

## BIOGRAPHY

Channing Gerard Joseph is an award-winning storyteller based in Los Angeles. His prose spans creative nonfiction, commentary, and historical scholarship, and his recent work focuses on the cultural legacy and history of Black queer Americans. He is the winner of a Logan Nonfiction Fellowship, a [\\$40,000 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant](#), and a [\\$72,000 Leon Levy Center for Biography Fellowship](#) for his first book, *House of Swann: Where Slaves Became Queens — and Changed the World* (Crown), which is now being developed into a film by the Academy Award-winning producer Bruce Cohen and the Academy Award-nominated director Lee Daniels.

Based on Joseph's original research, the forthcoming book tells the untold life story of William Dorsey Swann, a formerly enslaved Black drag queen and the earliest-known American queer activist, who created a secret world of balls in Washington, D.C., in the 1880s and '90s. The [Whiting Foundation jury wrote](#): "It is impossible not to be excited about Channing Gerard Joseph's great feat of historical research: his discovery of William Dorsey Swann, a man born into slavery who went on to establish a culture of drag balls in post-Reconstructionist Washington not unlike those still thriving today, nearly 140 years later. This is crisp and evocative history that cuts across many different fields of inquiry in order to document a riveting story about the function and flourishing of beauty in marginalized communities. Joseph has a talent for accumulating witty, atmospheric details that together create an irresistibly immersive world. Through tireless archival work and in consultation with noted academics, Channing Gerard Joseph complicates and expands our understanding of the history of LGBTQ activism and African American history."

Joseph's historical findings have been heralded by the [National Archives](#), and his work has been reported on by media outlets around the globe, including the Associated Press, the [BBC](#), the CBC, iHeartRadio, *The Daily Mail*, and *Black Enterprise*. Joseph's chapter on Swann is forthcoming in the peer-reviewed *African American National Biography*, co-edited by Harvard University Professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and his collection of primary sources in Black queer history, titled *Queer Pasts: The World of William Dorsey Swann, Queen of Drag*, will be published by Alexander Street Press/Proquest in 2021. Joseph is also an adviser to California teachers and curriculum developers on LGBTQ+ history, and he is frequently invited to speak at museums, corporations, and universities around the United States, from Columbia Law School to University of California–Berkeley. He has taught essay writing, narrative nonfiction, and digital journalism at University of Southern California's Annenberg School and at the State University of New York–Plattsburgh.

Joseph is a contributor to *The Nation*, and his essays and reportage have appeared in [The New York Times](#), [The International Herald Tribune](#), [The New York Sun](#), [Associated Press](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Entertainment Weekly](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [People](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [ABC](#), [NBC](#), [FOX](#), [CBS](#), [BET](#), [CNN](#), [MTV](#), [Truthdig](#), and many others. He was previously a staff writer and editor at [The New York Times](#) and the [Associated Press](#), and he was the first African-American editor-in-chief of *San Francisco Weekly*. He has reported internationally from Africa and Asia as well as across the United States. As a reporter, he has broken major news, including the story of [Wikileaks' 2007 release of secret military documents](#) about the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

In 2016, he was named [a fellow of the International Center for Journalists](#), and he has earned support from the Ford Foundation, the Scripps Howard Foundation, and the Brooks and Joan Fortune Family Foundation, among other benefactors. His reporting on the pop star Whitney Houston's death is anthologized in the book [The Socialite Who Killed a Nazi with Her Bare Hands](#).

He has secured nearly \$350,000 in funding for his writing and research since 2016.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS, 2000–present

2019–present	Lecturer of Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism</b> — Los Angeles, CA</li> </ul>
2017–2019	Adjunct Professor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism</b> — Los Angeles, CA</li> </ul>
2019–2020	Fellow, Leon Levy Center for Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>City University of New York Graduate Center</b> — New York, NY</li> </ul>
2009–2010	Visiting Assistant Professor of Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The State University of New York College at Plattsburgh</b> — Plattsburgh, NY</li> </ul>
2000	Instructor, Experimental College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Oberlin College</b> — Oberlin, OH</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION

2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Columbia University</b>, New York, NY — <i>Master of Science in Journalism</i></li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Oberlin College</b>, Oberlin, OH — <i>Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theater</i></li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Hack Reactor Prep</b>, San Francisco, CA — Web Development</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Columbia University</b> — “The Business of Book Publishing,” with Shaye Areheart, director of the Columbia Publishing Course</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The University of the Western Cape</b> (Die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland) — Cape Town, South Africa</li> </ul>
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The School for Field Studies</b> (Centro sobre Desarrollo Sostenible) — Atenas, Costa Rica</li> </ul>

## BOOKS &amp; CHAPTERS, 2012–present

2022	<i>Forthcoming</i>	<i>House of Swann: Where Slaves Became Drag Queens — and Changed the World</i> . New York, NY: Crown; London: Picador.
2012	<i>Published</i>	“Whitney Houston: Soaring Star, Fallen Idol” (co-author), <a href="#">The Socialite Who Killed a Nazi with Her Bare Hands and 143 Other Fascinating People Who Died This Past Year: The Best of the New York Times Obituaries, 2013</a> , edited by William McDonald. New York, NY: Workman Publishing.

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS, 2016–present

2021	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Joseph, Channing Gerard (editor). <i>Queer Pasts: The World of William Dorsey Swann, Queen of Drag, 1850-1940</i> . Alexander Street/Proquest, Alexandria, VA.
2021	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Joseph, Channing Gerard. “William Dorsey Swann,” <i>African American National Biography</i> , edited by Professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham of Harvard University. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
2021	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Joseph, Channing Gerard. “Chadwick Boseman,” <i>African American National Biography</i> , edited by Professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham of Harvard University. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
2021	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Joseph, Channing Gerard. “Viola Davis,” <i>African American National Biography</i> , edited by Professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham of Harvard University. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
2021	<i>Forthcoming</i>	Joseph, Channing Gerard. “Jefferson Byrd,” <i>African American National Biography</i> , edited by Professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham of Harvard University. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
2016	<i>Published</i>	Joseph, Channing G. “ <a href="#">The Black Drag Queens Who Fought Before Stonewall</a> ,” <i>OutHistory</i> . Feb. 2016.

## FILM DEVELOPMENT, 2018–ongoing

- House of Swann*, based on the forthcoming *House of Swann: Where Slaves Became Drag Queens — and Changed the World* (Crown).
- Director: Lee Daniels, Oscar-nominated director of [The Butler \(2013\)](#); producer of [Monster’s Ball \(2001\)](#); creator of FOX’s [Empire](#) and [Star](#).
  - Producer: Bruce Cohen, Academy Award winner for Best Picture for [American Beauty \(1999\)](#) and Best Picture nominee for [Milk \(2008\)](#).

## TOTAL RECENT GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS &amp; FUNDING, 2016–present

2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● News Integrity Initiative/Craig Newmark School Grant</li> </ul>	Award:	\$15,000
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Logan Nonfiction Fellowship and Residency</li> </ul>	Award:	Confidential
2019–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant</li> </ul>	Award:	\$40,000
2019–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leon Levy Center for Biography at CUNY Graduate Center, Fellowship</li> </ul>	Award:	\$72,000
2019–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● USC Annenberg Institutional Grant</li> </ul>	Award:	\$8,000
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Picador/Macmillan, Book Advance</li> </ul>	Award:	£22,500 (~\$29,000)
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crown Publishing/Penguin Random House, Book Advance</li> </ul>	Award:	\$165,000
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● International Center for Journalists, Fellowship</li> </ul>	Award:	\$7,623
	<i>(with funding from the Ford, Scripps Howard, and Fortune Family foundations)</i>		
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>~\$350,000</b>

## JOURNALISTIC &amp; SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Digital journalism; digital humanities; narrative journalism; public history; creative nonfiction; investigative journalism; LGBTQ+ history and culture; ballroom; drag history; biography; history of the African diaspora in the Atlantic world; the history and culture of New Orleans; genealogy; Afrofuturism; the intersections of U.S. politics and popular culture; psychology and psychiatry; extreme social isolation (*bikikomori*); social/political movements; social justice; mass surveillance; crime, policing and prisons; epistemology; media ethics and criticism

## REPRESENTATION

North American publication rights are represented by Alia Hanna Habib at the Gernert Literary Agency  
 UK rights are represented by Rebecca Gardner at the Gernert Literary Agency  
 Film and TV rights are represented by Michelle Weiner at the Creative Artists Agency

## AWARDS, HONORS &amp; ACHIEVEMENTS, 1999-present

2020	Recipient, Diversity & Inclusion Grant from Craig Newmark School of Journalism ( <i>funded by the News Integrity Initiative, administered by Documented</i> )
2020	Recipient, Logan Nonfiction Fellowship from the Carey Institute for Global Good
2019	Recipient, Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant for <i>House of Swann</i>
2019-20	Recipient, Leon Levy Center for Biography Fellowship at the Graduate Center, City University of New York
2018	Motion Picture Development Contract Signed with Lee Daniels Entertainment and Bruce Cohen Productions for <i>House of Swann</i>
2018	Major International Book Publishing Deal Signed with Crown (Penguin Random House) and Picador (Macmillan)
2017	Finalist, Nieman Foundation for Journalism Fellowship, Harvard University
2016	Recipient, “Bringing Home the World” Fellowship ( <i>with funding from United Airlines and the Ford, Scripps Howard, and Brooks and Joan Fortune Family foundations</i> )
2013-2014	Reporter, <i>The Associated Press</i> , Numerous Bylined Stories Featured by Worldwide Broadcast, Print & Online Outlets
2010-2013	Reporter, <i>The New York Times</i> , Multiple Bylined Stories Featured on Page A1 and NYTimes.com Homepage
Sept. 10, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Aug. 23, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
July 5, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Feb. 26, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
March 15, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Feb. 26, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Jan. 8, 2013	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Nov. 13, 2012	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Nov. 7, 2012	Recipient, “Catch of the Week” Award, Best Editing of a News Story ( <i>The New York Times</i> )
Oct. 3, 2012	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Sept. 5, 2012	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
June 7, 2012	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Business Day, <i>The New York Times</i> )
May 10, 2012	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Retirement, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Oct. 25, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Business Day, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Oct. 6, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Business Day, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Sept. 30, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Business Day, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Sept. 21, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Business Day, <i>The New York Times</i> )
July 3, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Sports, <i>The New York Times</i> )
June 6, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Obituaries, <i>The New York Times</i> )
May 16, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Sports, <i>The New York Times</i> )
April 19, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
March 1, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Feb. 15, 2011	Recipient, “Heads Up” Award for Best Headline Writing (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
Oct. 14, 2010	Recipient, “Catch of the Week” Award, Best Editing of a News Story ( <i>The New York Times</i> )
Sept. 28-29, 2010	Recipient, “Heads Up” Awards for Three Best Headlines (Metro, <i>The New York Times</i> )
2009	Recipient, Merit Award for Teaching, State University of New York–Plattsburgh
2006-08	Reporter, <i>The New York Sun</i> , Multiple Bylined Stories Featured on Page 1 and NYSun.com Homepage
2004-05	Recipient, Prina Scholarship, Grantland Rice Scholarship, Alumni Scholarship, Ridder Scholarship, J-School/Provost Scholarship
1999-2003	Recipient, Bonner Scholarship, John Frederick Oberlin Scholarship, National Achievement Scholarship

## SELECTED PANELS, TALKS &amp; PRESENTATIONS

\* – postponed to future date due to 2020 pandemic

*TBD	Invited panelist: “Researching Overlooked Lives,” with Pamela Newkirk & Gaiutra Bahadur. Biographers International Organization; New York, NY.
*TBD	Invited panelist: “Fashioning a Life: How Style Matters in Biography,” with Caroline Weber. Massachusetts Historical Society; Boston, MA.
Jan. 26, 2021	Invited lecture: “William Dorsey Swann, Queen of Drag,” Sex Salon Series. Indiana University School of Public Health; Virtual Event.
Oct. 24, 2020	Invited panelist: “From the Page to the Academic Stage,” NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists Virtual Convention; Virtual Event.
Oct. 6, 2020	Invited lecture: “ <a href="#">Teaching LGBTQ History: Formerly Enslaved People Created Queer Community Through Drag After the Civil War</a> ,” <a href="#">Our Family Coalition/ONE Archives Foundation</a> ; Virtual Event for California K-12 History Teachers.
Sept. 17, 2020	Introduction for Ernest Owens, writer-at-large for <i>Philadelphia</i> , speaking on covering “invisible” communities. USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
Sept. 11, 2020	Introduction for Tre’veall Anderson, president of the National Association of Black Journalists of Los Angeles, speaking on overcoming discrimination and bias in newsrooms. USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
Sept. 10&13, 2020	Introductions for Daralyse Lyons, creator of the podcast <i>Demystifying Diversity</i> , speaking on the role of empathy in reporting. USC Annenberg; Virtual Events.
July 26, 2020	Introduction for Juan Michael Porter II, managing editor and critic-in-residence of <i>BroadwayWorld Dance</i> . USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
Aug. 31, 2020	Lecture: “Who Do We Speak For?,” a lecture on the history of “objectivity” in journalism. USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
Aug. 18, 2020	Panel introduction: “ <a href="#">One Woman, No Vote: A Conversation on Journalism, Justice, and the 19th Amendment</a> ,” USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
July 24, 2020	Lecture: “The View From Nowhere: How Objectivity, Balance & Other Journalism Myths Sow Confusion and Perpetuate Injustice.” USC Annenberg; Virtual Event.
March 5, 2020	Invited panelist: “Washington’s LGBTQ History,” Dumbarton House Museum; Washington, DC.
Feb. 21, 2020	Invited panelist: “Reparations and Pan-Africanism.” 26th Annual Paul Robeson Conference. Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia Law School; New York, NY.
Nov. 23, 2019	Invited panelist: “In Conversation with Kerri K. Greenidge on <i>Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter</i> ,” Miami Book Fair; Miami, FL.
Oct. 29, 2019	Invited panelist: “Pitch Panel: a Professional Critique of Student Projects,” Prof. Anjali Khosla’s “News, Narrative & Design III.” Eugene Lang College, The New School; New York, NY.
July 16, 2019	Invited lecture: “Unpacking ‘Invisible Knapsacks’ and (Un-)Covering ‘Invisible Communities.’” Wallis Hall, USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
June 18, 2019	Invited lecture: “A Journalist’s Perspective on Corporate Crisis Management.” Professor Norvell Thomas’s “Crisis Management for Business Leaders, MGMT 4108.” California State University–Los Angeles.
March 28, 2019	Invited lecture: “Covering ‘Invisible Communities’: Diversity and Design in the Quest for New Readers.” The New School; New York, NY.
Feb. 20, 2019	Invited lecture: “‘Seeing Color’: How We Do Better Journalism When We Acknowledge and Embrace Diversity.” Prof. Olivia Smith’s “Engaging Diverse Communities, JOUR 372.” USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
Jan. 17, 2019	USC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness Week lecture: “What Journalism Can Teach Us About Diversity: How to Use Our Privilege to Empower Others and Confront Injustice.” USC; Los Angeles, CA.
Nov. 16, 2018	Introduction for Sarah Springer, Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker and journalist, speaking on working to create safe environments and community for underrepresented people in the industry. USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.

Oct. 12, 2018	Introduction for Lisa Pecot-Hébert, USC Annenberg associate professor of professional practice and director of the journalism M.S. program, speaking on how journalists deal with trauma. USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
Oct. 5, 2018	Introduction for Shaya Tayefe Mohajer, director of writing at USC Annenberg Media Center, speaking on the role of personal identity in reporting. USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
Sept. 28, 2018	Introduction for Vince Gonzales, USC Annenberg associate dean of student affairs and associate director for journalism graduate programs, speaking on when journalists face overt discrimination. USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
Sept. 21, 2018	Introduction for Peggy Bustamante, USC Annenberg associate dean for diversity, inclusion and equity, speaking on sexism in the workplace. USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
Aug. 1, 2018	Invited lecture: “Why Does Diversity Matter?: Taking Identity Into Account in Reporting and Editing.” Wallis Hall, USC Annenberg; Los Angeles, CA.
June 9, 2018	Panel moderator: “Giving Me Life: A Visual Journey of African-American Organ and Tissue Transplant Recipients.” African American Museum Library; Oakland, CA.
May 10, 2018	Invited lecture: “Narrative Journalism in an Age of Social Media.” Oberlin College, Wilder Hall; Oberlin, OH.
April 24, 2018	Invited lecture: “Why We’re More and More Vulnerable to Fake News.” UC–Berkeley, Li Ka Shing Center; Berkeley, CA.
Nov. 19, 2017	Invited lecture: “The House of Swann: Drag Queens, Runaway Slaves, and the Dawn of Gay Rights.” Larissa-over-Sunset Salon; Los Angeles, CA.
Sept. 23, 2017	Invited lecture: “Vodou Dances and ‘Grossly Immoral’ Preaching: Sexual Politics and the Emergence of Queer Activism in the Cultural Landscape of Fin de Siècle New Orleans, 1889-1907.” Northwestern State University; Natchitoches, LA.
March 2, 2017	Invited lecture: “Why We’re Vulnerable to Fake News.” The Academy of Art University; San Francisco, CA.
June 15, 2017	Invited lecture, for the National Kidney Foundation: “Your Kidneys & You.” California Pacific Medical Center; San Francisco, CA.
May 10, 2017	Invited lecture, for the National Kidney Foundation: “Why Kidney Kits for Emergency Preparedness?” Mercer; San Francisco, CA.
May 5-6, 2017	Invited lecture: “‘Queen’ of the Capital: The Pathbreaking Activism of William Dorsey Swann and the Underground Drag Scene in 19th-Century Washington, D.C.” Dean Hopper New Scholars Conference: “ <a href="#">#QueerAF: (Re)Presenting Gender &amp; Sexuality in History &amp; Cultural Studies</a> .” Drew University; Madison, NJ.
April 27, 2017	Invited lecture, representing the National Kidney Foundation: “My Kidney Transplant Journey.” Mercer; San Francisco, CA.
April 26, 2017	Invited lecture, for the National Kidney Foundation: “Kidney Disease: A National Healthcare Priority.” CareDx; Brisbane, CA.
March 11, 2017	Invited lecture: “ <a href="#">The Black Drag Queens Who Fought Before Stonewall</a> ,” at “No New Art No New Dance Festival.” The Lab; San Francisco.
March 16, 2017	Invited lecture: “The Future Is Now: Octavia Butler’s <i>Kindred</i> and the Dreams of Slaves.” City Arts & Tech High; San Francisco, CA.
March 5, 2017	Panel moderator: National Kidney Foundation Patient Education Symposium. Mitchell Park Community Center; Palo Alto, CA.
March 2, 2017	Invited lecture: “Why We’re Vulnerable to Fake News.” Professor Tom Molanphy’s “Perspective Journalism, LA 280.” Academy of Art University; San Francisco, CA.
March 30, 2016	Invited lecture/panel: “ <a href="#">Real Future Lab: Intersectional Futures and the Legacy of Octavia Butler</a> .” <a href="#">Fusion.net</a> ; Oakland, CA.
Feb. 24-	Curator: “Octavia’s Attic: ARTifacts From Our Possible Futures,” an exhibition celebrating the legacy of Octavia E. Butler and featuring three dozen artists from the U.S. and Europe. Lives Worms Gallery; San Francisco, CA.
March 2, 2016	Curator: “Parables of the Future,” a series of performances and lectures, including on the House of Swann drag queens.
Feb. 27-28 2016	Invited lecture: “Narrative Journalism and the Personal Essay.” Dr. Emily Allen’s “EN403B: Advanced Creative Writing — Fiction/Playwriting.” Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts; Natchitoches, LA — Virtual event.
Nov. 19, 2015	Invited lecture: “A Rough Guide for Those Interested in Journalism, Media, or Publishing.” Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts; Natchitoches, LA.
Oct. 5-6, 2012	Speaker introduction for Charles Pierce, Author of <i>Idiot America</i> : “Media, Ethics, and the Law.” Krinovitz Recital Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
Dec. 3, 2009	Speaker introduction for Dionne Farris, acclaimed vocalist. Champlain Valley Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
Oct. 26, 2009	Speaker introduction for Célia Faussart (of the Grammy-nominated musical duo Les Nubians). Champlain Valley Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
Oct. 19, 2009	Speaker introduction for Morgan Fahey, casting director of <i>The Real World</i> (MTV) and other popular television programs. SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
Oct. 5, 2009	Speaker introduction for David Cay Johnston, 2001 Pulitzer Prize winner for beat reporting: “How the Rich Get Richer by Taking Money From the Poor and Middle Class.” Yokum Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
May 5, 2009	Speaker introduction for Nicholas Wapshott, veteran journalist and former New York bureau chief, <i>The Times</i> (London). Yokum Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
April 20, 2009	Speaker introduction for Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Keller, reporter at <i>The Chicago Tribune</i> , 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for feature writing. Champlain Valley Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
March 30, 2009	Speaker introduction for Todd Lewan, Associated Press national reporter and author of <i>The Last Run</i> , Champlain Valley Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
March 25, 2009	Speaker introduction for Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers, “My 50 Years as a White House Correspondent.” Yokum Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
March 9, 2009	Speaker introduction for David Barstow, investigative reporter at <i>The New York Times</i> and winner of multiple Pulitzer Prizes. Yokum Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.
Feb 9, 2009	Speaker introduction for Andrea Elliott, reporter at <i>The New York Times</i> , 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for Feature Writing. Yokum Hall, SUNY–Plattsburgh, NY.

#### SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES & COVERAGE, 2013-present

Oct. 12, 2020	“ <a href="#">Unheard Of: William Dorsey Swann</a> ,” BBC Reel, by Alva-Amoïn French.
June 29, 2020	“ <a href="#">William Dorsey Swann, the Queen of Drag</a> ,” <i>Rediscovering Black History</i> (National Archives and Records Administration), by Netisha Currie.
March 12, 2020	“ <a href="#">Congratulations to the 2019 winners of the Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant</a> ,” <i>The New York Review of Books</i> .
Feb. 28, 2020	“ <a href="#">America’s first drag queen was a former slave and LGBT rights crusader, says historian</a> ,” Day 6, CBC. [ <a href="#">Audio</a> ]
Feb. 7, 2020	Interview on William Dorsey Swann, <i>The Natasha Hall Show</i> , CJAD 800/iHeartRadio (Montreal’s #1 News Talk Radio Station). [ <a href="#">Audio</a> ]
Oct. 3, 2019	“ <a href="#">8 Nonfiction Authors Receive \$40,000 Whiting Grants</a> ,” <i>The Washington Post</i> (and <a href="#">elsewhere</a> ) via <i>The Associated Press</i> .
Oct. 3, 2019	“ <a href="#">Whiting Foundation Announces 2019 Creative Nonfiction Grant Recipients</a> ,” <i>Poets &amp; Writers</i> .
Oct. 3, 2019	“ <a href="#">2019 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant Recipients</a> ,” <i>Publishers Weekly</i> .
Oct. 3, 2019	“ <a href="#">Here Are the Winners of This Year’s \$40k Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grants</a> ,” <i>Literary Hub</i> .
May 23–June 5, 2019	<a href="#">2019-2020 Leon Levy Center for Biography Fellows Announcement</a> , <i>The New York Review of Books</i> .
July 9, 2018	“ <a href="#">‘Extraordinary’ tale of ‘first’ drag queen to Picador</a> ,” <i>The Bookseller</i> , by Heloise Wood.
May 16, 2018	U.S. Publishing Deal Announcement, <i>Publishers Marketplace</i> .
2016-2018	“Channing Shares Exciting Discoveries,” Ancestry.com. (Featured on <a href="#">Commercial Networks</a> and <a href="#">PBS Stations</a> )
March 2017	“ <a href="#">Behind the Ancestry Commercial with Channing Joseph</a> ,” Ancestry.com.
Oct. 6, 2016	“ <a href="#">Gay man takes the helm of SF alt weekly</a> ,” <i>The Bay Area Reporter</i> , by Sari Staver.
Fall 2016	“News of the World,” <i>Oberlin Alumni Magazine</i> . (Article not available online)
July 3, 2016	“Short Takes,” <i>Journal-isms</i> , by Richard Prince.
Feb. 25, 2016	<a href="#">Sights &amp; Sounds Weekly</a> , KALW 91.7FM (San Francisco), by Chris Hambrick et al.
Feb. 18, 2016	“ <a href="#">Joseph on the Black Drag Queens Who Fought Before Stonewall at Outhistory</a> ,” <i>Diaspora Hypertext</i> , by Jessica Marie Johnson, assistant professor in the Department of History and the Center for Africana Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

- Feb. 15, 2016 “Latino Folk Art, George Takei, and Octavia Butler: Three Can’t-Miss Exhibits,” *SF Weekly*, by Peter Lawrence Kane.  
 Feb. 1, 2016 “Octavia’s Attic: ARTifacts From Our Possible Futures,” *Black Girl Nerds*, by Jamie Broadnax.  
 Jan. 27, 2016 “The life and legacy of Black Feminist Sci-Fi Pioneer Octavia E. Butler to be honored with weeklong exhibition, ‘Octavia’s Attic: ARTifacts From Our Possible Futures,’” *Afropunk*, by Eye Candy/Erin White.  
 2015-2016 UCSF Health’s “Redefining Possible” Campaign. (Featured on TV and Billboards throughout San Francisco)  
 Sept. 10, 2013 “NYT Writer Headed to AP San Francisco,” *Adweek*, by Richard Horgan.  
 Sept. 9, 2013 “AP hires new staffer in San Francisco,” *The Associated Press*. (Accessed via LexisNexis on Jan. 18, 2017)

## COURSES DESIGNED & TAUGHT, 2000-present

### ◉ University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism (2017-present)

- Fall 2020* **Digital News Immersion JOUR 528** — 3 units — 10 students  
 The 13-week Summer Digital Journalism Immersion experience orients and familiarizes students with the best practices and standards of advanced multimedia reporting and storytelling. The course presents a series of objectives and outcomes built on Annenberg’s cross-platform journalism curriculum and the principles (and best practices) that are emerging from the Annenberg Media newsroom housed in the School’s state-of-the-art Media Center (MC), a converged news environment.
- Fall 2020* **Navigating the Media Marketplace JOUR 547** — 1 unit — 35 students  
 Students should emerge with the ability to position themselves competitively in the job market. Students should also leave with a set of tools and strategies meant to help them deal with issues and situations that may arise in newsrooms around topics such as race, diversity, gender and inclusion.
- Fall 2020* **Engaging Diverse Communities JOUR 372** — 2 units — 9 students  
 In this course, students will learn some of the ways that journalists have failed various communities in the (distant and recent) past — and how they, as future leaders in the profession, can help to change that.
- Summer 2020* **Summer Digital News Immersion JOUR 528** — 3 units — 10 students  
 A journalism immersion experience that orients and familiarizes graduate students with the best practices and standards of cutting-edge multimedia, multi-platform fact gathering, reporting, and storytelling.
- Summer 2019* **Summer Digital News Immersion JOUR 528** — 3 units — 65 students  
 A journalism immersion experience that orients and familiarizes graduate students with the best practices and standards of cutting-edge multimedia, multi-platform fact gathering, reporting, and storytelling.
- Spring 2019* **Introduction to Coding for Storytelling JOUR 320 (2 sections)** — 2 units — 10 & 13 students  
 In this undergraduate course, students conceive, design, code, and produce an advanced multimedia story package.
- Fall 2018* **Navigating the Media Marketplace JOUR 547** — 1 unit — 58 students  
 This course will arm students with tools that will best help them navigate the evolving landscape. Some tools may appear obvious: writing a cover letter, improving your LinkedIn profile, and practicing interview skills. Other tools may be less so at first: understanding discrimination in the workplace, challenging received notions about what is newsworthy, and grappling with the biases they may bring to their work — as well as the biases that some of them may face as they pursue and attain leadership roles in the media.
- Fall 2018* **Fall Digital News Immersion JOUR 531** — 4 units — 13 students  
 Graduate students write, report, produce, code, promote, and publish/air cross-platform stories in a converged news environment.
- Summer 2018* **Summer Digital News Immersion JOUR 528** — 4 units — 14 students  
 A journalism immersion experience that orients and familiarizes graduate students with the best practices and standards of cutting-edge multimedia, multi-platform fact gathering, reporting, and storytelling.
- Spring 2018* **Introduction to Coding for Storytelling JOUR 320** — 2 units — 8 students  
 In this undergraduate course, students conceive, design, code, and produce an advanced multimedia story package.
- Spring 2018* **Journalism Capstone Project JOUR 598** — 4 units — 12 students  
 In this required course, journalism graduate students produce a capstone project with multimedia elements.
- Fall 2017* **Fall Digital News Immersion JOUR 531** — 4 units — 12 students  
 Graduate students write, report, produce, code, promote, and publish/air cross-platform stories in a converged news environment.
- Fall 2017* **Coding and Programming for Storytelling JOUR 553** (Assisting Prof. Peggy Bustamante) — 2 units — 12 students  
 Graduate students sketch, design, and code a website from scratch, using HTML, CSS, and jQuery to tell a rich multimedia story.
- Summer 2017* **Summer Digital News Immersion JOUR 528** — 4 units — 12 students  
 A journalism immersion experience that orients and familiarizes graduate students with the best practices and standards of cutting-edge multimedia, multi-platform fact gathering, reporting, and storytelling.

### ◉ The State University of New York College at Plattsburgh — *Visiting Assistant Professor of Journalism* (2009-2010, nonrenewable)

- Spring 2010* **Journalism Senior Seminar JOU408: Resume Workshop** — Required/No credit — 15-20 students  
 As the capstone course for the journalism department, which considers the craft of writing central to its mission, Senior Seminar serves to ensure that students have adequately learned essential material. Students also will put together a portfolio that includes a resume, a complete publication bibliography, and their five best clips. Prerequisite: senior standing or POI.

- Spring 2010*      **Literary Journalism JOU320** — 3 credits — 21 students  
An exploration of literary journalism as practiced by Tom Wolfe, John McPhee, Gay Talese, and others. The course also studied how the elements of New Journalism have been used or abused by contemporary practitioners. Writing assignments focused on the techniques of description, scene-setting, narrative voice, and dialogue. Liberal arts. Prerequisites: JOU206, ENG195, or POI.
- Spring 2010*      **Magazine Article Writing JOU309** — 3 credits — 23 students  
Close analysis of the craft and art of writing magazine articles. Practical experience in studying magazine markets; finding article ideas; and researching, writing, and selling articles. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU206 or POI.
- Spring 2010*      **Humor, Journalism, and Democracy JOU381 (new course)** — 3 credits — 16 students  
This course surveyed the history of satire in American journalism from *The New York Sun's* Great Moon Hoax of 1835 to Tina Fey's parodies of Sarah Palin in 2008. The course also covered censorship of satire in the U.S. and abroad, the continuing importance and controversy surrounding political cartoons, and the increasing use of comedic elements even in contemporary mainstream news programs. Through readings, papers, movie-viewing, and class discussions, students explored these questions: "Is news from satirical sources better than no news at all?" "Can our democracy survive if citizens don't follow mainstream news sources?" "Are there truths that can be conveyed more effectively by a comedy skit than by a serious news broadcast?" Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU206 or POI.
- Spring 2010*      **Editing JOU401** — 3 credits — 17 students  
Preparation of copy for publication. Fundamentals of editing at a micro and macro level, including copy-editing, headline and caption writing, and handling wire copy. Emphasis given to newsroom decision-making; coaching writers; making sound ethical and legal decisions; and using correct style, grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU308 or POI.
- Fall 2009*        **Entertainment Reporting JOU381 (new course)** — 3 credits — 18 students  
This course was useful for students interested in learning specialized skills needed to report on the popular arts, entertainment, and celebrity-related news. Students learned how to cover events such as concerts, theatrical performances, and art exhibits, as well as how to contact and interact with publicists and how to land and conduct interviews with high-profile figures in the entertainment industry. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU206 or POI.
- Fall 2009*        **Travel Writing JOU324** — 3 credits — 17 students  
Students wrote and edited travel articles about places, including their people, landscape, weather, history, politics, culture, and folklore. By developing narration skills and critiquing published travel stories, students learned the different types of travel stories. Liberal arts.
- Fall 2009*        **Introduction to Newswriting JOU206** — 3 credits — 23 students  
Writing news and news features with an emphasis on multi-sourced, balanced, and objective reporting. Introduction to deadline writing, journalism ethics, and law. Attention to grammar, style rules, word usage, and spelling. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: ENG101.
- Fall 2009*        **Magazine Article Writing JOU309** — 3 credits — 21 students  
Close analysis of the craft and art of writing magazine articles. Practical experience in studying magazine markets; finding article ideas; and researching, writing, and selling articles. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU206 or POI.
- Spring 2009*      **Reporting and Newswriting JOU308** — 3 credits — 14 students  
Close analysis of the principles of news gathering and the writing of news and news features. Practical experience in gathering and writing news. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU206 or POI.
- Spring 2009*      **Introduction to Newswriting JOU206** — 3 credits — 23 students  
Writing news and news features with an emphasis on multi-sourced, balanced, and objective reporting. Introduction to deadline writing, journalism ethics, and law. Attention to grammar, style rules, word usage, and spelling. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: ENG101.
- Spring 2009*      **Literary Journalism JOU320** — 3 credits — 20 students  
An exploration of literary journalism as practiced by Tom Wolfe, John McPhee, Gay Talese, and others. The course also studied how the elements of New Journalism have been used or abused by contemporary practitioners. Writing assignments focused on the techniques of description, scene-setting, narrative voice, and dialogue. Liberal arts. Prerequisites: JOU206, ENG195, or POI.
- Spring 2009*      **Editing JOU401** — 3 credits — 15 students (+1 auditor)  
Preparation of copy for publication. Fundamentals of editing at a micro and macro level, including copy-editing, headline and caption writing, and handling wire copy. Emphasis given to newsroom decision-making; coaching writers; making sound ethical and legal decisions; and using correct style, grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling. Liberal arts. Prerequisite: JOU308 or POI.

◉ **Oberlin College, College of Arts and Sciences** — *Instructor* (2000)

- Spring 2000*      **Beyond Civilization: Exploring the Writings of Daniel Quinn EXCO306** — 1–2 credits — 12 students  
This course was a survey and exploration of the works of futurist author Daniel Quinn. Covering his major books: *Ishmael*, *The Story of B*, and *Beyond Civilization*, students were invited to think critically on the applications of Quinonian thought to their own lives and to the world around them. Subsequent topics ranged from the origins of civilization and the psychological foundations of salvationist religions to issues of population and solutions for human ecological sustainability. Liberal arts/philosophy/history/environmental studies.

**GUEST LECTURES, 2017-present**

◉ **Eugene Lang College, The New School (New York, NY)** — "Pitch Panel," a Professional Critique of Student Projects

- Oct. 29, 2019*      **News, Narrative & Design III** (Prof. Anjali Khosla) — 4 units — ~15 students  
The final course in a three-course sequence, this advanced class engages students in a creative and rigorous practice of journalism to help prepare them for entering the highly competitive media ecosystem. We will build our skills as reporters, writers, readers, and listeners, with a focus on data-driven, narrative feature writing. A data reporter is embedded in the course. In addition to creating our own work, we will study writing by a number of notable contemporary journalists who will visit our class and discuss their practice.

◉ California State University–Los Angeles — “A Journalist’s Perspective on Corporate Crisis Management”

June 18, 2019

**High Performance Management MGMT 4108** (Prof. Norvell Thomas) — 3 credits — 10 students

Focus on managerial skills, performance context conceptual understanding and self-assessment; in depth skill-learning, analysis, practice, and application including: negotiation, creative and critical thinking, managing conflict, and building effective teams.

◉ Eugene Lang College, The New School (New York, NY) — “Covering ‘Invisible Communities’: Diversity and Design in the Quest for New Readers”

March 28, 2019

**News, Narrative & Design I** (Prof. Andrew Meier) — 4 units — 14 students

This is the first course in a 3-course sequence that introduces students to journalism, which plays a crucial role in a democratic society. This Level 1 class will focus on a bottom-up approach to reporting, using human-centered design practices where appropriate, to identify the informational needs and concerns of a community. Through real, project-based work, students will research, report, and present the news while considering how to engage their audience and have impact. Students will also be introduced to the complexity and competitiveness of the 21st-century media ecosystem.

◉ University of Southern California (Los Angeles) — “Seeing Color: How We Do Better Journalism When We Acknowledge and Embrace Diversity”

Feb. 20, 2019

**Engaging Diverse Communities JOUR 372** (Prof. Olivia Smith) — 2 units — 8 students

Explores how to engage diverse local communities through participatory journalism and communication strategies. Focuses on using digital tools to increase engagement with communities via field reporting and mobile platforms to produce stories across platforms.

◉ University of California–Berkeley (Berkeley, CA) — “Why We’re More and More Vulnerable to Fake News”

April 24, 2018

**Understanding Journalism MEDIAST 103** (Prof. Jean Retzinger) — 4 units — 260 students

In this course, students learn why sound journalism is so important to a healthy, working democracy. Journalism is rapidly changing. The class will give a context to those changes and provide an overview of contemporary journalistic institutions. Students will examine how news is made, who decides what news is, who makes it, who profits by it, and what rules guide how reporters and editors work. Central issues affecting journalism, such as bias and professionalism, will be discussed. The class is not specifically intended for future journalists, but students will learn why pursuing a career in journalism can be so fulfilling and thrilling, as well as becoming better consumers of news.

◉ Academy of Art University (San Francisco, CA) — “Why We’re Vulnerable to Fake News”

March 2, 2017

**Perspective Journalism LA 280** (Prof. Tom Molanphy) — 3 units — 14 students

Students learn the elements of writing and reporting for print and online media. They will develop reporting skills, including information gathering and interviewing. Legal, moral and ethical rights and responsibilities on reporting will be covered.

**JOURNALISM & TEACHING EXPERIENCE, 2000-present**

2001–present

**Independent Journalist**

*The Nation, The New York Times, The Guardian, MTV News, Truthdig, etc.*

Report and write numerous news and culture stories, many of which have gone viral, drawing millions of unique hits and earning upward of 125,000 shares on social media. Notable stories have included “The First Drag Queen Was a Former Slave,” a piece for *The Nation* discussing my original research on the first self-described drag queen, a *Guardian* piece on the racist text messages of the San Francisco Police Department, *Truthdig* columns that have earned praise from a wide array of thinkers, an *MTV News* feature on the nation’s only African-American LGBTQ youth gang, and an enterprise piece exploring the puzzle of why as many as 2 million young Japanese *bikikomori* never leave their bedrooms.

2019–present

**Lecturer of Journalism**

2017–2019

**Adjunct Professor of Journalism**

**University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA**

Teach core and elective journalism courses to a diverse set of undergraduate and graduate students from an array of national, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of preparation. Develop learning plans integrating diverse perspectives and learning styles. Spearheaded initiatives to make diversity, inclusion, equity, and access essential at USC Annenberg, including leading a task force on best practices for student training and designing and teaching a new required course providing students with strategies for navigating workplace bias and discrimination. Mentored, advised students, and wrote references for students and graduates, leading to job and internship placements at *The Associated Press, The New York Times, NBC, Tegna, KPCC, KTLA*, and elsewhere.

2016–2017

**Editor-in-Chief**

**SF Weekly & SFWeekly.com — San Francisco, CA**

After being sought and recruited by corporate management, led an award-winning team of staffers and freelancers to publish San Francisco’s flagship newsweekly, which reached 700,000 monthly print readers and 700,000 to 1 million monthly online readers. As editor, outlined and implemented a new direction for the paper and website focusing on: increasing the diversity of the content and contributors, raising editing and reporting standards, maintaining comprehensive coverage of local events, producing more eye-catching layouts, and increasing investigative news reporting. Spearheaded a content-sharing agreement with the award-winning news and opinion website Truthdig.com. Also completed a review of weekly, monthly, and quarterly spending, resulting in a 30% to 50% reduction in monthly costs. As the go-to source for information on Bay Area arts and entertainment, the weekly was named best local non-daily paper by the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club in 2016.

2016

**International Reporting Fellow**

**The International Center for Journalists — Japan, Asia / Washington, DC**

After winning this competitive fellowship, traveled across Japan — interviewing families, government officials, psychiatrists, and other experts — to report on the country’s baffling and disastrous epidemic of young *bikikomori*, or long-term shut-ins, for a project funded by the Ford Foundation and United Airlines. The fellowship, awarded to 12 journalists annually, was administered by the International Center for Journalists, an official partner in the consortium that uncovered the Panama Papers.

2013–2014

**Breaking News Supervisor***The Associated Press* — San Francisco, CA

After being recruited from *The New York Times*, directed coverage of breaking news in Northern California for this international news service, managing a six-person team of experienced reporters — including a Pulitzer winner — in the San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Fresno bureaus. Set daily strategy, generated ideas, and assigned, revised, and edited stories for global distribution in print, online, and on TV and radio. Reported and wrote news, features, and enterprise stories aired on radio and TV, including ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX affiliates. Produced articles featured by major outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *People*, CNN, *Salon*, *The New Zealand Herald*, and others. Notable work included the tragic story of Jahi McMath, which sparked a national debate over the definition of “brain death,” and the first wire story on the “handsome felon” Jeremy Meeks, which turned one man’s mug shot into a cultural phenomenon in 2014. In addition, covered breaking news, poverty, race, crime, the environment, science and technology, and politics.

2010–2013

**Staff Editor & Writer***The New York Times* & *NYTimes.com* — New York, NY

Directed a close-knit team of experienced print and online journalists as a slot editor on the Metro Copy Desk, making assignments to staff reporters, copy editors, and freelancers at this world-renowned newspaper and online destination. Edited Sam Dolnick’s work exposing on rape, murder, and mismanagement in New Jersey’s privatized halfway houses. Dolnick’s reporting earned the 2012 George Polk Award for Justice Reporting. Later, edited an investigative series uncovering evidence that a homicide detective had used false confessions and coercive tactics to convict dozens of innocent defendants. That series also won the 2013 George Polk Award, and the courts have since thrown out eight of the convictions — some for men who had been imprisoned for decades. Edited David Kocieniewski’s work on the U.S. tax system, which won him the 2012 Pulitzer for explanatory reporting. In addition to editing, produced multimedia packages and reported stories featured on Page A1 and on the homepage, including articles about the Trayvon Martin case, Whitney Houston’s death, and other stories about poverty, race, entertainment, education, science, crime, politics, and international affairs. Assisted in crafting content for the company’s century-old Neediest Cases campaign. Raised more than \$6 million per year over three years writing and editing articles to inspire donations to New York charities.

2009–2010

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Journalism***State University of New York College at Plattsburgh* — Plattsburgh, NY

Taught four core and elective journalism courses per semester to a diverse group of students from a wide array of national, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of preparation. Developed learning plans integrating diverse perspectives and learning styles. In addition, served as academic advisor to more than 30 journalism majors each semester and as internship advisor, helping students to secure internships with papers, magazines, and websites. Served as a member of the academic honesty committee. Raised the campus’s profile by organizing speaking events with numerous prominent journalists and artists, including: White House reporter Helen Thomas (before her 2013 death) and Pulitzer Prize winners David Barstow, Andrea Elliott, David Cay Johnston, and Julia Keller.

2006–2009

**Editor & Writer***Vibe Magazine* & *Vibe.com* — New York, NY

Edited all of the dozens of articles published in the monthly magazine, including in-depth profiles exploring the lives of musicians and exclusive features exploring topics like hip-hop’s debt to the Five Percent Nation and the cultural significance of Barack Obama. Before being hired as an editor, also wrote pieces for the magazine’s website, including a profile of Dionne Farris, whose soulful vocals earned a Grammy for Arrested Development’s 1992 hit “Tennessee.”

2006–2008

**Assistant Night Editor & Staff Reporter***The New York Sun* & *NYSun.com* — New York, NY

Directed national and foreign coverage, including investigations, for the print and online editions of this major paper, which had a daily readership of 150,000 before folding in 2008. The national section provided comprehensive reporting on national politics, including presidential campaigns. The foreign section provided diverse coverage with an emphasis on the Middle East. Also supervised, managed, and nurtured a team of eight writers and interns and numerous freelancers in Israel, San Francisco, Washington, and New York — including at the United Nations — and around the world. Reported on national and international affairs, politics, social movements, and visual art.

2005

**Reporter-Researcher***Time Inc.: Entertainment Weekly, TIME For Kids, CNN, etc.* — New York, NY

Reported from New York for *TIME* magazine’s 2005 coverage of Hurricane Katrina, including preliminary reporting on how hospital workers abandoned hard-to-move patients in the storm’s aftermath. Edited articles for *TIME For Kids*. Other duties at the company were writing for *Entertainment Weekly* and *EW.com* — as well as for *CNN.com*, its affiliate website — including the last published interview with Willi Ninja, the gay African-American dance pioneer and Madonna’s “Vogue” muse, before his 2006 death. Proofread and fact-checked *EW.com*, including work by best-selling novelist Stephen King.

2002-2004

**Reporter & Book Reviewer***Publishers Weekly* — New York, NY

Reported and wrote business-news articles in an internship for this international publication, considered the bible of the book-publishing industry. Interviewed authors and industry leaders and wrote news and features for the newsletter, *PW Daily*. Hired after the internship to review contemporary novels. Many of the reviews have been widely excerpted in the media, in promotional materials, and on Amazon.com.

2003

**Reporter-Researcher***U.S. News & World Report* — Washington, DC

Reported during a summer internship for this influential magazine. Provided editing and research for the *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook.

2001

**Reporter***Cape Argus* — Cape Town, South Africa

Reported and wrote stories in an internship for this large daily newspaper in Cape Town, South Africa.

2000

**Instructor***Oberlin College* — Oberlin, OH

As an instructor in Oberlin’s five-decade-old Experimental College program, created and taught “Beyond Civilization: Exploring the Writings of Daniel Quinn,” a semester-long course for undergraduates at the diverse liberal arts institution’s College of Arts and Sciences. Designed the syllabus, conducted lectures, facilitated discussions, and graded assignments.



## PUBLIC RELATIONS, MARKETING &amp; COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

1997–present

**Major Achievements & Highlights**

- Served as a national TV spokesperson for Ancestry.com, representing the brand and promoting the company's services in ads that aired more than 5,000 times nationally — including on primetime network and cable TV and on PBS stations.
- Served as a regional spokesperson for UCSF Health, representing the hospital network's brand and promoting its services in ads that aired on primetime television, including during the World Series.
- Developed print and online content for numerous corporate clients, from Merrill Lynch to AT&T — strengthening their brand reputations and building their community engagement.
- Successfully created and implemented end-to-end PR strategies for educational and entertainment events across the country — building websites, crafting email newsletters, recruiting staff, and managing social media promotions — resulting in standing-room-only attendance and earning regional, national, and international media coverage.
- Devised content and strategy for an array of charitable campaigns, including helping to raise more than \$18 million over three years for a *New York Times*-backed philanthropic initiative.
- Developed and maintained relationships with representatives from regional, national, and international media outlets.

2016–present

**Ancestry.com** — United States

As an expert in African-American genealogy, promote the company's family-history research and DNA-testing services in national ad campaigns by sharing true stories of once-forgotten relatives discovered with the use of Ancestry's research databases.

2017–present

**The National Kidney Foundation** — San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Serve as a speaker and panel moderator for the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the National Kidney Foundation, which bills itself as “the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans at risk.” At public and corporate events, provide education and advocacy for patients and families affected by kidney disease.

2017–present

**Donor Network West** — San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Serve as a regional speaker, panel moderator, and advocate for the work of Donor Network West, an organ procurement and tissue recovery organization that “saves and heals lives through organ and tissue donation in northern California and Nevada.” At events in the San Francisco Bay Area, provide education and advocacy for those affected by and interested in tissue and organ donation.

2016–2017

**SF Weekly & SFWeekly.com** — San Francisco, CA

Conceived and implemented a successful rebranding of the three-decade-old publication, including a top-down redesign of the paper's look and content as well as the creation of a new logo and tagline. Developed and executed a plan to increase web traffic and social media engagement.

2016

**Octavia's Attic: ARTifacts From Our Possible Futures** — San Francisco, CA

Devised and implemented an end-to-end PR and marketing strategy for this eclectic exhibition of artists, performers, and speakers celebrating the legacy of Octavia E. Butler, the first African-American female science fiction writer. The event — which featured three dozen artists from the U.S. and Europe and a lecture by the theoretical physicist Dr. Ronald Mallett — earned positive media coverage in outlets with local, national, and international audiences, including KALW-FM, KPFK-FM, *SF Weekly*, *Black Girl Nerds*, and *Afropunk*.

2015–2017

**UCSF Health** — San Francisco, CA

Represented the globally acclaimed hospital network, which is respected for cutting-edge research and medical breakthroughs. As part of a regional campaign titled “Redefining Possible,” appeared on the UCSF website, on billboards throughout San Francisco, and in primetime television ads. Regularly spoke to local groups, sharing expertise and personal experiences.

2010–2013

**The New York Times Company** — New York, NY

Crafted print and online promotional content for the company's Neediest Cases philanthropic campaign, which raised more than \$18 million in donations for various charities from 2010 to 2013. Successfully bolstered reader engagement, brand reputation while also fostering community relations and helping to improve the lives of impoverished New Yorkers.

2009–2010

**State University of New York College at Plattsburgh** — Plattsburgh, NY

Raised the campus's profile by organizing successful campus events with prominent speakers, including: White House reporter Helen Thomas (before her 2013 death); political author Charles Pierce; *Associated Press* national reporter Todd Lewan; veteran editor Nicholas Wapshott; Pulitzer winners David Barstow, Andrea Elliott, David Cay Johnston, and Julia Keller; MTV producer Morgan Fahey; and acclaimed singers Dionne Farris and Célia Faussart. Duties included: writing press releases to secure media coverage; booking speakers; managing logistics; and preparing speeches.

2008–2009

**Vibe Magazine & Vibe.com** — New York, NY

Created and edited promotional content, including press releases to increase awareness of the magazine's exclusive reporting.

2008

**Time Inc. Content Solutions** — New York, NY

Wrote and edited online and print content to promote the events, products, and content of corporate clients, including the New York Stock Exchange, Merrill Lynch, Mercer Financial, the Humane Society of the United States, the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harrah's, Epilepsy Advocate, and AT&T.

1997

**KNWD 91.7FM** — Natchitoches, LA

Co-hosted a live weekly radio program to an audience of more than 40,000, promoting an eclectic selection of popular music.

## ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020-21	Black Annenberg Forum, USC Annenberg — Los Angeles, CA
2020-21	Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Steven Vargas, USC Annenberg — Los Angeles, CA
2020-21	USC Annenberg Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member — Los Angeles, CA
2020-21	USC Annenberg Graduate Recruitment & Admissions Related Committee Member — Joint Journalism Program Reader — Los Angeles, CA
2020-21	Unofficial/Volunteer Member of USC Specialized Journalism/S.J.-Arts Committee for Race & Justice Reporting Concentration — Los Angeles, CA
2020	Chair, USC Annenberg Task Force on Student Newsroom Training — Los Angeles, CA
2020-present	USC Annenberg Ad Hoc Committee on Social Justice Journalism M.A. Program, USC — Los Angeles, CA
2020-present	USC Annenberg Black Faculty and Staff Convener, USC — Los Angeles, CA
2019	Session Leader, USC Annenberg <a href="#">Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness Week</a> — Los Angeles, CA
2019-present	Academic Member, National Association of Black Journalists
2017-present	Faculty Career Advising, USC Annenberg — Los Angeles, CA
2017-18	Master's Thesis Committee Member, <a href="#">Brit Wignitton</a> (Documentary on Atlanta's Drag Community), USC Annenberg — Los Angeles, CA
2017	Regional Speaker, The National Kidney Foundation — San Francisco Bay Area, CA
2017	Volunteer, Donor Network West — San Francisco Bay Area, CA
2009-10	Member, Academic Honesty Committee, State University of New York — Plattsburgh, NY
2009-10	Academic Advisor, Journalism Department, State University of New York — Plattsburgh, NY
2009	Internship Advisor, Journalism Department, State University of New York — Plattsburgh, NY

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS &amp; LEADERSHIP

Black Annenberg Forum — Founder  
 Envisioning a New Journalism Conference — Founder/Director (*conference postponed due to pandemic*)  
 National Queer History Taskforce – Founder  
 African American Intellectual History Society — Member  
 Committee on Lesbian and Gay History — Member  
 National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)— Member  
 National Association of Black Journalists' LGBTQ+ Task Force — Member  
 National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association — Member  
 First Tuesday Researchers Group (Collaboration of The Center Archive/OutHistory/National Queer History Taskforce) — Co-Organizer  
 Society of Professional Journalists — Member

## LANGUAGES

Spanish (speaking: intermediate, reading: proficient)  
 French (speaking: intermediate, reading: proficient)  
 Afrikaans (speaking: intermediate, reading: intermediate)  
 Latin (reading: proficient)  
 Louisiana Creole (speaking: beginner)  
 Japanese (speaking: beginner)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, 2001-present (featuring reporting, research, writing, or editing contributions)

<i>The New York Times</i>	<i>The International Herald Tribune</i>	<i>The Washington Post</i>	<i>The Guardian</i> (UK)	<i>The New York Sun</i>
<i>MTV News</i>	<i>ABC News</i>	<i>NBC News</i>	<i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>	<i>Entertainment Weekly</i>
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	<i>Vibe</i>	<i>Publishers Weekly</i>	<i>Yahoo! News</i>	CNN
<i>Salon</i>	<i>Rolling Stone</i>	<i>USA Today</i>	<i>Truthdig</i>	<i>SF Weekly</i>
TIME	TIME For Kids	AOL	NPR	FOX
BET	<i>The Boston Globe</i>	<i>Epilepsy Advocate</i>	<i>Proto Magazine</i>	<i>Glamour</i>
<i>Louisiana Cookin'</i>	<i>The San Francisco Chronicle</i>	<i>The Oakland Tribune</i>	<i>The Times-Picayune</i>	<i>The Huffington Post</i>
<i>The San Jose Mercury News</i>	<i>The New Zealand Herald</i>	<i>The Daily Mail</i> (UK)	<i>CTVnews.ca</i> (Canada)	<i>Macworld</i>
<i>PC World</i>	<i>Talking Points Memo</i>	<i>Stars and Stripes</i>	<i>The Grio</i>	<i>The Seattle Times</i>
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