

Chuck Plunkett

Director, CU News Corps University of Colorado Boulder
College of Media, Communication and Information Department of Journalism
CASE, W262E
303.735.5988 office chuck.plunkett@colorado.edu

Teaching 2022

- CU News Corps with Amy Brothers spring
- Opinion Writing spring
- Served on an honors thesis committee spring
- CU News Corps with Amy Brothers summer
- CU News Corps with Amy Brothers and Lindsey Pierce Martin fall
- Feature Writing
- Supervised a graduate professional project
- Supervised six internships

Training 2022

Completed the eye-opening Inclusive Pedagogy Ambassador Program administered by Lisa Flores, associate dean of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, CMCI. The training has led to several meaningful changes in teaching in how I communicate with students, structure coursework, and handle classroom lectures and discussion to develop a more mindful holistic approach to student development.

Service 2022

- Led judging for the Al Nakkula Award for Police Reporting, co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Journalism and The Denver Press Club, spring.
- Panelist with the CU Political Science Club alongside Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty, Boulder City Councilwoman Junie Joseph, Institute for Planetary Security founder and climate activist Alexander Verbeek, and Bret Bessen, a doctoral candidate in the political science department. We discussed careers in public service and politics. March 9.
- Panelist with CMCI Dean Lori Bergen, Journalism Chair Liz Skewes, Prof. Hillary Rosner for a discussion about best practices in investigative reporting with 12 African Edward Murrow fellows. July 22.
- Panelist on [the state of local news](#) with Longmont City Councilman Tim Waters, Colorado Sun editor Dana Coffield, Colorado Media Project Director Melissa Davis and former Boston Globe journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Maria Karagianis at the Longmont History Museum. Oct. 9.

- Met with and provided a tour of the CU News Corps facilities with Bill and Kathy Scripps, the capstone's generous funders. Nov. 4-5.
- Served on the faculty reappointment committee for Marina Dmukhovskaya, with Profs. Kathleen Ryan and Chris Larsen, December

Past Teaching

2021

- CU News Corps spring, summer, and fall with Amy Brothers, formerly of The Denver Post
- Opinion Writing in the Spring
- Reporting 2 in the Fall
- Honors thesis advisor for Sydney Calhoun
- Advised master's student Devon Corman's professional project
- Advised eight internships

2020

- CU News Corps with Lindsey Pierce Martin, formerly of The Denver Post, spring
- Opinion Writing spring
- Served on an honors committee spring semester
- Served as an internship adviser spring
- Taught CU News Corps summer
- Served as an internship adviser for three students summer 2020
- CU News Corps with Amy Brothers fall

2019

- CU News Corps with Emilie Johnson spring
- Reporting 2 spring semester 2019
- Served as an adviser to a masters student doing an independent study spring 2019
- CU News Corps with Johnson fall semester 2019
- Reporting 2 fall semester

2018

- Worked alongside Mei-Ling McNamara during the summer to get a solid introduction to teaching CU News Corps
- CU News Corps with McNamara fall semester 2018. Partnered with The Colorado Sun to publish students reporting on gentrification in Denver's Sun Valley and Westwood neighborhoods

Education

MFA, Creative Writing University of Pittsburgh, 1995

Completed hours and story collection toward MA, Creative Writing Syracuse University, 1992

BA, English

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1989

(Of note: 2018 recipient, Colby College Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award for a courageous act of [journalism, an honorary doctor](#) of laws degree.)

Professional Experience

More than 22 years of newsroom experience, including:

The Denver Post

- Editorial Page editor, columnist, July 2016 – May 18, 2018
- Politics editor, July 2011 – June 2016
- Government Watchdog reporter, Jan. 2011 – June 2011
- Editorial writer, Nov. 2008 – Dec. 2010
- Politics reporter, Feb. 2007 – Oct. 2008
- General assignment/Enterprise/Investigative reporter, July 2003 – Jan. 2007 The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
- Investigative, special assignments reporter, Oct. 2001 – June 2003
- General assignment/Enterprise reporter, Jan. 2001 – Sept. 2001 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, from April 1996 – Dec. 2000
- State Enterprise reporter
- City Desk reporter
- Business Desk reporter
- Editorial assistant, Business Desk

Recent Awards

For work with The Denver Post editorial pages

to launch what is now known as “The Denver Rebellion.”

- The University of Denver Journalism in the Public Interest Award.
- The Colorado Association of Libraries Julie J. Boucher Community Honor Roll Award for Intellectual Freedom.
- The ACLU Colorado Tajiri Award, for media work on behalf of civil liberties, received jointly with former Daily Camera editorial page editor David Krieger.
- The Colby College Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award (mentioned earlier)
- The National Press Club's John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award.

Recent Appearances

- Guest lecturer for JRNL TV Reporting class, March 2, 2021. Presented a beginner’s guide to using the Colorado Open Records Act and public records laws in general for a lively hour.

- [“When Local News Dies, So Does Democracy,”](#) TED.com, posted a reedited version of the TEDx recording listed below on March 3, 2020
- [“When Local News Dies, So Does Our Democracy,”](#) TEDxMileHigh recording, Denver’s Buell Theater, June 22, 2019
- Speaker, University of Colorado Graduate Teacher Program, Jan. 26, 2019

Recent Panels

- University of Denver panelist alongside Greg Moore, managing editor of Deke Digital and former executive editor Denver Post, and Laura Frank, the former Rocky Mountain News investigative reporter who now directs COLAB. Panel focused on ethics in journalism as part of Fred Brown and Lynn Schofield Clark’s capstone for journalism and strategic communications students. The online forum was made available to the broader campus and to other schools. For 90 minutes we presented real-world conundrums faced in newsrooms and worked through the decision-making behind our toughest calls – those that worked and those that didn’t. Feb. 24, 2021.
- [“Swatting at Vultures: Lessons learned from The Denver Post staff rebellion,”](#) Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication conference, Metropolitan State University Denver, Nov. 2, 2018
- [“Shrinking Newsrooms and Community Impact,”](#) Goldfarb Center, Colby College, Oct. 8, 2018
- Online News Association Digital Media Conference, University of Colorado Boulder, May 18, 2018

Prior University Service

- Led judging for the Al Nakkula Award for Police Reporting, co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Journalism and The Denver Press Club, spring semester 2021
- Led judging for the Al Nakkula Award for Police Reporting, co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Journalism and The Denver Press Club, spring semester 2020
- Joined Assistant Vice Chancellor of Strategic Media Relations and speechwriter Dave Curtin and on the committee to hire a speechwriter, editorial writer for Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano, fall semester 2019
- Led judging for the Al Nakkula Award for Police Reporting, co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Journalism and The Denver Press Club, spring semester 2019

Recent Publications

- [“The Denver Rebellion: How I Went Rogue at Work,”](#) TEDxMileHigh blog, Feb. 22, 2020, with Kendra Sand
- [“The Awful Lessons of Goodloe Sutton, Racism and Hate,”](#) The Colorado Sun, Feb. 24, 2019
- [“Don’t Sit Back and Let the Aldens of the World Commit Great Evil,”](#) The Colorado Sun, Jan. 27, 2019
- [“A New Sun in Born, and Brighter Days are Ahead,”](#) The Colorado Sun, Sept. 16, 2018,

- ["I Stood Up for The Denver Post and Was Forced to Resign."](#) Rolling Stone, May 7, 2018
- ["As Vultures Circle, The Denver Post Must Be Saved."](#) Denver Post editorial, April 6, 2018
- ["With More Cuts Coming to The Denver Post, What About the Letters to the Editor?"](#) The Denver Post, April 6, 2018
- ["The So-Called 'Michael Handcock' cover-up."](#) The Denver Post, March 9, 2018
- ["Donald Trump's True Believers."](#) The Denver Post, Jan. 19, 2018
- ["Lying Donald Trump Can't Be Trusted, and That Needs to Stop Now."](#) Denver Post editorial, Jan. 25, 2017
- ["After Sutherland Springs, a Prayer for Our Country Churches."](#) The Denver Post, Nov. 13, 2017
- ["Give Those Heinous Confederate Statues the White Flag They Deserve."](#) The Denver Post, Aug. 25, 2017
- ["A Warning From and For a Troubled Land."](#) The Denver Post, July 21, 2017
- ["For Dick Lamm, an End of Life Question of Another Sort."](#) The Denver Post, May 26, 2017

Publications, Fiction

- "Livewell," Cimarron Review, Spring 1990
- "An Ill-Considered Bet," The Texas Review, Spring/Summer 1993