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ABOUT ME

Journalism student at DePaul University with experience in award-winning reporting, data, audience strategy and digital storytelling — all focused on improving coverage and deepening reader engagement.

EDUCATION & SERVICE

DePaul University, Chicago

Bachelors of Arts, Journalism Certificate, Geographic Information Systems Expected Graduation June 2026

DePaul Egan Office of Urban Education

Geographic Information System Service Project

 Analyze veteran demographic data and create GIS maps to inform community outreach.

DIGITAL TOOLS & SKILLS

- News Writing & Editing
- Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
- Digital Content Management
- Datawrapper & Flourish
- ArcGIS Pro
- HTML / Python
- Data Analysis
- Audience Engagement
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Newsletter production

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Block Club Chicago

April 2025 — Present

Newsletter Intern

- Write, build and edit newsletters sent to over 100,000 subscribers across Block Club's citywide portfolio
- · Collaborate with editors and neighborhood reporters to shape editions around timely, local coverage
- Help refine and expand verticals, including a pride-focused newsletter
- Report breaking news and contribute enterprise features
- · Analyze performance metrics and partner with revenue team to optimize engagement and growth

DePaul Center for Journalism Integrity & Excellence, NBC 5

March 2025 — Present

Producer, lead fact-checker

- · Lead data analysis, fact-checking, and in-depth editing for a long-form investigative story
- · Assist in broadcast production, contributing to field reporting and newsroom segments
- Participate in a competitive reporting cohort focused on ethical, enterprise, and multimedia journalism, led by NBC 5's Lisa Parker and CJIE senior faculty fellows Carol Marin and Don Moseley

The DePaulia March 2024 — Present

Digital Managing Editor

- Lead digital content strategy and ensure timely, accurate news publication
- Oversee 25+ staff and contributors with editorial management team
- Edit content for clarity, accuracy and style; contribute reporting and live coverage as needed
- Support breaking news coverage with real-time updates and multimedia reporting
- Use data reporting skills to uncover trends, support investigations, and enhance storytelling
- Receive mentorship by longtime AP reporter Martha Irvine on newsroom priorities and ethical challenges

AWARDS

Chicago Headline Club

 Peter Lisagor Award, "Best Deadline Reporting" (Small newsroom/online)

Associated Collegiate Press

- 4th place, "Best News Story"
- · Honorable Mention for "Breaking News Story"
- Honorable Mention for "Best In-Depth News Story"
- 6th place, "Best of Show News Website"
- 6th place, "Best of Show Print Design"

WRITING EXAMPLES

Windy City Times @ 40 — Block Club Chicago

<u>James Baldwin's legacy — The DePaulia</u>

<u>DePaul is standing firm on DEI — The DePaulia</u>

<u>DePaul basketball attendance — The DePaulia</u>

MORE CLIPS & DIGITAL WORK

<u>jakec04.github.io</u>