position in 2020. I taught a range of courses – both skills and theory, small seminars and large lectures, in person and online. I directed the school's Capital News Service program from 2003 to 2019. I also served as coordinator of the school's journalism sequence in 2008-10 and director of undergraduate studies in 2010-18. In 2014-16, I was co-director of VCU's Quality Enhancement Plan, an effort to improve student success.

July 1989 to July 1997 – Database editor and state editor, *Austin American-Statesman* (circ. 230,000), Austin, Texas.

September 1987 to June 1989 – Assistant city editor/general assignments reporter, *Dallas Times Herald* (circ. 340,000; now defunct), Dallas, Texas.

February 1986 to September 1987 – Projects reporter/assistant editor, *The Phoenix Gazette* (circ. 110,000; now defunct), Phoenix, Ariz.

June 1983 to July 1985 – Volunteer, U.S. Peace Corps, Morocco.

March 1981 to May 1983 – City editor, *The Virginian-Pilot*, (circ. 200,000), Norfolk, Va.

April 1979 to February 1981 – Reporter, *The Phoenix Gazette*.

June 1976 to April 1979 – Reporter, *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* (circ. 80,000), Lubbock, Texas.

April 1975 to June 1976 – Reporter, *The Austin Citizen* (circ. 15,000; now defunct), Austin, Texas.

May 1974 to April 1975 – Editor, *The Williamson County Sun* (circ. 5,000), Georgetown, Texas.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Recent honors

Selected to serve as an editor, supervisor and mentor for the Student Newsroom and Innovation Lab at the Online News Association's national conferences in 2017 and 2019.

Second place in the Teaching News Terrifically in the 21st Century (TNT21) competition held by the Newspaper and Online News Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. Presented at the AEJMC conference in Toronto on Aug. 8, 2019.

Received the 2016 Distinguished Teaching in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Named Best Teacher among Global Issues instructors at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, in Summer 2016.

Selected by VCU as a Summer International Teaching Fellow for 2016.

Awarded a grant from the Russian and Eastern European Institute (Indiana University) to study the news media and journalism education in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May 2015.

Awarded a Fulbright grant to teach data journalism, data visualization and social and mobile media journalism in China in 2014.

Received VCU's 2008 University Distinguished Teaching Award.

Knight International Journalism Fellowship, January-July 2007. I spent six months in Ukraine, training journalists on civic journalism, investigative reporting, computer-assisted research, media convergence and other skills.

For 2005, 2006 and 2007, the University nominated me for an Outstanding Faculty Award, in the "Teaching with Technology" category, from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

2004 Distinguished Teaching Award from the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

2003 Fellow in the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Institute for Journalism Excellence. The ASNE selected me to work as a reporter, editor and trainer at *The Charlotte Observer*, June-July 2003.

2000 Service to the Commonwealth Award from Common Cause of Virginia for promoting "open, ethical and accountable government."

Recent awards for student-produced work

The [Richmond First Club](#) presented its [2019 Good Government Award](#) to Capital News Service, praising the CNS students as "journalists covering Virginia politics with integrity and energy for over 20 years."

In the [Society of Professional Journalists' National Mark of Excellence](#) competition, a CNS student won first place in data visualization in 2019. CNS entries were finalists in radio features and feature photography in 2019 and in online feature reporting in 2018. In 2012, two of my graduate students won first place for in-depth reporting in the national contest.

In the [SPJ Mark of Excellence competition for Region 2](#) (mid-Atlantic states), work distributed by CNS received the following honors:

2019: First place in breaking news reporting, general news reporting, data visualization, feature photography, radio feature, online news reporting and online in-depth reporting. Finalists in feature writing, non-fiction magazine article (two entries), breaking news photography, feature photography, radio news reporting, online news reporting (two entries) and online feature reporting (two entries).

2018: First place in online news reporting and online feature reporting. Finalists in online news reporting, feature writing and general news photography.

2017: First place in general news photography. Finalist in online sports reporting.

2016: Finalists in in-depth reporting and feature photography.

2015: Finalists in breaking news reporting, online in-depth reporting, breaking news photography and radio news reporting. Also, two entries by my students covering the UCI Road World Championships were finalists in photography in that contest.

2013: First place in general news reporting. Finalists in general news reporting and online news reporting.

2012: First place in general column writing. Second place for breaking news reporting. Third place for radio news reporting.

2011: First place in online sports reporting. Third place in online news reporting.

2010: First place in breaking news reporting.

2009: Second place in general news reporting and television general news reporting.

2005: Third place in general news reporting (online).

2004: Second place in spot news reporting (newspapers). Third place in general news reporting (online).

2003: Second place in general news reporting (online) and feature reporting (online).

In the [Hearst Foundation's Journalism Awards Program](#), CNS entries were finalists for photo story in 2020, breaking news in 2018 and 2019, and radio reporting in 2019. A CNS student won fourth place for breaking news in 2016. A CNS video won first place in the multimedia competition in 2009.

In the [Virginia Press Association's annual news contests](#), CNS students won first place for feature news writing and general news photo in 2018; third place for public safety writing in 2017; first place for breaking news photo in 2016; and first place for general news writing in 2005.

Two of my data journalism students were invited to present at the [National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting's](#) annual conference in 2020. They discussed their analysis of racist and xenophobic comments posted on Facebook about the first Muslim elected to the Virginia Senate.

Two of my master's students won a national award from [Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc.](#) in 2011 for a story based on their computer analysis of VCU's grade distribution data. The students presented their research at IRE's Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference.

My students and I were part of a team that produced the "VCU Votes" campaign in Fall 2013. The campaign won the [VCU Community Engagement Award for Teaching](#) for 2013-14.

In 2013, our course on Social Media and the Presidential Race (team-taught with Professor Marcus Messner) won the [Campus Election Engagement Project's Democracy Cup Award](#). The students' "VCU Votes" campaign, conducted during Fall 2012, was honored as the "Best Communication Campaign" in Virginia.

Previous professional awards

The series "The Lost Children," which I coordinated and edited for the *Austin American-Statesman*, won acclaim for exposing the plight of young Texans living in nursing homes. The stories won awards in 1994 from the Texas Institute of Letters, Texas Medical Association, National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems, Cox Newspapers Inc. and the *Detroit Free Press*. The series also prompted legislative hearings and reforms.

As state editor, I directed the *Austin American-Statesman* Capitol Bureau's 1989-90 coverage of government ethics, which won first place for team effort in the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors journalism competition.

Other awards over the years:

- ◆ 1998 – Texas APME Community Service Award. I was part of an *American-Statesman* team that received this honor for a series on environmental problems.
- ◆ 1997 – Headliners Foundation, Specialty Reporting Award. The *American-Statesman* won this statewide award for a series about water issues. I researched and co-wrote a segment of the series, about unsafe dams.
- ◆ 1996 – Best of Cox, spot news, shared with several other reporters. I provided data analysis “on the fly” for a story about a traffic accident that killed six people.
- ◆ 1995 – Texas Gavel Award, State Bar, for a package examining racial disparities in drug arrests.
- ◆ 1988-89 – National Mental Health Association, Gold Medal; Texas APME, Community Service, first place; Texas Mental Health Association, special honors; Dallas Psychological Association, Excellence Award.
- ◆ 1987 – Silver Ingot for outstanding achievement by a *Phoenix Gazette/Arizona Republic* employee; SDX Best in the West, second place; Arizona Press Club, third place, projects reporting.

TEACHING RECORD

Courses taught at VCU

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| MASC 101 - Mass Communications | HONR 398 - Social Media & Politics |
| MASC 151 - Comm Tech & Global Society | HONR 399 - Drones in Media Industries |
| MASC 203 - Journalism Writing | MASC 403 - Advanced Reporting |
| MASC 290 - Media Ethics | MASC 404 - Specialized/Project Reporting |
| UNIV 291 - Crowdsourcing | MASC 475 - Capital News Service |
| MASC 303 - Reporting for Print and Web | MASC 491 - Online Journalism |
| MASC 305 - Copy Editing | MASC 491 - Social Media Networking |
| MASC 344 - Data Journalism & Visualization | MASC 491 - Science Journalism |
| MASC 363 - Electronic Media Writing | MASC 495 - Journalism Seminar |
| MASC 375 - Legislative Reporting | MASC 644 - Computer-Assisted Reporting |

I also have taught modules in the Media, Art and Text Ph.D. program and served on dissertation committees. In addition, I taught in China during Spring 2014 (at Northeast Normal University as part of my Fulbright) and during the summers of 2015, 2016 and 2019 (at Xiamen University and Fudan University).

SCHOLARSHIP RECORD

Scholarly papers and articles

Co-author, with Don Belt, of "Slow Journalism and the Out of Eden Walk," *Digital Journalism*. Published online Nov. 25, 2015. DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2015.1111768

Co-author, with Marcus Messner, of "Legitimizing Wikipedia: How U.S. National Newspaper Frame and Use the Online Encyclopedia in Their Coverage," *Journalism Practice*. Vol. 5, No. 2, 2011: 145-160. We presented the paper at the convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, Aug. 8, 2008, Chicago.

Co-author, with four other VCU faculty members, of "Walking in Step to the Future: Views of Journalism Education by Practitioners and Educators." April 2004 and April 2005. I co-presented the paper at the AEJMC convention on Aug. 8, 2004, in Toronto. I co-presented an update of the paper at the AEJMC's convention on Aug. 11, 2005, in San Antonio.

Co-author, with Debora Wenger, of "Scene of the Crime: The Study and Practice of Local Television Crime Coverage from the mid-1990s to the Present." December 2003. Commissioned by the University of Southern California Annenberg Institute for Justice and Journalism and the group Criminal Justice Journalists. I presented the paper at the AEJMC convention, Aug. 7, 2004, Toronto.

Co-author, with David Kenamer and Mousumi Sarkar, of "Community Newspaper Editors and Latino Immigration in North Carolina and Virginia." Paper presented to the Southern Association for Public Opinion Research, Oct. 4, 2002, Raleigh, N.C.

Co-author, with David Kenamer, of "Civic Journalism in the 2000 U.S. Senate Race in Virginia," *Newspaper Research Journal*. Vol. 23, No. 4, Fall 2002: 34-45. Paper presented at AEJMC convention, Aug. 4, 2001, Washington.

"Online resources for news about toxicology and other environmental topics," *Toxicology*, the official journal of the British Toxicology Society. Issue 157, January 2001: 153-164.

Articles in newspapers and general-interest publications, including:

"'The bedrock of wealth inequality': Data shows big racial disparities in mortgage loans and homeownership," *Virginia Mercury*, July 21, 2020.

"Guest columnist: Let's rename military bases honoring Confederate officers," *Virginia Mercury*, June 9, 2020.

"Guest columnist: Rename bases honoring Confederates," *The Virginian-Pilot*, May 26, 2019.

Columns on the "Fourth Estate" (the press) and the "Fifth Estate" (blogs), for *Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine*, Summer and Fall 2018.

"10 US military bases are named after Confederate generals," published by *The Conversation*, Sept. 27, 2018.

"Northam win in Virginia shows why newspapers should stop endorsing candidates," published by *The Conversation*, Nov. 8, 2017.

"People's Republic of Taboos," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Vol. 61, Issue 24 (Feb. 27, 2015): B-20.

“The challenge of teaching and doing journalism in China,” *Virginia's Press* (published by the Virginia Press Association). Vol. 101, No. 3 (Fall 2014).

“Punching a Hole in the Great Firewall: The ‘Collateral Freedom’ Project” and “Collateral Freedom: Step by Step,” published online on March 21, 2014, by ChinaFile.com (Asia Society). Republished as “A Back Door to Chinese Internet Freedom,” on March 25, 2014, by ForeignPolicy.com, the website of *Foreign Policy* magazine.

“Lessons in CBS’s Flawed Report on Benghazi,” published online on Nov. 18, 2013, by CommPR.biz and CSRwire (Corporate Social Responsibility).

“Fly-in dentistry a three-year plan,” *The Australian*. Aug. 2-3, 2008: 15.

“Fighting oppression: Journalists need support where the press is less than free,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. May 26, 2007: A13. (Also published in *Quill*. Vol. 95, No. 4, May 2007: 24-28.)

“Libraries reach out to immigrant users; Demand growing for non-English offerings,” “What’s available” and “Many tongues in Mecklenburg,” *The Charlotte Observer*. Aug. 14, 2003: 1A.

“Adaptability is senator’s legacy, historians say; From Dixiecrat to pragmatist,” *The Charlotte Observer*. June 28, 2003: 6A.

“Device could have averted fatal shock; amphitheater electrocution” and “Testing your GFCI outlets,” *The Charlotte Observer*. June 21, 2003: 1A.

Full-page profiles of famous African Americans during Black History Month, the *Richmond Free Press*. February 2000.

Articles published by Global Voices Online, including:

“Specter of China Loomed Over Obama’s Asian Tour,” May 6, 2014.

“Chinese Court Upholds Activist Xu Zhiyong’s Prison Sentence,” April 11, 2014.

“Malaysia Airlines MH370 Mystery Fuels Conspiracy Theories,” March 15, 2014.

“Activists Ask China to Ban Bear Bile Farming,” Feb. 13, 2014.

“Why the Western Media Loves Hating on China,” Feb. 11, 2014.

Op-ed pieces distributed by Blue Ridge Press, including:

“The Choice is Crystal Clear: Tap Water,” *The Times-Tribune* (Scranton, Pa.). Nov. 18, 2007. This op-ed piece also appeared in at least eight other newspapers in Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New York, Texas and West Virginia.

“States should have the right not to get dumped on,” *The Virginian-Pilot*. April 7, 2003: B-11. This op-ed piece also appeared in two North Carolina newspapers (the *Transylvania Times* and *Gaston Gazette*), two South Carolina newspapers (*Seneca Daily Journal* and *Seneca Daily Messenger*) and at least three Virginia newspapers (*The Journal of Northern Virginia*, *Lynchburg News & Advance* and *Wytheville Enterprise*).

“Halt use of sludge as fertilizer until it gets a ‘clean bill of health,’” *Bay Journal*. Vol. 12, No. 4, June 2002: 20. The *Bay Journal* is published by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Also appeared in the *Anniston Star*, *Bland County Messenger* and the *Transylvania Times*.

“Should Congress keep Amtrak on track?”, *Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal*. Feb. 24, 2002: 3D. Also appeared in the *Blue Ridge Leader*, *The Roanoke (VA) Times*, *Anniston Star* and *Transylvania Times*.

“Beach replenishment is on shaky ground,” *The Virginian-Pilot*. Aug. 30, 2001: B11. Also appeared in the *Anniston Star*, the Fredericksburg (VA) *Free-Lance Star*, *The Journal* in Northern Virginia, *The Roanoke Times* and such Virginia papers as the *Coalfield Progress*, *Emporia Independent-Messenger* and *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*.

“Golf: Ecological disaster or economic boon?”, *Chattanooga Times/Chattanooga Free Press*. April 29, 2001: F1. Also appeared in *The Virginian-Pilot*, the *Newport News (VA) Daily Press*, *The Roanoke Times*, the Raleigh (N.C.) *News & Observer* and several smaller newspapers.

Articles in publications for journalists, including:

“More than 1,000 U.S. news sites are still unavailable in Europe, two months after GDPR took effect,” Nieman Lab at Harvard. Aug. 7, 2018.

“Digital tools for managing FOIA requests,” an article for the newsletter and website of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, Aug. 29, 2017.

“Editing is everything, but it’s evolving,” *Quill*. Vol. 100, No. 6, November/December 2012: 9.

“Students can help embattled journalists,” *Quill*. Vol. 99, No. 4, July/August 2011: 45.

Co-author, with Burton St. John, of “Reforming Journalism: The Rest of the Story,” *Quill*. Vol. 98, No. 3, May/June 2010: 16-19.

Co-author, with Sue Kopen Katcef, of “Blurring the line” and “ABC News opens campus bureaus,” *Quill*. Vol. 97, No. 6, August 2009: 30-34.

“Beyond ‘mir i družba’: The benefits of international media partnerships,” *Quill*. Vol. 95, No. 6, August 2007: 12-16.

“The Web’s hidden gems,” *Quill*. Vol. 95, No. 6: August 2007: 27-31.

“From monkeypox to a new area code: A journalism professor covers it all during a summer of reporting that reminds him of the thrill of quick bylines and teaches him about technology gaps in the newsroom,” *The American Editor*, the monthly magazine of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Vol. 79, No. 1, January-February 2004: 15.

Co-author, with David Kennamer, of “Adapting to rapid change: Community papers respond to Latino immigration,” *Quill*. Vol. 91, No. 2, March 2003: 30-33.

Co-author, with Mary Davis, of “GIS lags: Why Johnny can’t map,” *SEJournal*, published by the Society of Environmental Journalists. Vol. 10, No. 4, Winter 2001: 10-11.

“No Secrets,” “To Post or Not to Post” and “What’s Out There,” *American Journalism Review*. Vol. 22, No. 3, April 2000: 50-55.

“Gadgets to go: Packing the bags for tomorrow’s journalist” and “Toys for the road,” *Quill*. Vol. 88, No. 2, March 2000: 16-17.

“EXTRA! Makes a Comeback: Breaking Local News Online,” “Hurricane Brings High Tide of Usage” and “Mammoth Stories Carry Big Site Problems,” published in the *Online Journalism Review* [www.ojr.org]. Oct. 14, 1999.

Book reviews for educators, including:

Review of *Two Billion Eyes: The Story of China Central Television*, by Ying Zhu; published in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, March 2015; vol. 92, 1: pp. 256-258.

“Reinventing Journalism: Case Studies from Today’s Newsrooms”: Reviews of *The Wired City: Reimagining Journalism and Civic Life in the Post-newspaper Age* and *Rebuilding the News: Metropolitan Journalism in the Digital Age*; published in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, September 2014; vol. 91, 3: pp. 594-597.

“Caveat Consumer: A User’s Manual to the News,” *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 90, Issue 1, Spring 2013: 174-176.

Review of *The Power of Real-time Social Media Marketing* by Beverly Macy and Teri Thompson; published in *Journalism Studies*. Vol. 12, No. 5, October 2011: 705-707.

Bookmarks, a column about new books for teaching communications; published in *Journalism Studies*. The column appeared bimonthly in 2006-07.

Review of the video *The World Stopped Watching*, directed by Peter Raymont; published in *Journalism Studies*. Vol. 6, No. 2, May 2005: 259-261.

Review of *We the Media: Grassroots Journalism by the People, for the People* by Dan Gillmor; published in *Journalism Studies*. Vol. 6, No. 1, February 2005: 140-141.

Review of *The Imperative of Freedom: a philosophy of journalistic autonomy* by John Calhoun Merrill; published in the “Classic Books Revisited” section of *Journalism Studies*. Vol. 4, No. 4, November 2003: 523-524.

Review of *Living in the Information Age: A New Media Reader*, edited by Erik P. Bucy; published in *Journalism Studies*. Vol. 4, No. 4, November 2003: 530-532.

Contracts

Media General Inc., “Convergence 101 Training,” 2003. With Associate Professors Debora Wenger and Paula Otto, I conducted workshops to foster collaboration among print, broadcast and online journalists at Media General news organizations. Media General paid the school (then called the VCU School of Mass Communications) \$30,000 for the training.

Virginia Department of Transportation, “VDOT Public Affairs Organizational Review,” \$12,060 contract, October 2000-March 2001. I served as the principal investigator.

Presentations and public teaching for journalists, including:

Trainer, the International Center for Journalists. Since 2013, I have conducted more than a dozen data journalism workshops for groups of visiting journalists from Latin America, Russia, India, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali and other countries and for the staff of Radio Free Asia.

Panelist, “Saving Student Media” and “Press4Education,” Excellence in Journalism Conference, held by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Radio-Television Digital News Association, Sept. 27-29, 2018, in Baltimore.

Lecturer and trainer for a weeklong series of workshops on data journalism and lectures on civic hacking, in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the U.S. State Department’s U.S. Speaker Program, May 15-22, 2018.

- Panelist, "Beyond the 'Nerd box': How to explain methodology better," National Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference, March 8-11, 2018, in Chicago.
- Presenter, with Don Belt, of "Out of Eden, Into the Story," a daylong workshop on slow journalism, at SPJ's Excellence in Journalism conference, New Orleans, Sept. 20, 2016.
- Presenter, Data & News Society International Conference, Hong Kong Baptist University, May 31-June 2, 2016.
- Trainer, ICFJ Vietnam-U.S. Reporting Program, a workshop on "Reporting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership," in Hanoi, Dec. 13-16, 2015.
- Presenter, "Drones in Journalism: An Overview," College Media Day, sponsored by the Virginia Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Feb. 14, 2015.
- Organizer and moderator, "Go Global: International Opportunities to Practice or Teach Journalism," Excellence in Journalism 2014, a national conference held by SPJ and the Radio-Television Digital News Directors Association on Sept. 6, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn.
- Presenter, "lightning talk" on teaching data journalism, National Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference, in Atlanta, March 5, 2014.
- Trainer, SPJ webinar on "Download, Analyze, Visualize," Dec. 18, 2013.
- Trainer, webinar on "Mining Open Data," conducted for the McGraw-Hill Data Journalism Program and International Center for Journalists, Nov. 22, 2013.
- Featured speaker, "Old Media, New Media: Developing a Strategy for Conveying Your Message," Marketing & Communications Conference of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, Wintergreen, Va., Oct. 18, 2013.
- Organizer and presenter, "Finding and Mining Government Data Online," Excellence in Journalism 2013, a national conference held by SPJ and the Radio-Television Digital News Directors Association, Anaheim, Calif., Aug. 26, 2013.
- Trainer, SPJ webinar on "Data Visualization 101," March 12, 2013.
- Trainer and presenter, Excellence in Journalism 2012, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Sept. 20-21, 2012.
- Trainer, SPJ Reporters Institute, held at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., June 11, 2012. I conducted a data analysis workshop for 40 early-career journalists.
- Trainer, the Virginia Press Association, May 10, 2012. I led a daylong workshop for reporters and editors on how to put data online and create data visualizations.
- Presenter, "Making Sense of the Census," SPJ Region 5 Spring Conference, Indianapolis, April 14, 2012.
- Trainer, *The Virginian-Pilot*, May 19-20, 2010. I led a series of workshops on computer-assisted reporting for reporters and editors.
- Panelist, "The Future of Journalism," College Communicators Association of Virginia and Washington, D.C., College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Nov. 6, 2009.
- Panelist, "Exposing Bad Politicians through Public Records," at SPJ's 2008 Convention and National Journalism Conference, Atlanta, Sept. 6, 2008.

Co-presenter, with John Witt of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, “Multimedia Basics for Reporters,” a workshop for the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and the Virginia Press Association, held in Henrico County on Aug. 27, 2008.

Trainer, three workshops for the *Augusta Chronicle* in Georgia, May 6-7, 2008. I conducted workshops on deadline writing, online writing and diversity.

Presenter, “Writing for the Web,” a workshop for Dominion Resources Corporate Communications, held in Richmond on Dec. 6, 2007. I also presented a workshop on “Writing Tight and Bright,” on Oct. 19 and Nov. 30, 2006.

Trainer, “Writing for the Web” and “Targeting new audiences and diversifying your coverage,” two workshops for the *Bloomington Herald-Times* in Indiana on Jan. 11, 2007. I designed and led these workshops as part of SPJ’s Newsroom Training Program.

Co-trainer for a convergence workshop for the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, held in Richmond on Dec. 7, 2006.

Co-trainer for “Writing for the Web,” a workshop for reporters and editors at the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, held in Richmond on Nov. 17, 2006.

Trainer, “Reporting in Real Time: Writing for Online,” two workshops at NewsTrain, a newsroom management training program sponsored by the Associated Press and the Radio-Television News Directors Association, held in Kansas City, Sept. 28, 2006.

Trainer, “POWR under pressure: How to write better stories faster,” a workshop at SPJ’s 2006 Convention and National Journalism Conference, Chicago, Aug. 26, 2006.

Presenter, “Tech Trends: A User’s Guide to Software, Hardware and Other Tools Revolutionizing Journalism,” at SPJ’s 2006 Convention and National Journalism Conference, Chicago, Aug. 26, 2006. I also was a moderator and panelist for “Get Smart About Sound.”

Presenter, Media General Newsroom Managers Training Workshop, Aug. 22, 2006. I helped conduct a workshop titled “Don’t Fix – Coach for Better Writing.”

Presenter, Ver 1.0, a workshop on public database verification for social scientists and journalists, held by the Institute for Analytic Journalism in Santa Fe, N.M., April 9-12, 2006.

Panelist and trainer, National Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference, Newark, March 9-11, 2006. I was on a panel on “Teaching CAR from college to the newsroom.” I also conducted a workshop on “Downloading and analyzing campaign finance data.”

Speaker, New York Press Association’s 2005 Spring Convention, Albany, N.Y., April 8-9, 2005. I conducted two presentations about convergence: “Catching Readers in your Web” and “Broadcast Buddies.”

Trainer, *American Bar Association Journal*, Chicago, March 11, 2005. As part of SPJ’s Traveling Journalism Training Program, I conducted sessions on media ethics and convergence.

Local coordinator, presenter and trainer, Better Watchdog Workshop, co-sponsored by national and local journalism organizations, held at VCU on Sept. 18-19, 2004.

Presentations and public teaching for educators, including:

Panelist, “Fake News in Canada and the U.S.,” AEJMC conference, Toronto, Aug. 8, 2019.

- Presenter, “GIFs and Guffaws: Making Online Learning Fun,” 2019 CTLE Symposium, sponsored by VCU’s Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, April 26, 2019.
- Presenter, “Capital News Service: REAL Journalism,” for VCU’s “Doing REAL” poster session (about the university’s Relevant, Experiential and Applied Learning initiative), April 5, 2019.
- Presenter, “Science Speak: Communicate Your Research,” a conference sponsored by the VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research and VCU Libraries, held on Nov. 14, 2017, and March 13, 2019.
- Presenter, “Capitalizing on the Capitol: Leveraging VCU’s location in the seat of state government,” for VCU 50: Commemorating History Symposium, Nov. 30, 2018.
- Presenter, “Lightning-Fast Ways to Map Your Day,” for GIS Day, VCU Cabell Library, Nov. 14, 2018.
- Presenter, Teach-a-Thon, the Journalism Interactive 2017 conference, University of Maryland, Oct. 19, 2017.
- Presenter and “GIFT scholar” (Great Ideas for Teachers competition), AEJMC, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2015. I was selected to present model lesson plans at the association’s annual conventions.
- Presenter, “lightning talk,” National Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference, Atlanta, March 5, 2015.
- Co-presenter, webinar for international journalists on how to create interactive charts and other infographics with the free tool Infogr.am, Feb. 12, 2015.
- Co-presenter, with Professor Marcus Messner, “From iPadJournos to #UncleRam: Implementing iPad Classes at VCU,” OpenVA (Open and Digital Resources Conference), University of Mary Washington, Oct. 15, 2013.
- Moderator, “The Importance of Media Literacy and Strategies for Teaching It at the College Level,” AEJMC, Washington, D.C., Aug. 8, 2013.
- Presenter, “Online personae: Identity in the virtual classroom,” VCU Online Learning Summit, Richmond, May 14, 2012.
- Presenter, Teach-a-Thon, the Journalism Interactive 2011 conference, University of Maryland, Oct. 28, 2011.
- Moderator, “World View: International Efforts to Teach Civic and Citizen Journalism,” AEJMC, Boston, Aug. 8, 2009.
- Fellow, VCU Center for Teaching Excellence, 2003-06. I trained undergraduate, graduate and medical-campus faculty how to use the Blackboard course management system and other technology. I previously provided training through the VCU Instructional Development Center.
- Panelist, “Setting an Agenda: News Blogs, Moblogs and their Discontents,” AEJMC, San Antonio, Aug. 10, 2005.
- Presenter, “PowerPoint tutorials and Blackboard quizzes for learning AP style,” AEJMC, Toronto, Aug. 7, 2004.

Presenter, Emerging Technologies Day, “PDAs for reporting news ASAP,” VCU, March 31, 2004. My exhibit showcased personal digital assistants and other technology used by my Capital News Service students.

Public teaching for students and others, including:

Panelist, “Blackface, the Scandal and the Media: A Discussion About Racism in Virginia,” held by the Robertson School of Media and Culture, Feb. 25, 2019.

Presenter and trainer for a two-day workshop on data visualization for staff members of the Virginia Department of Health; the training was held at VCU on May 26-27, 2016.

Speaker and panelist for fall orientation at Trinity University in San Antonio, Aug. 26, 2015. I helped lead a discussion of *The Circle*, the book selected that year for Reading TUgether, the university’s annual reading program.

Presenter about censorship of the news media and social media in China, an invited talk at the VCU Honors College (as part of its Berglund Seminar series), Oct. 24, 2014.

Moderator for a screening and discussion of the documentary film *The Internet’s Own Boy*, in conjunction with International Open Access Week, sponsored by VCU Libraries, Oct. 23, 2014.

Panelist, “Confronting our present: Dialogues about difference in light of Ferguson,” held in the VCU Student Commons Theater, Sept. 12, 2014.

Presenter about the challenges women face in journalism, invited talk to the VCU organization Girl Effect (co-sponsored by Kappa Phi Gamma sorority), Nov. 19, 2013.

Organizer and presenter, “How to enter and win college journalism contests” and “College Journalism Hackathon,” College Media Day, Richmond, Oct. 19, 2013.

Presenter, with Marcus Messner, of “Between Iraq and a Hard Place: Social Media Lessons for the Nonprofit Community,” at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Nov. 29, 2011.

Assistant director, presenter and trainer, Urban Journalism Workshop (now the Virginia Scholastic Journalism Workshop). The workshop is a summer camp held at VCU for high school journalists. It is sponsored by the School and the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund.

Presenter, a three-day workshop on media relations, for the Public Safety Institute, a graduate program for supervisory personnel from law-enforcement and other first-responder agencies, VCU. I teamed with a VCU colleague to conduct this workshop.

Research and publications for or about teaching

Textbooks

Author, chapter on “Stellar High School Programs That Have Adjusted with Time,” for *Still Captive? History, Law and the Teaching of High School Journalism*, New Forums Press, 2015.

Author, lecture slides and other digital resources for *Media Now: Understanding Media, Culture, and Technology* (seventh edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2012. I also wrote the *Instructor’s Resource Manual* for the fifth and sixth editions of *Media Now*.

Author, Chapter 4 (“The Internet and Other Tools of the Trade”) of *News Reporting and Writing* (12th edition). Melvin Mencher. New York: McGraw Hill, 2011. I also contributed to the textbook’s Web site.

Contributor, *Computer-Assisted Reporting: A practical guide* (third edition). Brant Houston. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004.

Contributor, *Web Design for the Mass Media*. Bill Kovarik. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

Media Ethics, an electronic coursepack/textbook, published online by XanEdu, formerly Bell & Howell Information and Learning Co. Fall 2001.

Public Affairs Reporting, an electronic coursepack/textbook, published online by XanEdu, formerly Bell & Howell Information and Learning Co. Originally published in January 2000; updated in January 2001.

Teaching-related articles

"VCU's Robertson School Seeks Reaccreditation," for Virginia's Press, the quarterly newsletter of the Virginia Press Association, Summer/Fall 2017.

"Teaching students to report at 3 mph," *Quill*. Vol. 104, No. 3, May/June 2016: 23-23.

Co-author, with Craig Zirpolo, of "Teach about drones before they take off," *Quill*. Vol. 103, No. 1, January/February 2015: 25.

"Writing (and debating) a j-school prescription," *Quill*. Vol. 102, No. 4, July/August 2014: 23, 27.

"Education Toolbox: Sites help students build portfolios," *Quill*. Vol. 98, No. 2, March/April 2010: 14.

"Mutual media" and "Create a blog-based news service in just four easy steps," *Quill*. Vol. 94, No. 6, August 2006: 29-30.

"Training in session" and "Learning opportunities," *Quill*. Vol. 93, No. 6, August 2005: 8-9.

"Ethics in the classroom: Preparing journalism students for making tough decision" and "How best to teach ethics? Tips from the pros," *Quill*. Vol. 92, No. 6, August 2004: 10-13.

"Disability as diversity" and "Online resources about disabilities," *Quill*. Vol. 91, No. 6, August 2003: 20-22.

Co-author, with June Nicholson, of "Cross-training: In an age of news convergence, schools move toward multimedia journalism" and "Multimedia Journalism: A classroom tour," *Quill*. Vol. 90, No. 6, July/August 2002: 10-15.

Contributor to "Jobs are out there for those willing to look," *Quill*. Vol. 90, No. 6, July/August 2002: 46-47.

"New graduates: Prepare for 'techno-shock,'" *Quill*. Vol. 90, No. 2, March 2002: 32-33.

"Teaching CAR," *Uplink*, published by the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. Vol. 13, No. 4, July/August 2001: 17.

"Learning on the job" and "Training resources on the Net," *Quill*. Vol. 89, No. 6, July/August 2001: 24-27.

"Follow the money: That old advice works even better online, but you need to start your search now," *Quill*. Vol. 87, No. 5, July/August 1999: 22-23.

"Tech Tip: FIPS Fixes," *Uplink*. Vol. 11, No. 5, June 1999: 12-13.

Grants

Open World Leadership Center, Library of Congress (administered by FHI 360). Working with VCU's Global Education Office and the Wilder School, I helped secure grants to bring emerging political leaders from former Soviet-bloc countries to Richmond to study state and local governments. We hosted delegations from:

- StrategEAST, with civic leaders from several Eastern European countries, in June 2019 (\$4,600 grant) and June 2018 (\$4,450).
- The Parliament of Serbia in February 2019 (\$8,150)
- The Parliament of Tajikistan in April 2018 (\$8,445)
- Ukraine in February-March 2016 (\$7,110), in February 2013 (\$9,450) and in February 2012 (\$9,883)
- The Republic of Georgia in January-February 2015 (\$9,450)
- Russia in February-March 2014 (\$9,450) and in February 2011 (\$9,300)

VCU Quest Innovation Grant, \$9,330. Sara Williams, then head of academic outreach for VCU Libraries, and I won this grant to develop and teach a course in science journalism in Fall 2016.

Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program, U.S. State Department, \$200,000, 2011, and \$190,000, 2010. VCU colleagues and I won these grants to teach Iraqi college students how social media can help build democracy and community.

VCU's Center for Teaching Excellence; "Get Your Mojo Working: Preparing Mobile Journalists for Today's Newsrooms"; \$2,000, 2009-10. I used this grant to purchase netbooks, camcorders and other technology for student reporters.

New Voices Grant, \$12,000, 2007-08, and \$5,000, 2008-09. I wrote most of this grant application, which was funded by the Knight Foundation through J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism. The project involved creating a community news portal for Richmond's Fulton Hill neighborhoods and training residents to be "citizen journalists."

VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, Student Engagement Award, \$2,217, Spring 2007. I won funding for a proposal to create a comprehensive set of online tutorials, assessments and other resources for mastering copyediting skills.

VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, Student Engagement Award, \$3,370, Spring 2006. Sociology Professor Lynn Nelson and I won funding for hardware and software to integrate more active learning, collaborative learning, online audio and video and other features into our large-enrollment classes.

Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communications, "Newspapers-in-Residence Program," \$12,000, 2003-04 academic year. I wrote the grant proposal, which was funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. With the grant, I arranged for five newspaper editors to spend a week on campus during the Spring 2004 semester.

VCU Center for Teaching Excellence, "Small Grants Program," \$3,500, 2003-04 academic year. I applied for and won this grant to establish a scanner-computer workstation for the school's faculty.

U.S. Department of Education, “Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to use Technology,” approximately \$12,000 in 2000-01 and \$12,000 in 2001-02. This program supported my efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum and to expose prospective teachers to new teaching methods.

SERVICE RECORD

Service to the University

Member, Faculty Senate, 2009-15, and 2017-20.

Member, Student Media Commission, 2009-18. In 2010, VCU’s Student Media Center honored me with its “Friend of the SMC” award for providing “advice, encouragement and support” to student media.

Member, President’s Secret Selection Committee and Special Awards Committee, 2015-18.

Member, VCU Academic Program Review Committee, 2015-18.

Member, VCU Transfer Student Success Task Force, 2017-18.

Co-director, VCU’s Quality Enhancement Plan, 2014-16.

Co-chair, VCU General Education Task Force, 2015-16.

Co-chair, ALT Lab Search Committee, 2016.

Member, VCU Student Activities Advisory Committee, 2011-12.

Member, Advisory Committee for VCU’s Center for Teaching Excellence, 2006-14.

VCU representative, Learning Technology Advisory Committee, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, 2006-08.

Service to the College of Humanities and Sciences

Chair, College Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2019-20; committee member since 2017.

Member, Search Committee for Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, 2012.

Member, Search Committee for Director of the School of Mass Communications (the Robertson School’s previous name), 2010-11.

Member, College’s Undergraduate Academic Committee, 2002-15.

Member, College Awards Selection Committee, Spring 2005.

Member, Planning Committee for VCU’s Capital Semester program, administered by the School of Government and Public Affairs, 2003-06.

Member, College’s Technology Committee, 1997-98, 1999-2000 and 2001-04.

Service to the Robertson School (formerly the School of Mass Communications)

Co-chair, News Service Task Force, 2019-20.

Chair, Undergraduate Recruitment Task Force, 2018-19.

Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2010-18.

Member, Assessment Committee, 2010-18; chair, 2012-13, and 2019.

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Member, Reaccreditation Committee, 2010-12, and 2016-18.

Chair, Search Committees, 1999-2000, 2001-02, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; member, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Chair, Technology Committee, 2000-02; member, 1999-2008.

Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committees, 2007-08, 2011-12, 2016-17 and 2019-20; member, 2005-06, 2009-10, and 2017-19.

Service to professional organizations

Since 2019, I have been president of the Virginia Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. I have been on the chapter's board since 2010. (I also was a faculty adviser to VCU's campus chapter.) I served on the national SPJ board from 2017-19. I serve on, and formerly chaired, SPJ's Journalism Education Committee.

I am on the boards of the Virginia Press Foundation, an advocate for the state's newspapers, and the Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism.

I am a member of SPJ, Investigative Reporters & Editors Inc., the Online News Association, the Society of Environmental Journalists, and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Every year, I judge contests for the New Jersey Press Association, the New England Newspaper & Press Association and other industry groups.

Service to the community

I am on the board of directors of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government.

From January 1999 to December 2003, I was a board member for the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonprofit group that promotes the disclosure of campaign finance data and other public information concerning state government.

I recruit for the Peace Corps at VCU and frequently speak to students about the benefits of Peace Corps service.