Current NKU Position

Professor of Electronic Media and Broadcasting, School of Media and Communication, College of Informatics
Director of NorseMedia, a student-staffed media production house

Biographical Statement (350-word maximum)

Chris Strobel is a professor-writer-director-producer-editor with a focus on media aesthetics and narrative digital cinema. He started his media-making career while still an undergrad, directing newscasts, corporate videos, and commercials at WTWO-TV. After graduating he became the Production Manager and ran the department for four years and near the end of his time at TV-2 he created and wrote “Stepping Stones” – an educational live-action Saturday morning children's show that won its time slot during its first sweeps.

He left the broadcast world to attend film school at American University in Washington, DC. He has edited five feature films (none of which you've seen), moved to Cincinnati and ran his film and video company (Good Morning Egg Productions) for four years, began adjunct teaching for Audio-Video Production at Southern Ohio College before becoming the Department Chair, and was able to jump across the river to NKU in 2002 when a tenure track position in Radio-Television opened.

Shortly after arriving an opportunity presented itself to evolve RTV into Electronic Media and Broadcasting, and Chris spearheaded that transformation. He was also heavily involved with the planning and creation of the College of Informatics and was fortunate to be a member of the Griffin Hall design team, where he primarily focused on the media infrastructure and classroom design. Along the way he helped make study abroad a required aspect of the EMB degree, won a few awards (for his teaching – including NKU's 2010 Sustained Teaching award – as well as screenwriting, editing, directing ... and even one for his dancing) and was promoted to full professor in 2016. He has led classes in Sri Lanka, Belize, and South Africa and has presented annually at the Broadcast Education Association international conference. The collaborations with faculty in EMB (on the Media Aesthetics class) and SOTA (between Digital Cinema Projects and Acting for the Camera) are academic highlights, and in 2021 he completed writing an online textbook for media aesthetics classes. He directed the EMB program from 2004 through 2020 and has since shifted his administrative and creative efforts to directing NorseMedia, NKU's student-staffed media production organization.
The NKU Board of Regents hold a unique and somewhat funky position with our university. While they are responsible for the university’s overall direction and budget, outside of the staff, student, and faculty regent the bulk of the Regents are not directly involved with almost any practical, day-to-day aspect of the university operations. Therefore, the three Regents whose “day jobs” are on our campus hold the additional responsibility of working inside the board while providing perspectives of and to the entire campus community.

I have been involved with administration and planning at the program, department, college, and university levels throughout my academic career. Through those experiences I have been fortunate to work with leaders on and off campus and I believe have been able to interact well with them as I advocated for what I found to be best for the students, faculty, and staff of NKU. One of the things that made me want to make NKU my academic home is the place we hold in the region and the opportunities that we forge for our students. The “academic and applied” mantra for our challenging yet supportive instruction permeates my teaching and is one way I think NKU differentiates itself from other universities in our region and across the nation. We serve an important purpose, and while the processes and particulars may have shifted over the past 55 years, the reason the University is here is as valuable as ever.

If I’m fortunate enough to serve as the Interim Faculty Regent I expect to advocate for everything that makes NKU unique, to seek to provide resources and support for our incredible students and their dreams for their futures, and to bolster the professional goals and rewards for our faculty and staff. As we emerge from the fiscal calamity of the past few years and begin to embrace the opportunities that accompany the new leadership on campus my goal will be to set the stage for everything that we are working toward.