Overview of Scholarship
As a folklorist by training, a journalist by trade and a teacher of journalism ethics and narrative journalism, my research focuses on:

- Issues and controversies in journalism ethics
- Ethics of narrative journalism
- Folklore in the news/ the news in folklore

A. Research and Scholarly Publications

1. Articles Published in Refereed Journals

“Covering Captain Cool: The ‘Miracle on the Hudson as a Hero Tale, Western Folklore 72, (Winter 2013) (in press).


2. Articles Published in Non-Refereed Journals and Trade Publications


“Readback Blowback: Justice Kennedy v. The Daltonian,” *Media Ethics* 22 (Fall 2010).

“Sucking Face at Dear Old State: Controversy at a Campus Newspaper,” *Media Ethics* 21 (Spring 2010).


“Can the News Media Censor Themselves?” *Media Ethics* 18 (Fall 2006).

"Of No-Show and Never Were: The Ethics of Column Writing," *Media Ethics* 17 (Fall 2005).

“When Major News Has a Very Short Shelf Life,” *Nieman Reports* 59 (Fall 2005).

“Strong Narrative Writing Features Character,” *Nieman Reports* 59 (Spring 2005).


“‘Pulling’ a Fast One,” *Media Ethics* 16 (Fall 2004).

“Stinking Fish Syndrome,” *Media Ethics* 15 (Spring 2004).


“Maybe We’re Too Ethical,” *The Quill* (April 2003).

“Bloodhounds: Are Reporters Who Cover Suicide Bombings Telling Readers More Than They Need to Know?” *Media Ethics* (Fall 2002).

“‘About This Story’: Making Narrative Journalism Accountable,” *Nieman Reports* (September 2002).

“Class, Take Careful Notes: Sept. 11 Proved That Print Still Has a Role,” *The Quill* (September 2002).

“You’ve Got Quotes,” The Quill (October 1999).


3. Published Journalism

“A Football Team with a Good University,” The Penn Stater (Jan-Feb 2012).

“After 76 Years, Ol’ Leadfoot Turns in His Car Keys,” Friends and Neighbors (Winter 2011-12).

“Crossword (Over) Confidence,” State College Magazine (December 2011).


“Sharing Home, Sweet Home, Friends and Neighbors, (Fall 2009).


“Reporters Have Duty to Tell Public the Costs of War,” Allentown Morning Call (April 28, 2004).

“Why is John Kerry Stuck with the ‘Patrician’ Label?” Hartford Courant (Feb. 6, 2004).


“Altered Photos Break Public’s Trust in Media,” Los Angeles Times (April 7, 2003).
4. **Books, Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries**


5. **Conferences/Workshops/Lectures**

Ethics Workshop for writers and editors at Onward State and Statecollege.com, January 30, 2012.


“Cover Me: Case Studies in Contemporary Journalism” (panel chair), Union for Democratic Communications conference, State College, Pa., October 16, 2010.

“Covering Captain Cool: The ‘Miracle on the Hudson’ as a Hero Tale,” Association for Education in Mass Communication and Journalism annual meeting, Denver, August 2010.


“Where is the Humor?: Anti-Hillary Jokes in the News,” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Quebec City, October 2007.

Workshops on writing and plagiarism for Editorial Retreat of Human Resource Executive magazine, Penn State, August 21, 2007.


“September 11 and the Newslore of Vengeance and Victimization,” Association for Education in Mass Communication and Journalism annual meeting, Kansas City, Mo., August 2003.


“When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Go Photoshopping,” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Rochester, N.Y., October 2002.

“Patriotism or Dissent in the Shadow of 9/11” (panel), National Society of Newspaper Columnists annual meeting, Pittsburgh, June 2002.


“Those Little Town Blues: Are Journalistic Cliches Folk Ideas?” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Columbus, Ohio, October 2000.

“Folklore in a Hurry: Journalism and the Personal Experience Narrative.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Memphis, Tenn. (Session chair, “Personal Experience Narratives”), October 1999.

4. Awards

- 2nd place, Online Column Writing, 2011 National Society of Newspaper Columnists writing contest.

- 2nd place, Online Column Writing, 2010 National Society of Newspaper Columnists writing contest.


- One of 15 columnists nationwide selected to participate in the Seminar on Ethics and Excellence in Column-Writing, sponsored by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., November 2002.

- “‘You Had to Be There’ (And They Weren’t): The Problem With Reporter Reconstructions” won a Faculty Research Award at the Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, New Orleans, La., Aug. 3-8, 1999.

5. Funded Research


B. Positions Held


2004-present  Associate Professor, College of Communications, Penn State


1998-2004  Assistant Professor, College of Communications, Penn State

1997-1998  Adjunct Instructor, College of Communications, Penn State


1993-1995  Adjunct Instructor, Department of American Studies, UC Davis (Introduction to American Folklore)

1993-1995  Adjunct Instructor in Journalism and Anthropology, Columbia College, Columbia, Calif. (Journalism; Cultural Anthropology)

1988-1995  Staff Writer, Modesto Bee


C. Education

Ph.D.  University of Pennsylvania (1992), Folklore and Folklife
Dissertation: “Bub’s: Exchange and Talk of Change among Oldtimers in California’s Mother Lode Region”

M.A. UCLA (1981), Folklore and Mythology
Thesis: “Keeping Things Going: A Documentary about Present-Day Gold Miners in Tuolumne County, California”

B.A. SUNY Binghamton (1976), Creative Writing and Literature