

Illinois Press Association/Foundation 2020 Convention Speakers

Kia Breaux



Kia Breaux is the Midwest regional director for The Associated Press. As regional director, she is responsible for business development and managing strategic partnerships. Breaux joined AP in 1997 as a reporter in the Kansas City bureau. She was promoted to correspondent in the AP's Roanoke, Va., bureau and later was named news editor for Nebraska operations, based in Omaha. She returned to Kansas City in 2005 as assistant chief of bureau for Missouri and Kansas and was promoted to bureau chief in 2010. She is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism and was recently selected for inclusion in the Missouri Press Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Sally Buzbee



Sally Buzbee is the Senior Vice President and Executive Editor of The Associated Press. She oversees global news operations and news content in text, photos and video from journalists based in 250 locations worldwide.

Previously Buzbee served as Washington bureau chief for six years, where she led AP's coverage of the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign and elections of Donald Trump and the 2012 election, including oversight of polling and investigative units, as well as coverage of institutions such as the White House, Congress and the Pentagon.

Buzbee joined AP in 1988 as a reporter in Kansas and also worked as a reporter in Los Angeles and Washington. For five years beginning in November 2004 Buzbee served as AP's Middle East regional editor based in Cairo. In that position she led AP's news coverage across media formats during the Iraq war, and managed personnel, logistics, budgets and security for AP's Middle East region.

Mike Centorani



Mike Centorani is the Director of Sales Training for Gannett Media. Mike brings over 25 years of traditional media experience combined with over 15 years of digital marketing expertise. He was chosen by Google to offer sales training to their Google Premier SMB Partners in 2011 and was one of Google's Certified "Micro-moments" Speakers in 2016.

Mike has worked with 46 media companies in 22 countries and is a frequent speaker at many newspaper conferences as well as the Local Media Association and BIA Kelsey conferences.

Chris Coates



Chris Coates is Central Illinois editor for Lee Enterprises Inc., overseeing newsgathering staff in Bloomington, Decatur, Mattoon and Eureka. A Trenton, Michigan, native, he is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and has been a business reporter in Los Angeles, managing editor of Illinois publications for the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis and editor of the Sioux City Journal in northwestern Iowa. He also was watchdog-investigations editor for The News Journal in Wilmington, Delaware, part of the USA Today Network. Chris is the 2014 Iowa State University Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication Chamberlin Fellow and one of Editor & Publisher's "25 under 35" for 2013.

Jay Dickerson



Jay Dickerson is the advertising manager of the Galena Gazette in Galena, Illinois. Jay and his wife, Hillary, the Galena Gazette's editor, have three daughters, Lilly (18), Maya (16) and Ruby (14).

A 1999 graduate of Monmouth College, he was a reporter in Lancaster, Wis.; the editor of the Tri-County Press in Cuba City, Wis.; and a features publications editor at the Gaylord Herald Times in Gaylord, Mich. In 2003, Dickerson became editor of The Galena Gazette, a position he held for eight years. He's been the advertising manager since 2011. In his time at the Gazette, he's covered murder trials, mentored college interns, sold award-winning ad campaigns and grown to understand the importance of quality community journalism.

He's active in events through the Galena Center for the Arts, and has volunteered through the Galena Historical Society in the annual cemetery walk. Additionally, he's the president of the Galena Center for the Arts board, the president of the Kiwanis Club of Galena, a former president of the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association and the secretary of the Galena Area Chamber of Commerce. Just this year he started the Galena Podcast.

Ryan Dohrn



Ryan Dohrn is the founder of media sales strategy firm Brain Swell Media and the creator of the 360 Ad Sales System taught to over 20,000 ad sales reps in 7 countries. Ryan works with over 125 newspapers per year and has a deep passion for the newspaper business. Ryan's 25-year media sales and marketing career includes leadership roles at PennWell Publishing, Morris Publishing, Disney/ABC TV and The NY Times Company. He is an Emmy Award winner, business book author and has been featured in USA Today and on Forbes.com. Ryan currently works monthly with over 50 media companies and their related sales and management teams.

Yazmin Dominguez



Yazmin Dominguez is the media partnerships coordinator for CIMA at the Chicago Reader. A former reporter for City Bureau she has reported on issues pertaining to policing and community events in Chicago. For the past year, she has assembled all 66 members of the alliance under the guidance of Reader leadership. Currently, she is responsible for coordinating projects and maintaining partnerships for the Chicago Independent Media Alliance. She hopes to continue structuring the alliance internally with other leaders of Chicago media in order to ensure the prosperity of journalism in Chicago.

Joe Gisondi



Joe Gisondi, a journalism professor at Eastern Illinois University, is the author of the Field Guide To Writing Sports and the editor/publisher of ColesCountySports.com, a website dedicated to local sports coverage in East Central Illinois. He can be reached at [@joegisondi](https://twitter.com/joegisondi) on Twitter and more tips and advice can be found at SportsFieldGuide.org.

Brant Houston



Professor Brant Houston holds the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Chair in Investigative and Enterprise Reporting at the University of Illinois. Houston teaches investigative and advanced reporting in the Department of Journalism in the College of Media at Illinois.

He also oversees the online newsroom at Illinois, CU-CitizenAccess.org, which serves as a lab for digital innovation and data journalism.

Houston became the chair in 2007 after serving for more than a decade as the executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), a 5,000-member organization, and as a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Before joining IRE, he was an award-winning investigative reporter at daily newspapers for 17 years.

Houston is the author of four editions of the textbook, "Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide," and co-author of the fourth edition and fifth edition of "The Investigative Reporter's Handbook." He co-founded the Global Investigative Journalism Network in 2003 and serves as chair of its board of directors. He has taught and spoken about investigative and computer-assisted reporting at newsrooms and universities in 25 countries.

Currently he is working on projects involving nonprofit journalism newsrooms, digital tools for news-gathering, and new business models for journalism.