

Always on Deadline: How the Associated Press Covers the World

A national editor, a Chicago reporter, and a bureau chief for the Associated Press in New York City and Chicago describe what it's like to work for the world's largest news organization.

Speakers: Martha Irvine, John M. Ryan, and Chris Sundheim



Chris Sundheim is a national editor for the Associated Press, helping to oversee the wire service's U.S. news report from its world headquarters in New York City. He is responsible for surveying the top stories in the United States each day and working with reporters across the country. Sundheim has coordinated coverage of historic events, such as Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 midterm elections, and the return of the space shuttle program after the Columbia disaster. He joined the AP in 2000 as a reporter in the Indianapolis bureau. In 2002 he became a desk supervisor, and in 2004 he transferred to the national desk. Chris grew up in Charleston, Illinois, and has degrees in journalism and history from Eastern Illinois University. While at Eastern, he worked for four years at *The Daily Eastern News* before graduating in 1995. Prior to his time at the AP, Chris was a reporter for the *Champaign News-Gazette*.

Special Guest: George Garties, AP bureau chief for Illinois



Martha Irvine is a Chicago-based national writer for the Associated Press. Since 2001, she has developed a beat that focuses on issues relevant to young adults and teens – from trends to social issues. Irvine began her journalism career in 1987, working at newspapers and magazines in Australia, New Zealand, Michigan, and Minnesota. In 1995 she joined the AP bureau in Portland, Oregon. Irvine received a 2001 Studs Terkel Award for her coverage of social issues in Chicago. In 2004, the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors recognized her profile of a teen who was born with HIV. That same year she was a finalist for the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association “Journalist of the Year” award. She also won a 2007 Front Page Award from the Newswomen’s Club of New York for a feature about a dying mother’s quest to explain her inevitable demise to her young children.



John M. Ryan is director of Student Publications and a professor of journalism at Eastern Illinois University. In addition to teaching opinion writing, media management, and reporting on the arts, as well as other writing and reporting courses, he oversees *The Daily Eastern News*, the *Warbler*, *Minority Today*, and the *Vehicle*. Before coming to Eastern, John was a staff writer for the *Champaign News-Gazette* and the *State Journal-Register* in Springfield, Illinois.