

Kino-Eye Center: IamSTEMpowered.org
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CESARE WRIGHT, PH.D.

KEY COMPETENCIES

- 10 million+ audience reach via television, radio, and in-person speaking engagements
- Expertise in Emerging Technology, Media Arts, Cultural Studies, K-12 Education, Engineering Leadership, Workforce Development
- 15 years of executive leadership experience as President of 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation
- Industry programs and partnerships with Microsoft, BP, Chevron, NASA, Intel
- 2 million+ audience engagements via Youtube and social media
- Outstanding Faculty Associate Award, Houston Humanitarian Award, Community Impact Award, Hudspeth Student Life and Community Award
- 10 years of university teaching experience with exemplary teaching and performance evaluations
- Course offerings in Engineering, Visual & Dramatic Arts, Film Studies, Art History

RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY FOCUS

Artificial Intelligence (AI), E-Sports/Gaming, Augmented & Virtual Reality (AR/VR), “Internet of Things” (IOT), Drones/Robotics/Autonomous Systems, Online Learning & Virtual Engagement, Representation Theory & Critical Studies, Leadership Education, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Future of Work & Learning

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

KINO-EYE CENTER – 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation June 2004 – Present Houston, TX
Founder and President (Full-time Nov. 2019 – Present)

- Develop and implement education and diversity outreach programs for 5000+ students/year in partnership with industry, government, NGOs, and public/private/charter schools
- Manage industry and community partnerships: Microsoft, Chevron, BP, Univ. of Houston, Rice University, NASA, Space Center Houston, City of Houston, Houston ISD, Spring ISD, etc.

Program Director and Creator (Nov. 2019 – Present)

- Microsfot FAST (Future Accelerated Skills Training) – Adult workforce development
- Microsoft EPIC (Education Partnerships for Inspired Communities) – K-12 STEM outreach
- Microsoft Drone Academy – K-12 STEM program focused on UAV/UAS technology
- BP/Microsoft Service First – Free STEM education program for children of military families
- Manage additional programs focused on: Literacy, Anti-Bullying, Rape Prevention, Media Arts
- Houston Humanitarian Award (2016) – Recognized for excellence in K-12 education outreach
- World Youth Foundation Community Impact Award (2015) – Recognized for diversity outreach

RICE UNIVERISTY Jan. 2012 – Nov. 2019 Houston, TX
Engineering Lecturer & Leadership Specialist | Rice Center for Engineering Leadership

- Co-Created Rice Engineering Leadership Certificate program with current enrollment of 200+
- Created and implemented RCEL Internship Program - 100% student career placement 2013-2019

- Outstanding Faculty Associate Award (2015), Hudspeth Award for Student Life and Clubs (2017)
- 2013-2016 Engineering Course Offerings:
 - ENGI 311/511 - Leading Change – Revolutionary Moments in Engineering and Society
 - ENGI 218/219: Engineering Leadership Lab
 - ENGI 318/319: Advanced Engineering Leadership Lab
 - ENGI 241: Professional Excellence for Engineers
 - ENGI 317: Leadership Action Learning
- Program Director for K-12 STEM outreach and education programs and initiatives
 - Rice Emerging Leaders in Technology & Engineering (ELITE) Camp (9th-12th grade) – Tuition-based program for 20 students/week that generated \$130,000/month.
 - Rice Drone Camp (7th/8th grade) – Featured by Fox News, BP, Drone 360 Magazine, WB39, Oil & Gas Journal, Style Magazine, Fortune Magazine, Microsoft, and print/online publications
- Secured, developed and manage industry relationships and mentorship program
- Faculty sponsor for Rice Aerial Robotics Club and Rice Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club

Adjunct Lecturer in Dept. of Visual and Dramatic Arts

- FILM 285/485, HART 283/481: Auteur Film Theory
- FILM 480: Advanced Cinematography and Sound Production

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

2007–Present

International

Director, Producer, Cinematographer, and Editor (See Featured Filmography for details)

- Produce and direct documentary and fiction productions with budgets of up to \$500,000
- Developed and implemented social media strategies with TWO MILLION+ engagements
- Directed “Gracie Women Empowered” series – program adopted by U.S. Air Force in 2012
- Content featured internationally by Fox News, MSNBC, Documentary Channel, and Telemundo
- Media production, including cinematography, sound production, editing, grading, and mastering

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

2008-2013

Rochester, NY

Pre-College Summer Program Instructor – Media Studies

- Introduce high school students to an overview of college level media theory and practice

Teaching Assistant: Film & Media Studies and English Courses

- ENG 263: Introduction to Digital Media, Professor Greta Niu
- ENG 118: Introduction to Media Studies, Professor Greta Niu
- FMS 221: Napoleon – Image, Myth, History, Professor Robert Doran

FOX 26 NEWS

2002–2004

Houston, TX

News Editor/Special Projects Consultant/Fox Investigates

- Edit video and audio for VO, VO-SOT, promo, and package segments for the news broadcast
- Coordinate with reporters, producers, and staff to insure quality integration of materials
- Conduct research, investigative fieldwork, and media production for undercover investigations and develop and consult on community interest news stories

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER 2007-2016 Rochester, NY

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) | Visual and Cultural Studies

- Specialization in visual anthropology and the intersection of technology and culture Thesis: “Re-Framing Ecstatic Truth – Experiments in the New Visual Language of Werner Herzog”
- Advisor Reinhild Steingrover and co-advisor Paul Duro
- University Provost Fellow for School of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 2005-2007 Los Angeles, CA

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) | Cinematic Arts

- Comprehensive training in cinematography, directing, producing, editing and sound production
- Specialized focus in documentary film with Amanda Pope, Mark Harris, Jed Dannenbaum
- Mentorship in sound production with Tomlinson Holman (Creator of THX/“Tom Holman Experiment” and co-creator of 5.1 Surround Sound)

RICE UNIVERSITY 1999-2003 Houston, TX

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) | Visual And Dramatic Arts

- Directed & produced “Border Wars” – inspiration for National Geographic series
- Edited feature documentary film, “Double Bayou” (award-winning director Heather Korb)
- Mary Hale Lovett Scholarship – Rice University, 2003.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) | Cultural Anthropology

- Ethnographic research featured on Fox News, National Geographic, French TV 2, and Spiegel TV
- Louis Sudler Award in Humanities, 2002
- Advanced coursework in Math and Computer Science

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) | Art & Art History

- Extensive coursework in Advanced Computational Mathematics and Computer Science with project-based work in virtual and augmented reality
- Studio Film Award - Dept. of Art & Art History, 2001
- Texas Independent Filmmakers Competition Finalist, 2001
- Focus on critical analysis, Media & Culture studies, documentary and ethnographic film

AWARDS & HONORS

- Hudspeth Award for Dedication to Student Life and Clubs – Rice University, 2017
- Houston Humanitarian Award – City of Houston and Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, 2016
- Community Impact Award – World Youth Foundation, 2015
- Outstanding Faculty Associate Award – Rice University, 2014
- Provost’s Fellowship – University of Rochester, 2007-2012
- Distinguished Alumnus Award – Rice University Dept. of Visual & Dramatic Arts, 2010

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, AND EVENTS

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- Feb. 2019 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “STEM Career Pathways and Future Skilling”. <https://www.khou.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/microsoft-helps-kids-combine-education-with-entertainment/285-0a1ebd04-5ca2-4893-9df4-fd391661650d>
- Feb. 2019 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Microsoft EPIC and STEM Outreach”. <https://www.khou.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/the-microsoft-epic-engineering-design-and-pitch-competition/285-7ba62b62-7664-4405-b83d-eccaba8c3156>
- Oct. 2019 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Career Readiness Tips for College Students”. <https://www.khou.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/three-tips-to-help-students-land-a-job-after-college-graduation/285-9b399d36-46e1-426f-9f1c-0d8a9cdde6e1>
- July 2019 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Value of Academic Clubs & Teams”. <https://www.khou.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/socializing-can-help-students-in-the-classroom/285-7e710e6b-edcc-46b8-ae6b-63ed627a05c2?fbclid=IwAR3byi7bOmclKau1jwsP881Qjtoxip0GT4x93G2Oo-MXaN7JRKQYGKLBkLA>
- May 2019 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Unconventional STEM Learning Tips for K-12”. <https://www.khou.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/tech-corner-unconventional-ways-to-get-kids-interested-in-stem/285-fd0ba195-fb2f-4290-973d-82154882c6a8>
- Aug. 2018 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Flood Mitigation and Disaster Prevention”. <https://www.khou.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/his-house-will-never-flood-again/285-8230692>
- March 2017 *Fox 26 News*. “Women Empowered Rape Prevention and Self-Defense.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8vbSSstBOY&t=5s>
- Aug. 2017 *Great Day Houston* (Television, KHOU Ch. 11). “Disaster Recovery Tips for Harvey Flood Victims”.
- Nov. 2016 *Expo UAV Conference*. “Women in Drones: Motivating, Inspiring, and Integrating within the Industry”.
- March 2016 *Drone 360 Magazine*. “Heading in the Right Direction”.
- Oct. 2015 *Oil & Gas Journal* [print and online edition]. “Educational drones”.
- Sept. 2015 *BP* (online blog). “Are these the drones you’re looking for?”. Stable URL - http://www.bp.com/en_us/bp-us/community/STEM-programs/us-drones-camp.html
- Aug. 2015 *Fox 26 News*. “Live at Rice Drone Camp”.
- Aug. 2015 *Rice News Media*. “Flying toward the future”. Stable URL - <http://news.rice.edu/2015/08/14/flying-toward-the-future/>
- Aug. 2015 *Houston Chronicle* (newspaper). “Rice Drone Camp lets kids’ imaginations soar”.
- Aug. 2015 *Style Magazine*. “Middle School Students to Learn About Science and Engineering”.

- Aug. 2015 *Houston Independent School District* (online blog). “Drones taking students on flights of STEM fancy”. Stable URL - <http://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2015/08/21/drones-taking-students-on-flights-of-stem-fancy/>
- Nov. 2013 *U.S. Air Force* (online blog). “Women Empowered seminar instills jiu-jitsu self defense strategies”. Stable URL - <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/467523/women-empowered-seminar-instills-jiu-jitsu-self-defense-strategies.aspx>
- Fall. 2008 *Ian Scotto Radio Show*, Ithaca College Radio. Featured Guest.
- Aug. 2008 *Andrew Wilkow Show*, Sirius XM. Featured Guest.
- Feb. 2007 *Chris Baker Radio Show*, Clear Channel Broadcasting. Featured Guest.
- Spring 2005 *Debra Duncan Radio Show*, Clear Channel Broadcasting. Featured Guest.
- Spring 2004 *Telemundo* (USA/Mexico). “Border Vigilantes”.
- Fall 2004 *Spiegel TV*, (Germany). Short Format Documentary.
- Fall 2004 *French TV 2*, (France). News Story.
- Spring 2003 *Fox 26 News*. “Fighting Chance”.
- Fall 2002 *Fox 26 News*. “Suspension of Disbelief”.
- Fall 2002 *Fox 26 News*. “Scarred for Life”.

PRINT

- Citroen, L. (2020, April). *Success After Service* [Book]. Featured contributor. “Translating veteran’s skills to engineering and technology careers.”
- Wright, C. (2017, May). Hiring Veterans into Leadership Roles in STEM Careers. *Military.com*. Stable URL <http://www.military.com/hiring-veterans/resources/consider-hiring-veterans-into-leadership-roles-in-stem-careers.html>
- Wright, C. (2016, November). Chemistry Set 2.0. *Drone 360 Magazine*. Stable URL <https://t.co/xwtyInxG9r>
- Wright, C. (2016). *Re-Framing Ecstatic Truth – Experiments in the New Visual Language of Werner Herzog* (Doctoral dissertation). Stable URL <http://hdl.handle.net/1802/31465>
- Wright, C. (2013). Finding the “Truth” – Rhetoric and Actuality in the Documentary Tradition (Conference paper). Presented at the 2013 *Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference* in Boston, MA.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- May 2020 *Microsoft YouthSpark Home Edition*. Featured speaker. “AI & Engineering Design Process.”
- April 2020 *Inaugural Microsoft YouthSpark Home Edition* (first fully virtual YouthSpark event). Featured speaker. “AI & Engineering Design Process.”
- Nov. 2019 *Microsoft EPIC Program* (MS Woodlands Store). Lead instructor. “Intro to Artificial Intelligence”
- Dec. 2019 *Microsoft EPIC Program* (MS Galleria Store). Lead instructor. “Intro to Artificial Intelligence”
- Oct. 2019 *Microsoft EPIC Program* (MS Baybrook Store). Lead instructor. “Intro to Artificial Intelligence”
- Sep. 2019 *Microsoft Give/ Hero Box Event* (Houston). Featured speaker. “Value of Military Service Members in Tech Industry”.

- Sep. 2019 *World Youth Foundation @ the Houston Hobby Center*. Featured speaker. “Be unconventional; be EPIC!”
- June 2018 *Microsoft DigiGirlz* (Houston). Featured speaker and session presenter. “Intro to Autonomous Systems and Engineering Design Process”.
- April 2019 *NASA/Microsoft STEM-Liner Program* (Houston). Featured speaker. “Navigating and unconventional career path”.
- April 2019 *Microsoft DigiGirlz/Girl Scouts of America* (Dallas). Featured speaker and session presenter. “Drones, sensors, and robotic technology”.
- April 2019 *Microsoft DigiGirlz/We Are Girls* (Houston). Featured speaker and session presenter. “Drones, Sensors, and Artificial Intelligence”.
- July. 2018 *NASA/Space Center Houston/Microsoft*. Featured speaker and session presenter. “Autonomous vs. Manual Robotic Control Systems”
- June 2018 *Microsoft YouthSpark @ La Cantera* (San Antonio) Featured speaker and session presenter. “Intro to Autonomous Systems and Engineering Design Process”.
- May 2018 *Microsoft YouthSpark Live @ Joint Military Base Fort Sam Houston* (Austin). Featured speaker and session presenter. “Sensors, Drones, and Internet of Things”
- May 2018 *Microsoft DigiGirlz/We Are Girls* (Houston). Featured speaker and session presenter. “Drones, Sensors, and Artificial Intelligence”.
- Feb. 2018 *NASA/Space Center Houston/Microsoft*. Featured speaker and session presenter. “Sensors, Drones, and Internet of Things”.
- Feb. 2016 *Microsoft YouthSpark*. Featured presenter – “Teaching Technology”.
- Jan. 2015 *The Special Event Conference*. Featured speaker & workshop presenter - “Light & Sound for Events – Using AV to Tell a Story”.
- April 2013 Film screening of *Kumaré* (Dir. Vikram Gandhi, 2011) & director Q&A. Featuring Kino Lorber CEO Richard Lorber. Organizer & moderator. Hosted by Rice University Humanities Research Center & Kino-Eye Center.
- Mar. 2013 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Paper presentation – “Finding the “Truth” – Rhetoric and Actuality in the Documentary Tradition” (Conference paper).
- Mar. 2013 “Art of the Film Business”. Panel feat. Elizabeth Sheldon (VP Kino Lorber) Organizer & Moderator. Hosted by Rice University Humanities Research Center and Kino-Eye Center.
- Feb. 2013 “Interdisciplinary Career Paths in Humanities”. Guest Lecturer. Rice University Center for Career Development.
- July 2004 *Karlovy Vary Int. Film Festival* (Czech Republic). Industry Screening: *Border Wars*.

FEATURED FILMOGRAPHY

Gracie Women Empowered. DVD and online series, Dec. 2010. Director & Producer.

- Rape prevention program for women hosted by the Gracie family, founders of Brazilian jiu-jitsu and the Ultimate Fighting Championship.
- Program adopted by the U.S. Air Force in 2012 as the Core Combatives program for female soldiers
- Basis for social media campaign with 20 million+ engagements

Talk Radio. Documentary, 2009. Director & Cinematographer.

- Documentary film that addresses issues of government regulation of media and the possible reinstatement of the “Fairness Doctrine” through an exploration of the talk radio industry.
- Feat: Mike Pence, Sean Hannity, Ed Schultz, Amy Goodman, Ann Coulter, Stephanie Miller
- Production in coordination with Clear Channel, Talk Radio Networks, and Sirius XM

Goals. Documentary, 2006. Director, Cinematographer, Editor.

- Issues of assimilation and immigration are explored through the sports of soccer and baseball.
- Syndicated airing for 12 months on The Documentary Channel
- International broadcast premier on CCTV (China)

The Gracie Challenge. Documentary, 2006. Independent. Director.

- Documentary portrait of the Gracie family, who created Brazilian jiu-jitsu and founded the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).
- Generated over 1 million views on YouTube
- Basis for social media campaign that generated 38 million engagements

Border Wars. Documentary, 2004. Independent. Director.

- Documentary exploration of immigration and smuggling along the U.S./Mexico border. The film focuses on the emergence of “border vigilante” groups, including the Minutemen and Ranch Rescue. Scenes include the civilian detainment of illegal immigrants and the first documented encounters of Mexican military/smuggler incursions onto U.S. soil.
- Featured on Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, CSPAN, Telemundo, Spiegel TV, French TV 2
- Basis for National Geographic series.

Thereisenstadt: Kingdom of Deceit. Documentary, 2004. Kino-Eye Center. Director.

- Feature documentary film that explores the propagandized use of children in specific Nazi internment camps, such as Thereisenstadt, Czech Republic. Children were forced to perform plays, operas, musical compositions, and create various artistic works, which were presented to Red Cross inspectors as evidence of the “ethical and humane treatment” of Jews in camps and ghettos.
- Incorporated as educational media content by Houston ISD and the Holocaust Museum

Back to the Primitive. Documentary, 2003. Rice University. Director.

- Documentary exploration of the world of “modern primitive” stage performers and performance events, including S&M burlesque shows, human suspension, body modification, Satanic and Luciferian rituals, and a variety of other performances.
- Featured nationally by Fox News, Discovery Channel, and National Geographic Channel

CONFERENCES/FESTIVALS ATTENDED

2008-2019	International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. Amsterdam, NL. Kino-Eye
2012-2015	South by Southwest Film Festival. Austin, TX
2013-2015	True/False Documentary Film Festival, Columbia, MO
2014	The Special Event Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
2013	Society of Film and Media Studies Conference, Boston, MA
Jan. 2014	Academic Event Planner Conference, Nashville, TN
Mar. 2013	Based on a True Story Documentary Film Conference. Columbia, MO
2005-2008	American Film Market Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
2002-2005	Karlovy Vary Int. Film Festival. Czech Republic.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Production and Post-Production

- Fiction and Documentary Director & Producer
- Cinematographer and Camera Operator: Super 35 Cinema, DSLR, HD/UHD, 16mm, 35mm
- Sound Design and Production - Trained by Tomlinson Holman (THX – “Tom Holman Experiment” and 5.1 Audio)
- Editing and Post-Production: Picture and Sound
- Avid, Final Cut Studio, Protools, LightWorks, Euphonix console

Anthropological Fieldwork, Research, and Film Production in Over 20 Countries:

- Exploration of major European cultural, historic, religious, and artistic centers in Italy, Spain, Greece, Holland, Germany, Portugal, Czech Republic, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Belgium
- Field research in Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland focusing on the Post-Soviet “Westernization” of Eastern European regions
- Field research in Minsk, Belarus relating to the Belarussian independence movement and the conditions of post-Chernobyl disaster reconstruction – created immersive virtual reality computer model of the region
- Field research on propaganda and the use of children in Nazi internment camps – Focus on Thereisenstadt camp in the Czech Republic, with extended site research in Germany, Poland, and Holland

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Kaz Karwowski

Phone: (713) 348-2359 | Email: karwowski@rice.edu

Executive Director | Rice Center for Engineering Leadership | Rice University

Supervisor as Lecturer and Outreach/Leadership Specialist

Ramel Mitchel

Phone: (314) 422-6418 | Email: raamelm@microsoft.com

Public Affairs and Citizenship Director | Microsoft Public Sector

Industry partner for Microsoft Drone Academy program and Rice Drone Camp partnership

Reinhild Steingrover

Phone: (585) 274 1616 | Email: rsteingrover@esm.rochester.edu

Chair of Humanities Dept. & Professor of German | Eastman School of Music | University of Rochester

Ph.D. in Visual & Cultural Studies Dissertation Advisor

Greta Niu

Phone: (585) 773-9112 | Email: gretaniu@gmail.com

Associate Professor | Dept. of Art and Art History | University of Rochester

Faculty supervisor for ARTS and ENGL courses taught at University of Rochester.