

Megan Sweas

<http://www.MeganSweas.com>

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847-331-2173

EXPERIENCE

Communications Specialist, USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) February 2015-present
Freelance Journalist, Los Angeles, CA January 2012-present
Web Producer, JD Careers Out There (*JDCOT.com*), Los Angeles, CA November 2012-present
Associate Editor/Web Editor, *U.S. Catholic*, Chicago, IL June 2006-July 2011
Program Assistant, Free Spirit Media, Chicago, IL August 2005-June 2006

SKILLS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For journalism awards, see MeganSweas.com/awards

Reporting & Writing

- Author, *Putting Education to Work: How Cristo Rey High Schools Are Transforming Urban Education* (HarperOne, 2014)
- Awarded Religion Reporting Fellowship from International Reporting Project (Italy, 2014)
- Wrote articles published by *GlobalPost*, *Publishers Weekly*, Religion News Service, *Religion Dispatches*, *U.S. Catholic*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Time.com*, *Washington Post*

Editing

- Commissioned and edited magazine features covering social justice, environment, interfaith dialogue, education, young adults and women at *U.S. Catholic* magazine
- Managed magazine departments and blogs from idea generation to layout/posting.
- Well versed in AP and *U.S. News & World Report* styles; Adobe InDesign

Web Production

- Led re-launch of CRCC website, collaborating with team of developers
- Helped launch *JDCOT.com*, voted best in class in *ABA Journal* poll in its first year
- Managed *USCatholic.org* (July 2009-July 2011): Doubled site traffic in 6 months through strategic use of website analytics and promotion; Honored with top blog, website awards
- Created award-winning e-newsletters using MailChimp, Constant Contact & AWeber
- Developed and implemented social media strategies for CRCC, *U.S. Catholic* & *JDCOT*
- Built Free Spirit Media's first website (2006)
- Well versed in HTML, CSS, WordPress, Drupal, Social Media Management

Multimedia

- Produced videos for CRCC, *USCatholic.org*; won award for "Confronting Violence"
- Taught video production to underserved high school students at Free Spirit Media
- Pitched and contributed to aired stories as radio production intern, *Marketplace Morning Report*
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Audition, Final Cut, ENPS, Newsboss

Leadership

- Managed 18 regional groups as board member for Journalism & Women Symposium (JAWS)
- Established regional group for JAWS in Southern California
- Planned program and led committee as Chair of 2014 JAWS Conference for 200+ journalists
- Contributed to strategic planning committees at CRCC and *U.S. Catholic*
- Organized retreats and events as a member of the Amate House Alumni Council (2006-2010)
- Captained, coached competitive Ultimate teams

EDUCATION

MA, Specialized Journalism

Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, University of Southern California
Annenberg Fellow; Outstanding Graduate Award

August 2012

BS, Journalism, Summa Cum Laude

Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
Double Major in Religion; Dean's List; Kappa Tau Alpha, National Honor Society

June 2005