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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 & EXTRACURRICULARS

DePaul University, Chicago

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

Office of Student Involvement

Non-Partisan Voter Engagement Specialist

August 2024 — Present

DIGITAL TOOLS & SKILLS

- News Writing & Editing
- Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
- Digital Content Management
- Datawrapper & Flourish
- · ArcGIS Pro
- HTML / CSS / 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 across Block Club's portfolio, reaching more than 120,000 subscribers
- · Collaborate with editors and neighborhood reporters to tailor each edition to the day's news
- Help improve existing verticals—especially Pride and community engagement—and contribute to the development of new ones

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 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
- Mentored by longtime AP national 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

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

DePaul is standing firm on DEI - The DePaulia

DePaul basketball attendance — The DePaulia

<u>DePaul security guard reassigned — The DePaulia</u>

MORE CLIPS & DIGITAL WORK

jakec04.github.io