

Brian Maxwell
School of Journalism and Strategic Media
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EDUCATION

M.S., Media and Communication
Middle Tennessee State University, 2026
Committee: Dr. Matthew Taylor (Chair), Dr. Jason Reineke, Dr. Sanjay Asthana

Professional Project: *Breaking the algorithm: critical media literacy in a profit-driven digital landscape*

B.S., Video and Film Production
Middle Tennessee State University, 2024, Summa Cum Laude with Distinction
Minors: Mass Communication, Honors Studies
Committee: Leland Gregory (Chair), Dr. Mary Evins

Professional Project: *More than a memory: A study of artistic license in screenwriting*

A.S., Mass Communication, Honors Distinction, Motlow State Community College, 2021

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Adjunct Professor (August 2024 – Present)
School of Journalism and Strategic Media, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

Freelance Entertainment Producer (May 2009 – Present)
Maxwell Classic Productions, Smyrna, TN

Freelance Entertainment Producer (April 2023 – Present)
Retinal Pro Wrestling, Birmingham, AL

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, State of Tennessee (2024)
Phi Kappa Phi Chapter #246 Inaugural Graduate Scholar Scholarship (2024)
Middle Tennessee State University Community Service Award (2024)
Middle Tennessee State University Outstanding Nontraditional Student Award (2024)

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Middle Tennessee State University (2023)
National Society of Leadership and Success, Middle Tennessee State University (2023)
Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Middle Tennessee State University (2022)
Buchanan Transfer Fellowship, Middle Tennessee State University (2022)
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Motlow State Community College (2021)
Psi Beta Honor Society, Motlow State Community College (2021)

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Publications

Maxwell, B., & Lee, R. E. (in revision). Honors Spotlight: Podcasting as an innovative pedagogical practice in honors education. *Honors in Practice*. Accepted.

Graduate Professional Project

Maxwell, B. (2026). *Breaking the Algorithm: Critical Media Literacy in a Profit-Driven Digital Landscape*. Professional Project, Middle Tennessee State University.
Committee: Dr. Matthew Taylor (Chair), Dr. Jason Reineke, Dr. Sanjay Asthana.

Undergraduate Honors Professional Project

Maxwell, B. (2024). *More than a memory: A study of artistic license in screenwriting*. Middle Tennessee State University, Honors College.

Professional Creative Work

Maxwell Classic Productions (2009 – Present). Professional production company delivering video, audio, podcast, web, and live event production. Clients include Ring of Honor Wrestling, Makin' Hay Productions, and Rakehell Row Productions.

Retinal Pro Wrestling (2023 – Present). Founded independent live sports production company. 12-month social media campaign produced 316% growth in event attendance in 2025. Pro wrestling training school featured on Season 4 of HBO's *We're Here*.

Rutherford County Correctional Work Center, Audio/Video Production Class (2023 – 2024). Designed and delivered original curriculum in pre-production, post-production, camera operation, podcasting, and narrative storytelling. Class produced original podcasts, screenplays, and short films.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Digital Media Practices (MTSU, 2024 – Present)

Introduction to Media (MTSU, 2024 – 2026)

Freedom of Expression (MTSU, 2025 – 2026)

Media Law (MTSU, 2025 – 2026)

Mobile Storytelling (MTSU, 2024 – 2025)

Audio/Video Production, Rutherford County Correctional Work Center (2023 – 2024)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

University

Buchanan Transfer Fellowship Committee (MTSU, 2024)

Institute of Leadership Excellence (MTSU, 2023)

Blue Raider Television (MTSU, 2023)

Honors College Visiting Artist Seminar (MTSU, 2023)

Community

Volunteer, Able's Recreation Association (2018 – Present)

Volunteer, Adam's Place Retirement Home (2022 – 2026)

Volunteer, Team Captain, Relay for Life (2024 – 2026)

Volunteer Instructor, Rutherford County Correctional Work Center (2023 – 2024)

Volunteer, Waterford Retirement Home (2023)

Volunteer, Team Captain, Walk for Autism Speaks, raised \$5,000+ (2012)

Academic Organizations

Student Council President, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Chapter #246 (2024 – 2026)

Media Club, Vice-President, Motlow State Community College (2021)

PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

"Following the Breeze" (cover story). *Arete Magazine*, Fall 2024.

Lee, R. E. "From Inmate to Educator: Brian Maxwell's Journey Back to RCCWC." *Daily News Journal*, December 11, 2023.

Lee, R. E. "Incarceration Altered His Life, Now MTSU Honors Student Helps Train Local Inmates." *MTSU News*, December 4, 2023.