

Kevin Finch
Assistant Professor of Journalism
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Education

University of Illinois—Springfield, M.A., Public Affairs Reporting
Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, B.S., *Magna cum Laude*, Radio-TV
Illinois Central College, East Peoria, A.A.S., Radio-TV

Continuing Education

Carole Kneeland Fellowship, Tampa, Fla., 2008
The Magid Institute (for news managers), Frank N. Magid Associates, Galena, Ill., 2004

Electronic Media/Journalism Professional Experience

July 2014 – Present

Assistant Professor, Washington and Lee University

Tenure-track full-time position, teaching: broadcast and web producing, broadcast announcing practicum, introduction to mass media, beat reporting, a study of the documentary, and a skills course in student production of cross-cultural documentary films, state and local government and a first-year seminar on politics and the press.

July 2013 – June 2014

Visiting Assistant Professor, Washington and Lee University

Taught courses in broadcast and web producing, a study of the documentary, a skills course in student production of cross-cultural documentary films and a first-year seminar on media and politics.

January - May, 2013

Adjunct Instructor, School of Journalism, Indiana Univ. Purdue Univ. at Indianapolis

Taught "Reporting and Writing II."

February 2013 – Present

Producer/Director/Writer, Jukeboxer Productions

Writing and producing documentaries, magazine pieces, videos and more. Current project: an independent documentary on a secret, top priority submarine mission during the Cold War. For WFYI-TV and APT national, a new documentary on author Kurt Vonnegut's hometown, 2015. Produced audio book for renowned photographer Sally Mann's new memoir, *Hold Still*, for Hachette Audio, New York. Occasional contributor to RTDNA's online publication, *Communicator*.

April 2011 – November 2012

News Director, WRTV, Indianapolis.

Managed staff of 65 and multi-million budget at ABC affiliate. Created a downtown television studio, in cooperation with radio partner, WIBC/Emmis. Guided transition to new ownership. Overhauled weather coverage. Led coverage of Super Bowl 46, including downtown staging. Improved ratings in early and late evening news and led staff to most award wins in 13 years. Member, ABC Affiliate News Director Advisory Board.

July 2009 – March 2011

Independent producer/field producer/writer/consultant

Clients included: NBC News, WFYI-TV, Calamari Productions, Olsen Communications Consultants, the Grau Group and the *Indianapolis Business Journal*.

February 2007 - June 2009

News Director, WISH-TV, Indianapolis

Managed multi-million dollar budget and staff of 80 at CBS affiliate news department. Guided transition to digital news gathering, multi-platform presentation and contributed to design of new set. Won coverage of breaking news, big events, and ratings (including morning, noon and 11 p.m. sweeps in 2008) and awards.

August 2003 - February 2007

Assistant News Director, WISH-TV

Hired in a "Two-for-one" package deal (*Broadcasting & Cable*, 8.11.03) with news director Tom Cochrun. Involved in talent hires and negotiations, budget priorities, and long-term strategy. Also, day-to-day operational leader, personnel supervision, management of sweeps strategy, and special story production. Writing coach in group and individual sessions.

February 1994 - August 2003

Executive Producer, Special Projects & News Co-Brands, WTHR-TV, Indianapolis Collaborated with other departments to lead crews and coverage on 9/11 in DC, 1st anniversary in New York, three Olympics, 10 Indy 500s, a dozen debates, election nights, political conventions, NBA Finals, AFC Championships, Brickyard 400s, etc. al. Managed sweeps strategy and created partnerships with other media—local weather channel, newspaper, radio and web. Supervised sports department staff, interns, award entries.

1996-2002, 2006

Documentary Writer, Nineteenth Star, LLC and Calamari Productions, both Indianapolis

Wrote documentaries for Discovery, TLC, and Odyssey and script consultant/producer for documentary on MSNBC.

August 1992 – May 1995

Adjunct Instructor, University of Indianapolis

Taught courses in broadcast writing and management

April 1990 - February 1994

Producer, WTHR-TV, Indianapolis

Led investigative unit. Produced 11pm and weekend newscasts.

July 1986 - April 1990

Producer and Reporter, WCIA-TV, Champaign

On-Site Coverage of Major News Stories

- Start of the Iraq War, Washington, DC, 2003, Field Producer
- First Anniversary of 9/11, New York City, Field Producer with multiple crews
- 9/11 Attack on the Pentagon, Washington, DC, Field Producer
- Four National Political Conventions, Field Producer
- Final Vote, the Senate Trial of President Clinton, 1999, Field Producer
- President Clinton's 2nd Inauguration, 1997, Field Producer
- The Bombing of Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta and Olympic Games, 1996. On-site Executive Producer, Crew of 17-21. Included daily live (with pre-mixed elements) program on the Olympics during Early Fringe.
- The Sydney, Australia and Salt Lake City Olympic Games, 2000 and 2002, On-Site Executive Producer, crew of 12 in Sydney and 13 in Salt Lake. Salt Lake included live daily pre-mixed newscast elements and *program* on the Olympics during Prime Access.
- The NBA Finals, LA and Indianapolis, 2000. Executive Field Producer, Crew of 12 in LA; More than 20 in Indianapolis.

- Eleven Indianapolis 500s. On-Site Executive Producer for the month of May, with Crews of 40+ on Race Day.
- 1996 and 2004 AFC Conference Championships. On-Site Executive Producer, Crew of 14+.
- Our American Heroes' Journeys. Dedication of nation's 1st Medal of Honor Memorial. Live two-hour program. On-Site Executive Producer, Crew of 20+.

Producing and Writing Documentaries

- IN PRODUCTION, for planned 2017 release: *Triton: America's Deep Secret*, the secret submerged 'round the world Cold War mission of a nuclear submarine
- *A Writer's Roots: Kurt Vonnegut's Indianapolis*, WFYI-TV, originating station. Distributed nationwide through APT to 66 PBS markets, more than half of the potential national audience, 2016. Feature length version: Official Selection and Indiana Spotlight nominee, Heartland Film Festival. W&L Stackhouse Theater screening, 2016. 2 Regional Emmy nominations.
- *The Envelope*. Executive Producer. Aired on WRTV, Indianapolis. First known TV camera access to college admissions process. 2013 regional Edward R. Murrow Winner
- *Indy in the 60s*, segment producer. Aired on WFYI-TV, Indianapolis. 2012 regional Emmy winner.
- *Hoosiers at the Battle Lines.* Executive Producer. Aired on WISH-TV, WNDY-TV, Indianapolis; WTHI-TV, Terre Haute; WLFJ-TV, Lafayette. Regional Emmy Nominee. 2006
- *No Place for a Child*. Producer, Calamari Productions. Aired on MSNBC. Winner, Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism. 2006
- *G-Man: The Making of an FBI Agent*. Writer, Nineteenth Star. Aired nationally on Discovery and internationally. 2002. Good review in the *LA Times*.
- *New York Emergency*. Writer, Nineteenth Star. Aired nationally on TLC. 2000
- *In the Child's Best Interest*. Co-executive producer, co-writer of one-hour documentary. Winner of national Edward R. Murrow Award, national Emmy Nominee, many others. Aired on WTHR-TV, WFYI-TV, Indianapolis. 2000
- *Victories: Gerald Coffee*. Writer, Nineteenth Star. Aired nationally on Odyssey cable Network and WFYI-TV, Indianapolis. Regional Emmy Nominee. 1996

Publications

- "Getting down ballot: Local news has important role," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, Sept. 13, 2016
- "The Man Behind the Newsletter," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, March 15, 2016
- "The Revolution is being televised," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, August 5, 2015
- "Deflategate: Anatomy of a scoop," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, January 29, 2015
- "Enter the Plural Generation," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, August 27, 2014
- "Rockin' Your Morning News," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, March 11, 2011
- "Radio News on More Than Just a Shoestring," *Communicator*, the RTDNA online magazine, March 23, 2011
- "Going Far to Explore a Local Story." *Nieman Reports*, Harvard University, Winter 2007
- "Indiana's Failed Cameras in the Courts Pilot Project." *TuneIN*, Illinois News Broadcasters Association (Web newsletter), Two installments, spring 2007 (closed web archive)
- "Three Things to Remember About Resume Tapes." *The Quill*, Society of Professional Journalists, March 2006
- "Positive Reinforcement. Be upbeat (and honest) when speaking at colleges." *The Communicator*, RTNDA, June 2005
- "National limelight shines on Evan Bayh." *Culver Alumnus*, Culver Academies, December 1999
- "The Press and Illinois' Political Process: Does Objectivity Limit Journalists as Citizens?" *State Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities, 1991-1992*,

- Congressional Quarterly
- “Here’s Hours of Fun, Right Here!” *Culver Alumnus*, November 1991
- “And the Band Plays On.” *Culver Alumnus*, August 1991
- “The Press and Illinois’ Political Process: Does Objectivity Limit Journalists as Citizens?” *Illinois Issues*, University of Illinois at Springfield (formerly Sangamon State University), August/September, 1990

Recognition and Involvement

Academic Citizenship and Service:

- Organizer and moderator of Lexington Mayoral Debate, October 2016
- Voting Faculty Member, Alpha Chapter, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership & Honor Society, beginning in 2016
- Historic Preservation and Archaeological Conservation Advisory Committee, beginning in 2016
- Senior Honors Thesis Committee for Beth J. Kennedy, 2015-2016
- Presenter, Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, April 19, 2016. Topic: Engaging first-year students in the classroom
- Organizer and moderator of a Stackhouse Theater discussion with WDBJ-TV staff members (and W&L alumni) following the murders of two of their colleagues, Feb. 3, 2016
- Search Committee, Reynolds Chair (to replace Pam Luecke), Fall 2015
- Organizer and moderator of Commonwealth’s Attorney Debate, October 2015
- Visit to James Madison Univ. TV facility to review equipment, Spring 2015
- Johnson Scholar candidate interviews (with Aly Colon), Spring 2015
- Film Studies cohort, Fall 2014—Current
- Fall Academy 2014: Panelist on two presentations—engaging students and spring term
- Search Committee, Assistant Professor (to replace Brian Richardson), Fall 2014
- Judge of multi-state Associated Press broadcasting awards, April 2014

Partial List, WRTV and WISH-TV News Department Awards under my leadership:

- 2012 Scripps-Howard Finalist, Breaking News, State Fair rigging collapse (other finalist was the *New York Times*)
- 2012 Best Newscast Awards, Indiana AP Broadcasters Association and Indiana Society of Professional Journalists
- 2012 Driehaus Awards, Chicago Better Government Association, 3rd Place
- 2012 Five Regional Emmy Awards
- 2009 Sigma Delta Chi Award, Breaking News Coverage, National Society of Professional Journalists
- 2009 Best Newscast Awards, Indiana Associated Press and Indiana Society of Professional Journalists
- 2009 and 2008 SPJ Best Television Election Night Coverage
- 2008, 2006 and 2005 Indiana AP Outstanding News Operation
- 2008 and 2006 Indiana AP Outstanding Weather Operation
- 2008 Indiana AP Best Newscast Award
- 2007 George Foster Peabody Award
- 2007 Regional Emmy Awards, Outstanding Daily Newscast and Outstanding Morning Newscast
- Many other state and regional First Place Awards

Individual Awards, Professional

- Regional Edward R. Murrow Award, Documentary
- National Edward R. Murrow Award, Documentary
- Two-time National Community Service Emmy Award Nominee
- Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism, TV Long Form (as David Lynn)

- National Headliner Award, 2nd Place, Documentary
- International Association of Firefighters Award
- Regional Edward R. Murrow Award, Writing
- Three-time Regional Emmy Winner
- Four 1st Place Indiana Associated Press Awards, including Best Newscast
- Four 1st Place Indiana Society of Professional Journalists Awards
- Prevent Child Abuse Indiana “Friend of the Child Award”
- Three United Way Community Service Council C.A.S.P.E.R. Awards
- More than a dozen regional Emmy nominations

Individual Awards, Academic

- Bill Miller Public Affairs Reporting Hall of Fame, University of Illinois—Springfield, 2008
- Distinguished Alumnus Award, Illinois Central College, 2003

Organizations

- Broadcast Education Association
- Radio Television Digital News Association
- Society of Professional Journalists
- Advisory Board, Calamari Productions
- Indiana Pro Chapter Board, Society of Professional Journalists, 2004-2009, president in 2005-2006
- Judge, 2011 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards
- Board of Directors, Culver Summer Schools Alumni Association, 2008-2014
- Indiana Debate Commission (the first state debate commission in the nation), 2008-2013 (founding president)
- Media Pool Coordinator, Indiana Cameras in the Courts Pilot Project, 2006-07
- Board of Screeners, Columbia-duPont Awards, 2000-2008
- Governor, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Lower Great Lakes Chapter, 2001-2003 (first governor from Indiana)
- International Radio & Television Society

Volunteering

- Bob Jackson Volunteer Award, Indiana Debate Commission, 2012
- Volunteer, USO, Indianapolis Airport, 2009-2011
- 2006 and 2000 NCAA Men’s Final Four Local Organizing Committee, Media Relations Sub-Committee