

Young Alumni Award Recipient



Chris R. Vaccaro, BA, '07
Editor-in-Chief and Director of
Live Mobile Operations
The Topps Company

Chris R. Vaccaro is a journalist, author, professor and digital business leader from Long Island. He graduated from Hofstra University in 2007 with a major in print journalism and a minor in public affairs.

Mr. Vaccaro is the editor-in-chief and director of live mobile operations for The Topps Company, where he has helped build the company's digital division into a modern and progressive publishing suite full of some of the world's top-grossing sports and entertainment apps (yes, digital baseball cards!).

At Topps, he oversees content innovation, business development, partnerships and licensing. He developed and executes on the company's live digital signature program, which has revolutionized the memorabilia industry.

Mr. Vaccaro has been an adjunct professor at The Lawrence Herbert School of Communication at Hofstra University since 2010, and was promoted to adjunct assistant professor in 2016. He has taught introductory and advanced courses in online journalism, news writing, copy editing and ethics. In 2014, he jumpstarted a dormant campus chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), and took over as adviser. Mr. Vaccaro served on Hofstra's 75th Anniversary Steering Committee and is a member of the executive committee of the Herbert School's alumni association. As a student at Hofstra, he was sports editor of The Hofstra Chronicle and Pulse Magazine, both student-run publications. One of Mr. Vaccaro's six books is titled Hofstra Athletics and chronicles a photo history of the University's athletic program dating back to its inception in 1935.

Mr. Vaccaro's traditional journalism background was harnessed as a writer at the Southampton Press, then as an editor at the New York Daily News and AOL's Patch.com. Starting in print media as early as 14 years old, his portfolio grew from weekly newspapers on Long Island to outlets such as Rolling Stone magazine, ESPN, the Associated Press, Sports Illustrated and many others platforms across the world. Mr. Vaccaro has also appeared on regional and national television and radio. He has covered some of the world's biggest sporting events, from the Super Bowl, World Series and Olympics to golf's U.S. Open and the Belmont Stakes.

A major advocate of journalists and journalism on Long Island, Mr. Vaccaro is the president of the Press Club of Long Island, the local professional chapter of SPJ. As president, he led the nonprofit to its highest honor when it was recognized as SPJ's National Large Chapter of the Year in 2016, and he also helped found the Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

A member of the induction and selection committee of the Sachem Athletic Hall of Fame, Sachem Hall of Honor and National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Vaccaro is proud of his roots and helps in honoring others for their notable work. In the summer of 2017, he was also officially named as the executive director of the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame.

As a communication and social media consultant, Mr. Vaccaro has built multimedia platforms and content plans for school districts as well as nonprofit, government, sports and construction organizations. He has won more than two dozen journalism awards and has been recognized by Long Island Business News and Stony Brook University with each of their 40-under-40 awards. He has a master's degree in public policy from Stony Brook.

Mr. Vaccaro lives in Lake Grove, New York, with his wife, Theresa; sons, Hunter and Thompson; and their pup, Arrow.