

Joe Biden sworn in as 46th President of the United States

Richard Bailey, Editor  
January 20, 2021  
A familiar face will be seen around the White House once again as Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, ending what has been one of the most contentious presidential races in recent history.

Former California Senator, Kamala Harris also made history as she is now the first female Vice President of the United States.



CAMPUS STUDENTS OPERATE LLCC'S BISTRO VERDE RESTAURANT

# THE LAMP

## PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



THE LAMP  
February 4 April 30 2014 • \$3.00 • 604 • 128118 N73-2

Organ donation inspires four LLCC



LLCC staff member Matt Zimmerman



APRIL 15, 2014

9 bands to

Free event set for 6 p.m. April 24

COLLEGE Inaccessible

Please pardon the inconvenience as we work on making this entrance more accessible

Coach Dietz surpasses 500 wins

Volleyball team ranked nationally under his leadership

Native Pride Dancers  
Photos by Jordan Minder/The Lamp

### THE HISTORY OF THE LAMP

Starting back in 1968, The Lamp is in year 54!

### TRIBUTES TO PAST WRITERS & STORIES

Where we were vs where we are.

### THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

Is the age of print journalism over?

# CHANGING MEDIA



This image from the Library of Congress Bain Collection shows people crowded outside the New York Herald newspaper's building to watch the Playograph update action in the 1911 World Series between the New York Giants and Philadelphia Athletics.

Imagine being excited about the World Series, but your only option to witness the game live was to gather in the street, wearing suit coat and hat, and stare at a mechanical scoreboard.

Before television and radio, towns across the United States would put a Playograph machine on the front of the newspaper office. People would gather to watch the sign.

A telegraph would deliver the play by play, and an electronic signal would update the sign with the latest pitches, strikes, hits and runs. It seems like such an odd way to watch a baseball game – until you catch yourself checking the latest scores and happenings on MLB.com's GameDay, which is just a digital Playograph.

Eventually, radio and television took the place of the Playograph. Today, phones are taking the place of television as the medium to watch or follow a game.

Years ago, the printed page was the only way to get news. Then, radio and television tried to upset the paper-based medium. But it never succeeded. Perhaps it's because, as longtime television Broadcaster Walter Cronkite used to say, broadcast news is at best a "headline service." Broadcast can't provide the same depth that a print medium could. But the Internet came along, and the restrictions of airtime and printed page size vanished.

The printed page lost what might have been its final advantage to other media.

If you put a Playograph on the front of a building, people would watch only for as long as the pangs of nostalgia persisted. The printed page is much the same way. People pick up fewer papers. They have other ways of getting the score from last night's game or the latest news. Those ways are equally reliable, faster, and have video and pictures. The need for print just isn't there.

That is why The Lamp has cut back on printing papers. Students don't pick them up to have something to look at during the five minutes before class starts.

The Lamp has emphasized providing content on its website, [thelamponline.com](http://thelamponline.com), since it was introduced in 2014 and has used social media to bring readers to the website. We stopped printing a paper during the pandemic, as there were no students or employees on campus to pick it up. It wasn't hard to make that change: We were already doing everything online. When we returned in fall 2021, we did a couple papers but quickly realized it took a lot of training in a skill that doesn't have a strong value for aspiring journalists. And it took time and money to create.

While it's sad to think that this might be our last printed news product at Lincoln Land, we also know the work of journalism can continue in a different medium. We offer this magazine as a look at the end of the print era and The Lamp as a predominantly print publication. We wanted to mark the ending of this chapter.

The Lamp staff hopes that a once-a-semester or once-a-year magazine might be sustainable. But that's up to future Lamp staffs to decide. Plus, it won't be the focus; it will be something to showcase the best work at the end of the term.

Instead, the focus will be on the daily or weekly updates to the website. It will be podcasts and videos. It will be more of what we already do, without having to stop that work to create a print edition.

We hope you'll take a moment to think about the history of The Lamp. And we hope you'll take a moment to think about the future of The Lamp and journalism in this post-print world. And please, find us on social media and like, follow or subscribe. The Lamp hopes to keep shining for at least 54 more years as a digital publication, until the next big change comes along that makes this approach seem as strange as that picture of the Playograph.

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## CONCLUSION

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# TIMELINE

## Fall of 1968: *The Lamp* opens

In the Fall of 1968 *The Lamp*, the official Lincoln Land Community College newspaper, published its first paper

## April 2014: *The Lamp's* first online article is posted to [thelamponline.com](https://thelamponline.com).

In April 2014, *The Lamp* posts online a previously published article. The first online article: "Students operate LLCC's Bistro Verde Restaurant."

For this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/233/campus-news/students-operate-llccs-bistro-verde-restaurant/>

## February 2015: Police train LLCC community how to react to a shooter

By Ryan Mazrim

Back in 2015, the LLCC police estimated there had been about 70 active shooter events in the U.S. during the last four years.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/1404/campus-news/police-train-llcc-community-how-to-react-to-a-shooter-on-campus/>

## January 2016: Culinary student killed

By Teresa Brummet

On the morning of Jan. 19, 2016, many LLCC students were devastated and shocked to discover, Nikki Maxey, a culinary arts student at LLCC, died after being stabbed multiple times.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/5407/campus-news/culinary-student-killed/>

## October 2017: Is Bitcoin the new currency?

By Leo Borgelin

In 2009, the world was introduced to digital currency with Bitcoin. Since then, this digital currency has been growing.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/5961/news/is-bitcoin-the-new-currency/>

## October 2018: LLCC professor speaks on Brexit

By Paul Watson

Chris McDonald spoke at UIS on Britain's decision to leave the European Union, the referendum campaign, election results and issues with separation strategies and possible outcomes.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/7028/showcase/brexit-with-chris-mcdonald/>

## January 2019: Student papers should enjoy First Amendment rights

By Meredith Howard

"The Lamp believes that student papers should enjoy First Amendment rights just as any other type of publication does." Many student bodies don't receiving vital information from a newspaper.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/7566/opinion/editorial/student-papers-should-enjoy-first-amendment-rights/>

## February 2020: Lamp Logic Podcast debuts

By David Allen, Skye Kretzinger and Kenneth Yokem

A group of Lamp staffers record the paper's first podcast, talking about the Super Bowl and other issues in a roundtable discussion.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/9107/showcase/lamp-logic-podcast/>

## April 2020: Virus pushes U.S. unemployment to highest since Depression

By David Crary, Kathy Gannon and Angela Charton

In April of 2020, unemployment leapt to levels not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Due to the pandemic, 1 in 6 Americans lost their jobs.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/9472/uncategorized/virus-pushes-us-unemployment-to-highest-since-depression/>

## January 2021: Joe Biden sworn in as 46th president

By Richard Bailey

On Jan. 20, 2021, Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States, and Kamala Harris became the first female vice president of the United States.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/9958/news/joe-biden-sworn-in-as-46th-president-of-the-united-states/>

## January 2022: Lamp Logic Podcast returns

By Kalei Ramirez, Carmen Dillman, Chris Koorzen and staff

The Lamp staff creates a weekly news podcast that attempts to report what's happening on campus. It's modeled after NPR Now.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/10980/news/lamp-logic-podcast-week-of-jan-24-2022/>

## March 2022: Letter: Don't label same-sex relationships as inappropriate

By Shelby H.

Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill has affected many and sparked debate across the country. The bill bans the discussion of gender identity or sexual orientation from up to third grade.

For more on this article, go to: <https://thelamponline.com/11291/opinion/letter-dont-label-same-sex-relationships-as-inappropriate/>

# LETTERS FROM FORMER WRITERS

## RICHARD BAILEY

The Lamp was an unexpected part of my tenure at Lincoln Land Community College. After enrolling in a Journalism course taught by Tim McKenzie, I learned of open positions with the student paper. Journalism itself was new to me, but I've always enjoyed writing and it gave me a reason to work on my skills as a writer.

Being a writer for The Lamp gave me more than just a place to improve my current skills, but I also felt good about reporting important things. I wrote a story about Dumb Records and Arcade that was well-received by the business and those who love retro music and games. The research that I had to do in the name of Journalism was almost too fun to handle. More serious articles, like one about an outbreak of COVID-19 at a college party, were a little more somber.

One of my favorite articles was one that was written about comedian Dean Delray because the article talks about how, at age 44, he decided to get into stand-up comedy. Before working with The Lamp, I didn't have a lot of options to be able to

get the article published. The story was published and shared by the comedian on Twitter and Instagram. It felt great to see that so many others felt the same way that I did. Because of the article that was published with The Lamp, I was able to meet Dean Delray and even had the chance to perform stand-up comedy with him twice. The Lamp also won several awards during my tenure with the paper, despite it being a smaller staff than other Illinois community colleges.

I initially went to LLCC to finish a two-year degree, but after some persuading, I was decided to continue my education at the University of Illinois-Springfield where I am studying Communications and Journalism. None of what I am doing today would have been possible had it not been for my success coach, Melissa

Franzen, and the guidance of Professor Tim McKenzie. I'm grateful for everything that I learned in the 'Journalism' class and the things that I was able to apply during my time at The Lamp. Diving into Journalism has given me the opportunity - and reason - to share newly lived experiences.

Another one of my favorite articles is one about how I just didn't understand the hype around the American tradition pumpkin patches but by the end of my research, I was having fun. To me, that is one of the most important things in Journalism - to be able to live in the moment and re-tell the experience in a way that is engaging. I think the future of Journalism is going to require a certain amount of finesse because the audience has almost an infinite stream of information that can be carefully curated to influence the reader or listener based on their personal tastes. Digital media is evolving fast and too often people find themselves sharing articles that is satire or just plain false. Journalists today have to find a way to write engaging material without peddling clickbait - and I'm up for that challenge.



# LEANNA CHURCHILL

I wanted to make memories while being up close to some of the biggest moments in sports. I didn't know headlines would be an essential part in making that happen.

I started writing for The Lamp as a part of my beginning newswriting class in the fall of 2015. I wanted to get into something that involved media and sports. I wasn't sure what that was, but journalism seemed like a great first step.

From learning how to write in journalist form (so much better than traditional composition papers) to copyediting, layout and headlines, I learned so much while working with The Lamp as I finished my associates.

Even when my classes that were directly related to journalism and The Lamp were over, I spent much of my down time on campus in The Lamp office and always ended up helping with something.

Those times in the office laughing and talking with everyone are some of my favorite memories of my time at LLCC. If someone asked me to write a headline of my time at LLCC it would probably be "The Lamp: The First Step in My Media Journey."

Since leaving The Lamp and LLCC I finished a bachelor's in communication at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Most of my time at UIS was less focused on written media and more on multimedia and media relations.

Throughout my time at UIS I interned with Channel1450.com, a local media company focused on covering high school sports around the area in an online format. The thing that makes 1450 unique is that it is a website, but we distribute our content through social media. For every highlight you find on our site it has a corresponding Facebook post and multiple Tweets, all those posts containing a link to a highlight.

That internship led me to a job with Channel1450 following my graduation at UIS in early 2020. Two years later I can say so many things I learned at LLCC I still use today.

Copyediting has become essential in double checking my own writeups on the website and especially important in all social media posts. I am also responsible for copyediting weekly articles written by former SJR sportswriters Dave Kane and Jim Ruppert (talk about pressure, they are legends in covering Central Illinois sports). Layout has been helpful a lot in the last year as we have made changes to the website. While headline writing happens every time a new highlight goes up.

Although I work largely in video production now, the journalism skills I have continue to make my job a lot easier. Yes, after a long night it is easy to phone it in on



Leanna Churchill covers IHSA state basketball tournament at the State Farm Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

certain aspects, like a headline, but when it comes to the big games and the pressure is on, that is why you do the job and you have to get it right.

I've watched from the sidelines, camera in hand, as my alma mater won their first high school state championship in football. I covered my brother's senior season of baseball. I've been on the sidelines of four Leonard Bowls, a game between two of the top local football teams, one coach by Ken Leonard while the other is coached by his son, Derek Leonard. One of those Leonard Bowls was a semifinal game with a trip to the state championship on the line. I have covered four City tournaments, a Springfield, Illinois high school basketball staple, as well as many other big games and events.

Those big moments give you butterflies and gets the adrenaline pumping. It happens because you care, and you realize this is one of those "moments" you dream of covering, regardless of outcome memories will be made.

Seven years ago, I was excited to see where a job in sports media could take me and to make memories. Physically it hasn't taken me far from home but about a month ago I stood on the sidelines of a basketball court in the middle of a packed State Farm Center at the University of Illinois. As the clock ticked down in the biggest basketball game of the year I watched as a kid threw up a shot everyone dreams of making.

The headlines that night will be remembered for a lifetime just like all the memories made.

The headline?

"Singleton for Three! Sacred Heart Griffin Wins 3A State Title in Double OT."



# MEREDITH HOWARD

Before I went to my first Lamp meeting, I intended to study business. I was dual-enrolled at LLCC as a junior in high school, and a classmate recommended I check out the student newspaper. I had no interest in a writing career, but decided to try one meeting, if nothing else, to confirm that entrepreneurship was what I wanted to do. A few meetings and two stories later, I changed my major to journalism. But more importantly, I found clarity and fulfillment in this new career path. I served as co-editor and editor-in-chief of The Lamp in the 2018 to 2019 school year, and it provided me with a wealth of opportunities to explore and grow. I gained experience in writing, editing, InDesign and website management, and I even delivered the papers across campus. It is really satisfying to take a piece through the entire journalistic process and then get to distribute it to readers.

Tim McKenzie, professor and Lamp adviser, was a fantastic mentor and helped me land an internship with the Illinois Times. This internship became a great freelancing opportunity, leading to freelance and grant opportunities with more publications. My experience with The Lamp led me to earn my bachelor's degree in journalism at Baylor University, where I worked for its student newspaper and earned a few journalism scholarships. Currently, I work as a service journalist for McClatchy. I write utility-focused stories for the Belleville News-Democrat, the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Centre Daily Times, and I am based in St. Louis. Service journalism aims to provide practical information to readers. Its pragmatic nature provides a sense of gratification when you feel you have helped someone navigate life more simply or efficiently.

At The Lamp and in McKenzie's journalism classes, I was challenged to simultaneously juggle multiple deadlines and rigorously edit my own work and the work of others. The exposure to these skills has facilitated the transition to my professional career and helped me gain confidence as a journalist. My love for journalism and the formation of my early career were inarguably inspired by my time at The Lamp and LLCC, and I could not recommend the experience more highly. The Lamp staff produces quality journalism while offering a welcoming learning environment, and even if you've never considered studying journalism before, it might be worth checking out a meeting. You never know where you could find an interesting hobby, or even a career.



## ADDISON KEELEY

There is no simple way to elaborate how I felt about writing for The Lamp. I would always get up very early in the morning, when most of my teammates would be asleep and head there in order to do all of my required work each week. While I was not always enthusiastic about putting in all that time, I constantly reminded myself about the possibility of receiving more awards and being noticed by somebody such as ESPN staff to elevate to a greater journalism job, and they certainly paid off in ways. I did not join the Lamp merely just to write or make any amount of money. I joined in hopes of enhancing my future, to maintain the ability of showcasing my talent in every paragraph and page, having others be impressed by what I wrote, and to positively impact The Lamp and Lincoln Land alike. In all honesty, I joined with hopes and wholehearted attempts of being the best writer that the Lamp had ever taken in. Whether or not that is true is subjective and I have no way of determining that, but I am grateful for what I was able to do for The Lamp and for what it did for me. Should it be at its end, I am thankful that I joined before it was too late.

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## KALLIE COX

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I never expected to become a journalist. I spent my high school years working in a convent, and planned to join the military as a career. I was in the process of signing up to join the Air Force's ROTC program when I started working for The Lamp, and it changed my life forever.

From the day I turned in my first article, I was hooked.

My time at The Lamp was spent investigating the school's Title IX policies, spending hours in the paper's cramped, windowless office, and cracking jokes with the newsroom staff. I worked alongside my best friend, Meredith Howard, and now we both work as professional journalists.

Our paper's adviser, Tim McKenzie, always had a joke or some kind of sage advice to give us, and we probably wouldn't have become journalists if it wasn't for him.

Because of my time at The Lamp, I decided not to sign on with the Air Force and I changed my plans the last semester of my senior year of high school. Instead, I attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale to pursue a career in

journalism. At SIU, I learned the importance of covering small communities and of the value of local news, and after three years at the Daily Egyptian, the school's student paper, I began working professionally for the Southern Illinoisan.

In addition to my work at The Southern, I worked on two projects for the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. One focused on Police Accountability and was published with the Associated Press. It is a finalist for the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award. For the second project I went to the border to report on the issues impacting LGBTQ+ asylum seekers.

I now work as a Public Safety Reporter with The Charlotte Observer.

I have not regretted these decisions at all since, and I can't imagine pursuing any other career. The Lamp helped make me the person I am today and I will remember my time there fondly.



# RYAN MAZRIM

After being approached and asked to write a piece for the final printing of The Lamp newspaper, I felt a flood of varying emotions. The first was excitement being asked to contribute followed by a level of uncomfortable eagerness I haven't felt for years. That quickly turned into stomach knots and clammy-hands from the associated stress and anxiety of deadlines, editors and ultimately - you, the readers.

For me, that was always the price of finishing a well-constructed piece worthy of printing and distributing. While the cost never changed, the topics of conversation certainly did and so did my willingness to pay that price. Every contribution I subsequently crafted became increasingly deeper and better articulated. Prior to all of this, I was mostly passive out of concern of saying the wrong things at the worst times, or maybe people would over-analyze them and think me unformed or uneducated. Turns out my voice wasn't as alone as I thought it was and writing gave me a confidence in myself to break through that thought process. I found myself writing these pieces that were important to me and moved me, taking stands about things that I wouldn't have even found myself writing these pieces that were important to me and

moved me, taking stands about things that I wouldn't have even involved myself in otherwise. While I thought I had found a "blowoff class/easy credit" in Journalism 101, what I actually found was a great teacher who constantly challenged me to be better and that it was okay to feel how I felt, but to put that to paper and let the world hear it. But most importantly, I learned that while people may not necessarily agree with me, my viewpoints were still very valuable for all sides of the topic to hear.

Writing for the college newspaper helped me better understand myself and the world I was actively experiencing from my viewpoint. I would love to tell you that The Lamp molded me into some amazing award-winning journalist making the big bucks somewhere- but instead I can tell you it was absolutely responsible for lighting a fire in me that maybe never would have ignited otherwise. And while it does sadden me that The Lamp won't be printed anymore as the newspaper goes all digital, I have a renewed faith in its unintended function that there will be an almost endless supply of brilliant minds being given a platform to shout their truths from the mountain tops, or at least the library or computer lab.



Ryan Wilson  
**Host, Inclusion**

TESTIMONIALS

# RYAN WILSON

The Lamp was crucial in helping me formulate why and how I wanted to tell stories. I learned, sure, reporting skills, but, most importantly, I learned how to listen, research and communicate. These skills propelled me into creating my own radio program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and now to founding my own business, Team Trust Productions.

Interestingly, I did not like to read or write when I started at Lincoln Land. I preferred, instead, to watch or play sports. They were fun; reading and writing were not. Once I built lasting, transformative relationships with the journalism professors at Lincoln Land, my interests changed. I started to find meaning in reading and joy in writing. It was a strange, but welcome turn of events.

Even though I still had a basic understanding of journalism, the advisor of The Lamp believed in me enough to name me Editor in Chief. It created a much-needed demand to accelerate my writing, researching and reading skills. I found myself taking every journalism class Lincoln Land offered, and exploring in depth the reservoirs of experience the professors had. I also intentionally took classes outside of the journalism department to expand my own knowledge and understanding of the human condition.



# LUKAS MYERS

My name is Lukas Myers and I graduated from LLCC in 2016 with my A.A. I wrote for *The Lamp* during my time at LLCC. As you know *The Lamp* is a great little rag which has been acknowledged at the Statewide level. When I was there, we received a hefty number of awards from the Illinois Community College Journalism Association at their annual conference. I was lucky enough to take home Reporter of the Year one year, an honor of which I am still proud.

Tim McKenzie ran the paper in a way that made it feel authentic, he kept his nose out for what was going on, and he assigned us stories where we were open to do real investigating and real interviews. The naturalness by which he approached this task is likely due to his own history as a reporter.

Tim recently reached out to me to tell me the paper is going online and that he is stepping down as advisor to *The Lamp* staff. This first fact seems natural and is the obvious next step for the publication which can surely reach a broader audience through online channels. The second one is regrettable, though understandable. McKenzie's experience in real newsrooms was essential for learning how to put together a proper paper and the results were something we could all be proud of.

It is not altogether obvious to me how I ought to write about my time at *The Lamp* which is what I have been asked to do. I am in graduate school now. I am currently working on my PhD. in Philosophy, and I value Lincoln Land a great deal in having helped to get me here. Working on the newspaper was no small part of that.

Writing stories and doing interviews was the beginning of what I now know to be an ongoing search for my literary voice. The projects had certain restrictions: word limits, vocabulary, certain promotional agendas. Writing restrictions are an incredibly difficult hurdle to overcome in early college. We spend so much time hoping that we can meet basic standards that we never get the opportunity to ask questions like, "How will this sound to the reader? Like, in their head." A newspaper forces you to ask those questions. You aren't writing on esoteric nonsense for some professor, you're writing for real human beings who will (maybe) read your words.

I miss walking the halls at Lincoln Land and there is something sad to the thought that the black or silver wire newspaper racks will have one less physical thing on



Lukas Myers is second person from right in back row at the ICCJA conference in Chicago in April 2016.

them when I walk through the doors. Moments like this make you realize that the world keeps moving on after you leave a place and you really would rather it didn't. You'd rather have everything you love about a place stay the same and be there for you whenever you go back to grace the halls with your presence.

But of course, for as sad as such moments make us feel, it is ultimately a good thing to be reminded that there are real human beings living around you and occupying the spaces you used to occupy. It is ultimately good that things change and get better and go to new places. And it is ultimately good for you to realize how small you are in the broader story. It helps you to, I think, appreciate the ways in which your circumstances gave birth to you and if you're doing it right that should make you appreciate the whole thing a bit better.

I suppose the above is my way of reflecting on what working at the paper meant to me and still means to me. I am not so good when it comes to picking apart the practical benefits I received from working at *The Lamp*. I assure you there are some: writing, critical thinking, working within the parameters of a specific project. But those benefits aren't really the point of doing stuff, they are the things that help us to do the stuff that is the point better than we otherwise would. I guess if you asked me why I am writing this I would say, "To try and convince you to write for the *Lamp*." Or if you are a librarian, administrator, professor, janitor, guidance counselor, or

employee at the bookstore I would say, "To try and convince you to read *The Lamp*."

Students at LLCC are in a very specific place in their lives. Many of them are scared, many of them are hopeful, many of them feel aimless and unmoored. I felt all of those things when I attended LLCC and writing for the paper was a way to test myself, to see what I could do, and determining what you can do is an important part of figuring out what you should do. So, I think you should write for *The Lamp*, and if you can't write for it I think you should read it.

I want you to write for the paper and read it for more or less selfish reasons. I loved *The Lamp*. I want it to do well. I want others to feel what I felt at Lincoln Land. I want writers to awkwardly try and find their voice and release very imperfect articles. I want readers to (good naturedly) ridicule those writers for the typos in their stories. I want people to do the uncomfortable thing where they interview a professor in their office and try to make a conversation into an article. I want someone to write about a presentation on banned books and get the number of a presenter who would eventually become their fiancée.

I do not want these things because I want LLCC to become a factory which creates little Lukas Myers's (that would be dreadful). I want these things because when I am really honest with myself those are the things that mattered while I was there. Thanks.



## TERESA BRUMMETT

When I heard that the decision was made to take The Lamp totally digital, I can say that I was a little disappointed. I personally like having an actual newspaper in my hands. Something that I can put into a keepsake box or folder and pull them out to show generations to come. Of course, we all have to move on.

When I first joined the Lamp, I was a little apprehensive. I had never been comfortable being a people person. So, one on one for interviews would be a challenge. And on the first day of class, we had an hour to interview several people. Although it was a little difficult at first. I finally got the hang of it. I believe that it helped me to be more amiable when interviewing and speaking with people.

I have always liked to write stories and take photos. So, clearly the Lamp was a natural fit. And it helped that the teacher/professor Tim McKenzie allowed us to write about what was most important to us. Of course, there would also, be those stories that were more related to Lincoln Land or things that are going on around the Springfield area. Free food days, blood drives, multicultural celebrations, free haircut days and more.

During my time with the Lamp, I was very impressed, with the number of stories, ideas and cooperation from everyone. We all worked together and had discussions to get those great stories that made the Lamp even better. Adding several awards through the years. Most recent John H. Ryan-Best in Show in 2020, 19 awards in 2021 and 14 awards in 2022. So, congratulations to all of you.

An exciting time for me while I was with the Lamp was a photo that I had taken was used on the front page which I actually received an award for first place. It was a photo from a free haircut day. In the photo a young man was cutting the hair of his cousin. My photo was put on the front page where I received a first-place. I remember being so excited and shocked. That I would have actually won first-place. Although I wasn't happy for just myself, if it hadn't been for the editors, we had at the time. My photo wouldn't have even made it to the front page at all. So, they all deserve a thanks.

Then I was honored when I was asked to write a story about a couple who left a little money to the Ag department after their passing. Farming couple the Kreher's had left \$18 million to the Ag department, which will help transform and support the program for many years to come.

When I think about my time with the Lamp, I would have to say that the few years at the Lamp are memories that will be with me forever. I was able to make several great friends. While meeting people that I wouldn't have never met otherwise. We had a lot of fun. From late night's finishing up the paper for print eating pizza. To talking and laughing over photos and cookies. The Lamp is like that family member you don't see all the time. But you miss them anyway. That's what The Lamp feels like...Family.

There's so much that we did while at The Lamp. From Free food days, multi-cultural day to Halloween costume giveaways, and so much more. So, after just fifty years the Lamp paper newspaper will come to an end. And a new digital newspaper will take its place. I wish the Arts and Communication department all the best with the up-and-coming digital paper.

I would also, like to wish Professor McKenzie the best of luck in his new role. You deserve it. Mr. McKenzie was always a professional and never had a bad word to say when it came to what types of stories we wanted to put into the paper. It's because of him that I gained enough confidence to finally finish a book that I am getting ready to send it to a publisher very soon.

If someone were to ask me what I thought the Lamp meant to me. I would tell them that it meant a time in my life where I felt younger than my 40 some years. I was able to learn a lot from everyone I worked with. I was able to listen and learn how the younger generation thinks about issues of all types. But my time with The Lamp will always be special to me. Being able to do what I love. Knowing that in the fifty-four years of The Lamp, I can say that I was part of that great unforgettable era, and it was a great one! Can't wait to see what the digital paper will do in the future. Their future looks bright.

# JOURNALISM LIGHTS LAMPS IN COMMUNITIES

REGINA IVY

It was my ambition that brought me to The Lamp my freshman year of college. I have always been a very ambitious person, and as a new college student- especially at a community college- I just felt that I had a lot to prove. I love to write, and my family and past teachers have always told me that I was good at it- I believed I was too.

I honestly don't know what I expected from this experience when I first started. It took a little time for me to find my niche there. The first couple of articles I wrote were okay, but even though I wrote them I can't really say that they're uniquely mine. What was my role in this staff? At this college? Why was I writing anything, and why should I even bother writing it?

One of the most important things that I've learned from working under The Lamp's advisor Tim McKenzie was to seek truth and report it- that phrase is from the Society of Professional Journalists- to me, this means sharing the stories that already exist within our communities.

One of the first assignments Tim assigned to me was just to look around campus and write a quick story about anyone doing anything. There's a story there- there's always a story because everyone has one. As a journalist, I seek to uncover these stories. But in order to do that, I had to know the Lincoln Land community that was around me, so I did.

Pretty soon, I took pride in being the girl with the camera at the various events happening on campus. I talked to many students, staff and faculty members about who they are, what they do, and what they think. I have witnessed and been a part of some significant milestones in LLCC history, and they are some of my fondest memories.

One of the reasons why I miss working for The Lamp so much has to do with that sense of community. I would spend my entire day on campus. I knew Lincoln Land inside and out. The people on The Lamp's staff were people I saw every day. I have spent several hours locked in a room



cursing the name of Adobe InDesign with these people- and those are late night editing sessions that we will never get back. But that's okay, because I wouldn't trade them for anything.

I know that I can write opinion pieces and personal essays in the comfort of my own bedroom and still be sharing my writing with the world- but it was working at The Lamp that helped me realize who I was writing for and why I do write. I write to understand the world around me. I write for the world around me.

Since graduating from Lincoln Land, I have been granted writing opportunities at and outside my current institution, UIS. I work for the student newspaper, and my work has been featured in a few literary journals- I'm excited to say that I'm even the managing editor of UIS's own literary journal, Violet Margin.

At The Lamp, I learned that I deeply value and appreciate what journalism can do for communities, and what communities can do for journalism in return. I am happy to have been on The Lamp staff and grateful for where that experience has taken me.





# THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

By Chris Koorzen

Journalism wasn't my first choice. My adviser recommended it to me after my philosophy class dropped. I was not keen; I've always viewed journalists with a healthy dose of skepticism.

It seemed too easy to write dirt or twist the truth and get away with it. Worse, even if they are earnest, bias is part and parcel of every human being, and you can never completely get away from giving your facts some "flavor." But I wanted to write, and this was a write-heavy course. I reluctantly agreed, figuring this way at least I'll get an inside view of the filthy industry.

Turns out, being a skeptic and a little cynical are good traits for a journalist. I also enjoyed that class - it was one of the few that had life in it. And although my experience is limited to a semester at college, I have gained deep respect for what journalists do - the real ones anyway. It takes real guts, real courage to speak the truth. And sometimes you must stake your life.

## NEEDING JOURNALISM

Unfortunately, Journalism's credibility has suffered a lot these past six years. "Fake news" has become a common slur and trust in the institution has corroded measurably. Modern social technology has also transformed the media landscape. It seemed to me like a dying industry under assault. I figured it won't be long until the whole mechanism is replaced with machine processes and liberated from human error.

I was dead wrong. During a staff meeting earlier this year, it dawned on me that journalism can never really disappear. Journalism is an extension of our voice. We use it to inform, warn and celebrate. It is integral to our humanity. We use information to organize ourselves, our families and communities at large. The demand for credible information is ever-present. Free markets liberate it; oppressive laws threaten it.

A recent talk hosted at UIS with keynote speakers Jason Piscia and Illinois Times editor Fletcher Farrarat was a good place to start investigating. The keynote speakers were academic Jason Piscia and Illinois Times editor Fletcher Farrar. Piscia outlined the current state of the industry: Local news coverage is faltering and, in some places, disappearing, leading to news "deserts." Piscia presented research of a direct correlation between local news coverage and local government efficiency – not surprisingly, lower coverage meant worse performance; conversely, better press scrutiny meant better government performance.

Mr. Fletcher's perspective as an editor was refreshing. On the topic of fake news and how one can identify it, he said: "Honestly, I don't see how you can not spot fake news. Look, 'alternative media' has been around for a long time. They even created the Association of Alternative Newsmedia in the 70's. To me it is an 'eye of the beholder' scenario – 'alternative' just means the other newspaper. Our readers keep us honest. So do our advertisers – they read the paper too and will call us out."

Fletcher quoted Journalist A.J. Liebling who said "Freedom of the press is limited to those who own one" and added, "My concern is what do we use that freedom for?"

The similar comical quote "Don't pick a fight with a man that buys ink by the barrel" makes me smile every time I read it, because I think of how Benjamin Franklin used the Pennsylvania Gazette as a targeted tool to trash critics and influence public opinion. He was well aware of the power of words and used it with great efficacy.

## MAKING EVERYONE A PUBLISHER

But today, everyone owns a printing press and has unlimited ink. In five minutes, you can create an account on social media and potentially reach millions. You just need the courage to publish and the wit for public debate. This is really beautiful – everyone's voice has a chance to be heard, and it makes it possible to become a niche writer, journalist or educator. But it is a double-edged sword.

In my estimation, the Internet is the single biggest factor of why journalism as a

professional body is going through a crisis. The Internet flattened the landscape; no longer are we faced with the costly barrier to market entry of printing and distribution.

Before the Internet, traditional media owned a costly enterprise. Publishers and editors could not recklessly risk their credibility with fake news. The result was media houses that built trust and credibility over a long period of time to the point where the institution itself, and anything connected to news media, garnered automatic respect. But today, because publishing online is virtually free, there is little incentive to protect your investment. What's worse, because the Internet is inherently anonymous, accountability isn't much of a concern.

In the years following the expansion of the Internet, it was possible for anyone introducing themselves as a "news outlet" to be granted unearned trust. These online outlets were riding on the coattails of reputable publishing houses. Many took as their aim to agitate, to troll, or just rack up clicks for that delicious advertiser money. This explosion of publishers diluted the credibility and trust of traditional media. Not to mention that this tsunami of information is way beyond the capacity of any human being to sift through.

## ABUSING NEW MEDIA

But it can get worse. It is completely possible to programmatically control thousands of accounts – accounts that to an innocent passerby seem like a real person. And then the puppetmaster can distribute whatever agenda or "fake news" they want to – and it will seem as if thousands of people are rallied behind a cause. And do not underestimate the effect of this – we are socially wired creatures that are built to consider the views of the group. Enough perceived pressure and you might change your mind or at least engage with it.

This leads to another problem. In the race to become the biggest, the tech companies that built these platforms try to gobble up every section of social interaction and as a result, your friendships, your news, your interests, your debates, your personal life – everything – is thrown into the same pot. Is it really so surprising that society seem polarized? If we cannot differentiate between a factual report and a debate or an opinion about the events on which the report was written, how can we ever expect to have common ground and move our society forward? I believe it is essential to make that distinction between a factual report – acknowledging the events – and how we feel about what happened. Debate is a messy thing, but it has its place – it is a boxing ring where bad ideas go to die.

## SAVING JOURNALISM

I honestly believe that the only way that Journalism as a professional body can drag itself out of the swamp and re-establish itself as a trusted source by default, is by taking measures ourselves – not leaving it to government – to keep journalists and editors accountable.

Since journalism is concerned with truth first

and foremost, I don't think it is much different from Science in a sense. No sane researcher would publish false results for easy fame; they might get away with it for a while but eventually their reputation gets shot to hell. The stakes are too high because they are kept personally responsible for what they put out. I believe Journalism can learn from academic peer review – to look at it as a model system of verifying facts and enforcing accountability. A valid criticism of this approach is that news must be timely and cannot be delayed to go through such an arduous process. But this is where I think tech has a leg up on print media – once a "questionable" article is published in paper, the damage is done. But it is trivial to keep an article alive on the internet and keep it updated, letting its verifications accumulate over time.

In my research I came across media critic Jack Shafer that made the same argument years ago. In an interview with CNN in 2011, he said: "Well I have political opinions too. What I'm much more interested in is the truth value of the newspaper or show, and that trumps my political views."

Shafer continued: "What I'm much more interested in is the mechanics and assessing truth value. One thing I've always tried to do was fill my story with links. Send people back to primary documents, or government studies, or statistical tables so they can look at the evidence and say 'Shafer seems to have a good argument here; I could reproduce his argument. Or he is full of beans.' And I think that's what the best journalism does; it's reproducible."

I agree with Mr. Shafer. Facts are not debatable.

## FINDING THE TRUTH

What we need today is a method of distinguishing between the kinds of information we are presented (is it an opinion, or actual event?) and be able to track the record of the people we entrust with uncovering and reporting that information.

There will always be bias, but bias is not the same thing as false or misleading information. People will have their preferences of outlets, editors and writers. But facts don't change even if their interpretation could. What we as the public and individuals desperately need is tools to cut through the gaslighting. It is too time expensive to verify every story yourself; a limitation I am convinced is considered when publishing dubious information.

This argument extends beyond the practical into a deeper philosophical realm. "Journalism is the first draft of History." It is thanks to reliable reporters that we have accurate information about the past and can learn from it. This is another thing about writing trash and misleading articles: Do you really believe that bull will stand the test of time?

The tale of The Boy Who Cried Wolf demonstrates how a damaged reputation is nearly impossible to recover, and more importantly, why credible journalists are necessary: Sometimes the wolf is real.

# ANOTHER TAKE ON THE FUTURE

By ISAAC WARREN

Living in the digital age is an utterly unique experience. Access to information is available at an unprecedented scale. The internet alone is comprised of over a trillion gigabytes of information, with access to any sector of it available at the swipe of a finger on a touchscreen.

Since the average American has instantaneous access to a plethora of information, what does this spell for the future of journalism? I believe the act of preparing information for consumption will never disappear; however, the methods used to accomplish this will be ever-changing, as well as who is doing the content creation.

In this day in age, I have noticed the average person is just as capable of publishing a one-hour longform video essay just as easily as CNN or Discovery can, and will consistently garner more views than traditional news media. Video essays, even about incredibly niche topics, have a hungry audience waiting for more content. Gone are the days when the best documentaries were on cable TV, we live in an era where anyone can do their own research, create their own content, and freely publish it online and even earn money for their work. Network executives are no longer calling the shots as to what they think the average person

wants to see. Consumers are selectively choosing content they wish to experience, rather than having to choose from a narrow selection of highly curated opinions and sound bites.

Media companies have attempted to enter this space, with some notable failures. CNN+, a streaming platform created by CNN, is struggling to maintain 10,000 daily users, and facing budget cuts, despite only being launched for less than a month. Meanwhile, Philip DeFranco, an online news commentator, regularly sees over 100,000 views on each of his videos.

How can this be? I believe news conglomerates like CNN are seen as a faceless entity with speaking heads with almost celebrity status. While celebrities can be perceived as living in another world, a content creator making two-hour video essays about a video game will likely be more favored, simply because they're independent, creating content for the sake of creating content, and are more often perceived as humble and not totally in it for the money.

Journalism has a future in the digital age, however it will be run and maintained by a loose network of creators working independently, not a media oligopoly struggling to maintain an audience.





# A FAREWELL FROM TIM McKENZIE



If you haven't been to Menard Hall 2275, you've missed something.

You've missed the piles of old newspapers that I perpetually told the students I was going to sort and throw out next week (and I promise I'm going to do that next week after this magazine is finished). You've missed a lot of other clutter. You missed hearing an animated Matt Shaver teaching on the other side of the wall.

But most of all, you've missed a group of students having fun, learning and doing something important.

I will miss the camaraderie, late nights laying out a paper and the triumph and excitement. Most of all, I will miss every student who took part in *The Lamp*.

It's bittersweet to be stepping down as adviser of *The Lamp*. With the retirement of my longtime philosophy colleague, Terry Logsdon, I thought it would be nice to decrease the number of courses that I prep each semester. So, I asked and was given permission to teach only philosophy.

Whenever someone on the copy desk would leave the *Decatur Herald & Review*, where I worked for more than seven years, my now-retired colleague Dick Zaker would do a top-10 list of memorable moments from the person. With that in mind, I'll offer my top-10 most memorable things about advising *The Lamp*.

**1. Eating pizza and working late to put out a paper.** We usually ate dinner and designed the paper in the evening. Sitting in *The Lamp* office till 9 p.m., trying to finish pages, can be exhilarating, frustrating and memorable.

**2. Driving to Virden.** The *Lamp* printed in Virden, and although I liked seeing the seasons change and the farmers work, I really enjoyed putting my hands on the paper. It's a fun, tangible reward.

**3. Taking a celebratory trip to St. Louis one semester.** We ate lunch with Pulitzer Prize-winning Columnist Tony Messenger of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. It was fun to hear five Lincoln Land students ask Messenger about his work. We then explored St. Louis and viewed a history of print journalism exhibit at the public library. I also rented a motorized scooter, and I learned their overweight professor in his 40s is a lot better at riding a scooter than them.

**4. The staff winning 120 awards, as well as the Illinois Community College Journalism Association's annual scholarship every year it was awarded.** I've seen peer institutions' papers, and those awards are a testament to LLCC students' hard work. They consistently do a great job, even against schools more than five times larger and have newsroom annual budgets over \$100,000.

**5. Attending journalism conferences.** We attended an in-person or virtual conference every semester. We met other traveling throughout Illinois. We met amazing

journalists who always left us inspired.

**6. Editing stories.** It was always my practice for new students to sit next to me while I read their stories. I learned a lot from editors doing that with me. Every mistake seems larger when you're watching your editor fix it. It's interesting to sit with a nervous student and discuss the work line by line. After a few months, it's gratifying to only change a couple sentences.

**7. Seeing students lead.** I've had editors who really took on leadership. They'd run meetings, lay out pages, go to events without prompting and write stories without encouragement. I loved having them email me a story I'd forgotten they mentioned writing a week ago.

**8. Keeping up with students after graduation.** I'm friends with many former *Lamp* staff on social media. I get texts and emails from others. It's nice when they stop by after a semester or two. It's fun to build lasting relationships.

**9. Seeing students succeed after graduation.** Ryan Wilson was my first editor. He's doing an amazing job covering disability issues at his own startup Team Trust. Kallie Cox just left the *Southern Illinoisan* in Carbondale to become a reporter for the *Charlotte Observer* in North Carolina. Meredith Howard recently graduated from Baylor University and started at McClatchy newspapers. Leanna Churchill is a sports reporter for Channel 1450. Some are writing for four-year student papers. Many do communications in the area. It's fun to see them using the skills they learned at *The Lamp*.

**10. Knowing every student and having a story about them.** I can look at every byline and tell you something funny they said or did, or a story they wrote. It's nice to have such a vivid awareness of students even after eight years.

I consider myself a journalist. I started my master's degree program in journalism 19 years ago. I've been working for a newspaper or teaching it ever since. I even married a journalist (my amazing wife, Kate). I love journalism I worry about the future of journalism. I hope I can do something more to support journalism and future journalists, but for now, it's time to focus elsewhere. I'm sad to say goodbye, but I am excited that something new will emerge for journalism at Lincoln Land.

# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



3 SCHOLARSHIPS



120 AWARDS

#1

33 FIRST PLACE

IN 2019, THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOURNALISM ASSOCIATION GAVE ITS INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE. IT WAS GIVEN OUT FOR THREE YEARS, BUT IT WAS NOT GIVEN OUT THIS YEAR. ALL THREE YEARS HAD A LAMP ALUM WIN THE SCHOLARSHIP. THE WINNERS ARE:

2019: MEREDITH HOWARD

2020: REGINA IVY

2021: RICHARD BAILEY

# 2021

**14 AWARDS, INCLUDING THREE FIRST-PLACE AWARDS, GIVEN APRIL 8, 2021, IN CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS**

**EDITORS: RICHARD BAILEY, ADDISON KEELEY, CARMEN DILLMAN, KALEI RAMIREZ AND SARA MULLEN**

First place - Feature Writing - Sara Mullen  
First Place - News Column - Addison Keeley  
First Place - News Photo -- Emily Leers  
Second Place - News Story - Evan Langellier  
Third Place - Headline - Sara Mullen  
Third Place - Sports Column - Addison Keeley  
Third Place - Best Student Media - The Lamp staff  
Third Place - Reporter of the Year - Addison Keeley  
Third Place - Mike Foster General Excellence - The Lamp staff  
Third Place - Page Design - Addison Keeley  
Third Place Feature Writing - Maddy Wycoff  
Honorable Mention - Headline - Chris Koorzen  
Honorable Mention - News Story of the Year - The Lamp staff  
Honorable Mention - News Photo - Kalei Ramirez

# 2020

**NOV. 6, 2020 - FIRST PLACE - BEST WEBSITE - THE LAMP STAFF**

**19 AWARDS, INCLUDING SEVEN FIRST-PLACE AWARDS, AWARDED VIRTUALLY APRIL 8, 2021**

**EDITORS: REGINA IVY, RICHARD BAILEY, TESS PETERSON AND RYAN SCOTT**

First Place - Best Website - Staff  
First Place - Best Front Page Design - Staff  
First Place - Feature Writing - Lily Goossens  
First Place - Headline - Addison Keeley  
First Place - News Column - Lillie Brown  
First Place - Podcasting - Skye Kretzinger  
First Place - Staff Editorial - Regina Ivy  
Second Place - Arts Review - Richard Bailey  
Second Place - Best Student Media - Staff  
Second Place - News Story of the Year - Richard Bailey, Lily Goossens and Emily Pasley  
Second Place - News Story - Lily Goossens  
Second Place - Editorial Writer of the Year - Regina Ivy  
Second Place - News Photo - Regina Ivy  
Second Place - Sports Game Story - Ryan Scott  
Third Place - Feature Photo - Regina Ivy  
Third Place - News Story - Richard Bailey  
Third Place - News Column - Richard Bailey  
Honorable Mention - News Photo - Regina Ivy  
Honorable Mention - Sports Column - Addison Keeley



# 2019

**OCT. 4, 2019 - FIRST PLACE - JOHN RYAN BEST OF SHOW AWARD - THE LAMP STAFF**

**16 AWARDS, INCLUDING FIVE FIRST-PLACE HONORS, GIVEN VIRTUALLY APRIL 17, 2020**

**EDITORS: MEREDITH HOWARD, REGINA IVY, TESS PETERSON AND RYAN SCOTT**

First Place - Best Website - The Lamp staff  
First Place - News Photo - Enola Babbington  
First Place - Feature Writing - Cam Boyer  
First Place - Page Design - Ryan Scott  
First Place - News Story - Rosanna Cravens  
Second Place - Front Page Design - Meredith Howard  
Second Place - Sports News Writing - Rebecca Littrel  
Second Place - Feature Writing - Olivia Hoots  
Third Place - Headline Writing - Regina Ivy  
Third Place - Front Page Design - Regina Ivy  
Third Place - Sports News Writing - Ryan Scott  
Third Place - Sports Feature Writing - Rebecca Littrel  
Third Place - News Story - Olivia Hoots  
Honorable Mention - Arts Review - Rosanna Cravens  
Honorable Mention - Staff Editorial - Regina Ivy  
Honorable Mention - Multimedia Story - Regina Ivy and Megan Davis

# 2018

**OCT. 5, 2018 - SECOND PLACE - JOHN RYAN BEST OF SHOW AWARD - LAMP STAFF**

**19 AWARDS, INCLUDING SIX FIRST-PLACE HONORS, GIVEN APRIL 12, 2019, IN UTICA**

**EDITORS: ZACH AIELLO, MEREDITH HOWARD, NIKO ROBLEDO, AVERY COOK, EMMA SHAFER AND TYLER BUSKE**

First Place - News Story of the Year - Kallie Cox, Meredith Howard and Zach Aiello  
First Place - News Story - Kallie Cox  
First Place - Staff Editorial - Kallie Cox  
First Place - Feature Writing - Emily Smarjesse  
First Place - Sports Feature Writing - Noah Branson  
First Place - Page Design - Niko Robledo  
Second Place - Headline Writing - Avery Cook  
Second Place - News Column - Emma Shafer  
Second Place - Staff Editorial - Emma Shafer  
Second Place - Headline Writing - Avery Cook  
Second Place - Reporter of the Year - Zach Aiello  
Second Place - News Story - Zach Aiello  
Second Place - Mike Foster General Excellence Award - The Lamp staff  
Third Place - Page Design - Tyler Buske  
Third Place - Feature Photo - Niko Robledo  
Honorable Mention - Feature Photo - Niko Robledo  
Honorable Mention - Front Page Design - Niko Robledo  
Honorable Mention - Feature Writing - Niko Robledo  
Honorable Mention - Sports Column - Meredith Howard

# 2017

**13 AWARDS, INCLUDING THREE FIRST-PLACE HONORS, GIVEN APRIL 6, 2018,  
IN SPRINGFIELD**

**EDITORS: ZACH AIELLO, NIKO ROBLEDO, ISAAC WARREN, AVERY COOK,  
JACOB FISHER, JARED GORRELL AND EMMI FISHER**

**First Place - Best Website - The Lamp staff  
First Place - Front Page Design - The Lamp staff  
First Place - Sports News - Gracie Schweighart  
Second Place - News Story - Isaac Warren  
Second Place - Page Design - Isaac Warren  
Second Place - Cartoon - S.E. Black  
Second Place - News Column - Jacob Schmedeke  
Third Place - Mike Foster General Excellence - The Lamp staff  
Third Place - Front Page Design - The Lamp staff  
Third Place - Sports News - Gracie Schweighart  
Third Place - Graphics - Isaac Warren  
Third Place - News Story - Andrew Paisley  
Honorable Mention - Sports Column - Jack Pugh**

# 2016

## **ISAAC WARREN LOOKS BACK AT HIS TIME AT THE LAMP**

I look back on my time working on the Lamp as the nexus of my enjoyment of writing and my interest in creating digital content. Working on the website and laying out the paper in InDesign is what I believe kickstarted my interest in pursuing a degree in digital media, which I earned in 2019.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Timothy McKenzie for ensuring the success of the paper and to the other students involved who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create a product we could all be proud to have distributed around campus.

**11 AWARDS, INCLUDING TWO FIRST-PLACE  
HONORS, GIVEN APRIL 7, 2017, IN GODFREY**

**EDITORS: ISAAC WARREN, JARED GORRELL,  
EMMI FISHER, MADISON MINGS AND TERESA  
BRUMMETT**

**First Place - News Photo - Teresa Brummett  
First Place - Arts Review - Lukas Myers  
Second Place - Page Design - Isaac Warren  
Second Place - Editorial Writer of the Year -  
Tess Peterson  
Second Place - Feature Writing - Theaibold  
Kennon III  
Second Place - Sports Feature Writing -  
Anne King  
Second Place - Feature Photo - Ryan Mazrim  
Honorable Mention - Feature Photo - Ryan  
Mazrim  
Honorable Mention - Sports Feature Writing  
- Jesse Baker  
Honorable Mention - Headline Writing -  
Isaac Warren  
Honorable Mention - Mike Foster General  
Excellence Award - The Lamp staff**

# 2015

**11 AWARDS, INCLUDING ONE  
FIRST-PLACE HONORS, GIVEN  
APRIL 8, 2016, IN CHICAGO**

**EDITORS: RYAN WILSON, JORDAN  
MINDER, MADISON MINGS,  
TERESA BRUMMETT AND ISAAC  
WARREN**

**First Place - Mike Foster General  
Excellence Award - The Lamp  
staff**

**Second Place - Reporter of the  
Year -- Lukas Myers**

**Second Place - News Photo -  
Ryan Mazrim**

**Second Place - Sports Photo -  
Ryan Mazrim**

**Second Place - News Story - Ryan  
Mazrim**

**Second Place - News Column -  
T'Ericka Stelivan**

**Second Place - News Story of the  
Year - T'Ericka Stelivan,  
Nathanael Herbert and Kaylie  
Horrer**

**Second Place - Headline Writing  
- Tyler Allison**

**Second Place - Sports News  
Writing - Ryan Wilson**

**Second Place - Feature Writing -  
Teresa Brummett**

**Honorable Mention - Feature  
Photo - Ryan Mazrim**

# 2014

**13 AWARDS, INCLUDING FOUR FIRST-  
PLACE HONORS, GIVEN APRIL 10, 2015,  
IN UTICA, ILLINOIS**

**EDITORS: RYAN WILSON AND JORDAN  
MINDER**

**First Place - Reporter of the Year - Ryan  
Wilson**

**First Place - Mike Foster General  
Excellence Award - The Lamp staff**

**First Place - News Story - Ryan Wilson**

**First Place - Sports Feature Writing -  
Ryan Wilson**

**Second Place - Sports Feature Writing -  
Ryan Wilson**

**Second Place - News Column - Ryan  
Mazrim**

**Third Place - News Story of the Year -  
Rebekah Lange, Ryan Wilson and Jordan  
Minder**

**Third Place - Feature Writing -  
Dominique Lamp**

**Third Place - News Photo - Ryan Mazrim**

**Third Place Feature Photo - Jordan  
Minder**

**Honorable Mention - Feature Photo -  
Jordan Minder**

**Honorable Mention - Graphics - Alisha  
Kirkley**

**Honorable Mention - News Story -  
Brennan Stidham**





# CARMEN DILLMAN

## EDITOR

I am so grateful for all the opportunities the Lamp has given me. Next year, I plan on attending Saint Louis University. Over these next 4 years, I plan on getting my Masters in Marketing with a minor in service and leadership through SLU's Business Scholars Program. At SLU, I plan on continuing to write for their school paper.

I accredit Tim and Meredith Howard for preparing me for this opportunity and am forever grateful for them. My favorite memory at The Lamp was creating this magazine. I loved being able to utilize more digital media and add more of an artistic flare to journalism.



# CHRIS KOORZEN

## WRITER

Privacy advocate. Free speech crusader. Life and liberty for all.

Chris Koorzen attended Lincoln Land Community College in Fall 2021. During the semester, he had to return to his native country of South Africa, where he lives just outside Cape Town.

Chris hopes to return to the United States next year to work and to attend classes, finishing his university degree.

