

Chris Essig

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 6/10 - Present Cops and courts reporter, Galesburg Register-Mail**
- A 13,500 circulation newspaper in northwestern Illinois
- One of six reporters. Write about crime and court proceedings in Galesburg, including hearings in the case of an accused serial killer. Write feature stories twice a week, follow crime trends and compose a weekly crime blog. Produce a video for the website once every two weeks.
- Spring 2010 Intern, Lee Enterprises (Illinois)**
- Reported for five newspapers in Illinois: Quad-City Times, Bloomington Pantagraph, Decatur Herald & Review, Journal Gazette Times-Courier in Mattoon and The Southern Illinoisan in Carbondale
- One of three Statehouse reporters based in the Capitol that covered state politics. Wrote stories on fiscal issues facing Illinois, proposed laws making their way through the legislature and other matters that affected our readership. Produced multimedia supplements with stories.
- Summer 2009 Intern, Journal Gazette Times-Courier (Mattoon, IL)**
- A 8,300 circulation newspaper in eastern Illinois
- One of five reporters. Wrote a variety of hard news and feature stories. Produced videos, along with the web site's first multimedia package.
- Summer 2008 Press Office Manager, Illinois State Fair (Springfield, IL)**
- Supervised personnel and oversaw the press office. Prepared and distributed publications. Planned and coordinated special projects and edited and approved daily press releases.
- Summer 2007 Intern, Michael Curry Summer Internship Program**
- Illinois State Fair press office, Springfield, IL

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

- The Daily Eastern News (Charleston, IL)**
- A 9,100 circulation student newspaper at Eastern Illinois University
- 8/08 – 5/09 Assistant Online Editor**
- Developed my first multimedia package using Adobe Flash. Worked with University Board to organize an online battle of the bands, which generated more than 1000 votes. Developed a multimedia package on Eastern's new fine art center that featured more than 20 pieces of content.
- 1/08 – 5/08 Online Editor**
- Oversaw all content posted online. Generated and assigned multimedia content, including the site's first calendar and first multimedia package.
- 8/07 – 12/07 Online Interactive Editor**
- Produced podcasts, slideshows, and maps. Shot and produced the second video posted on the web site.
- 9/06 – 12/06 Senior City Reporter**
- Generated and assigned story ideas relating to the city of Charleston. Composed a weekly and long-term budget that included in-depth articles on local businesses and issues pertinent to the Charleston community.

EDUCATION

- 8/09 - 5/10 Master of Arts in Public Affairs Reporting**
University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, IL
Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0 scale.
- 8/05 – 5/09 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism with a minor in English.**
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
Cumulative GPA: 3.6/4.0 scale.

CORE SKILLS

- Videography
- HTML/XML
- CSS
- Javascript
- PHP
- MySQL
- Photography
- Adobe Flash
- Photoshop
- Dreamweaver
- Illustrator
- inDesign
- iMovie
- Final Cut Express
- SoundSlides
- Audacity
- GarageBand
- Podcasting
- Mapping
- Blogging

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

- Associated Collegiate Press Online Pacemaker, 2008-2009 and 2008-2007
- Public Affairs Reporting, James E. Armstrong Scholarship, 2010
- The Daily Eastern News Adviser Award, 2008-2009
- Outstanding Staff Member DENNews.com, 2007-2008
- Community Journalism Scholarship Winner, 2007-2008
- Center for Innovation in College Media, Best Overall Multimedia, 2nd place, 2008-2009
- Illinois College Press Association Online Publication category, 3rd place, 2008
- Illinois College Press Association Multimedia Reporting category, 3rd place, 2008

REFERENCES

Kurt Erickson – Statehouse Bureau Chief; Lee Enterprises, kurt.erickson@lee.net, (217) 789-0865

Bill Lair - Managing Editor; Journal Gazette Times-Courier, blair@jg-tc.com, (217) 238-6865

Bryan Murley - Online journalism professor; EIU, bsmurley@eiu.edu, (217) 581-7868