

Megan Sweas

<http://www.MeganSweas.com>

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847-331-2173

EXPERIENCE

Public Communications Specialist, Center for Religion and Civic Culture February 2015-present
Website editor for major research center based at University of Southern California

- Led re-launch of CRCC website, collaborating with team of developers
- Translate scholarly writing into compelling posts and pitch to publications; field media inquiries

Freelance Journalist, Los Angeles, CA January 2012-present
Assignments include writing, editing, photography, web production, social media and radio production

- 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)
- Web Producer/Consultant, JD Careers Out There – Helped launch and manage *JDCOT.com*
- Clients: *GlobalPost, Publishers Weekly, Religion News Service, Religion Dispatches, National Catholic Reporter, Marketplace, The California Report, Time.com, U.S. Catholic*

Associate Editor, *U.S. Catholic*, Chicago, IL June 2006-July 2011
Magazine and website editor at national magazine covering the role of the Catholic faith in modern life

- Managed *USCatholic.org*:
 - Doubled site traffic in 6 months through strategic use of website analytics
 - Developed and implemented social media strategy and e-newsletter promotions
 - Created multimedia content, including videos and slideshows
- Wrote, commissioned and edited magazine features, covering social justice, public policy, environment, interfaith dialogue, education, young adults, women
- Managed magazine departments from idea generation to layout
- Member, Strategic Planning Committee for *U.S. Catholic* & sister publications

Program Assistant, Free Spirit Media, Chicago, IL August 2005-June 2006
Placement at youth media organization through Amate House, a full-time volunteer program

- Supported video production classes and programs for underserved high school students
- Wrote and edited quarterly newsletter and built Free Spirit Media's first website

EDUCATION

MA, Specialized Journalism August 2012
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, University of Southern California
Annenberg Fellow; Outstanding Graduate Award

BS, Journalism, Summa Cum Laude June 2005
Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
Double Major in Religion; Dean's List; Kappa Tau Alpha, National Honor Society

JOURNALISM AWARDS (see MeganSweas.com/awards)

- Finalist, Chandler Student Religion Reporter of the Year, Religion Newswriters Association 2012
- *USCatholic.org*: Top blog, publication website, e-newsletter and multimedia awards from Associated Church Press and Catholic Press Association, 2010 & 2011
- ACP and CPA awards for *U.S. Catholic* articles "Greener pastures" & "Under the gun"

LEADERSHIP

- Managed 18 regional groups as board member for Journalism & Women Symposium (JAWS), established Southern California regional group and planned 2014 JAWS Conference
- Captained, coached competitive Ultimate teams

SKILLS

Adobe InDesign, Audition, Photoshop; HTML; CSS; Drupal; WordPress; Social Media Management; Final Cut; Newsboss; ENPS; Photography; Spanish; AP and *U.S. News & World Report* styles