

James Marshal Crotty

BIO

James Marshall Crotty has written about himself and America for nearly three decades and through various media incarnations, from Frommer's to Playboy to Forbes. However, he is best known as the co-founder of Monk: the Mobile Magazine, which, from 1986-1998, he peripatetically published from the dashboard of his 26-foot motorhome ("The Monkmobile"). Via Monk Magazine, Crotty and his fellow "Monk" Michael Lane pioneered "the mobile office" (Portable Computing Magazine) and invented "dashboard publishing" (Factsheet Five).

Crotty is also the author of How To Talk American (Houghton Mifflin) and primary author of the USA Phrasebook (Lonely Planet). With Lane, he co-authored Mad Monks on the Road (Simon & Schuster), The Mad Monks' Guide to California (Macmillan), The Mad Monks' Guide to New York City (Macmillan), and The Mad Monks' Guide to New York CD-ROM (Voyager/Monk Media).

In 2002, after earning a Masters in Liberal Arts from St. John's College Santa Fe ("the great books school"), Crotty left the media world to pursue a new passion: ending the U.S. dropout epidemic. A two-time nationals qualifier in policy debate from Omaha Creighton Prep, Jim started out coaching debate at New York's prestigious Stuyvesant High School and then the Bronx High School of Science – qualifying teams for nationals in each year - before launching the speech and debate program at the Eagle Academy for Young Men in the South Bronx.

Crotty's pioneering work in transforming young at-risk men of color into what Crotty terms "academic athletes" lead to him being hired as the Forbes education columnist from 2011-2015. At Forbes, Crotty became well versed in not only the acclaimed Forbes publishing model, but he also became a widely followed expert in the rapidly evolving field of education and edtech. Crotty was one of the first journalists to write about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). He also lead the way in exposing abuses at for-profit colleges, as well as cheating scandals in school districts like Atlanta. Most important, Crotty has been an articulate evangelist for liberal arts education – grounded in a deep reading and discussion of the classics – as the best preparation for a 21st century high-tech, innovation-driven global economy.

Crotty is currently an independent politics, culture and travel columnist for The Huffington Post. In addition, he remains an active partner in L.A.-based Monk, which has grown to include the design and production company Monk Media, Monk Web Hosting, and the film and TV production studio Monk Space.

In addition to his St. John's studies, Crotty earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech from Northwestern University. He currently leads and attends great books discussion groups around the world, and gives speeches for hire around the themes of liberal arts, cultural capital, and "creating a life worth living."

Please visit www.JamesCrotty.com for links to Jim's books, magazines, and other creative work, including his fun and inspiring feature documentary about debate, mentorship, and surrogate family, Crotty's Kids.