James Benedict

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Experience

Reuters News Agency - Washington D.C. (remote)

News Apprentice, March - August 2017
Reported for an investigative series about Tasers with the national desk. Helped populate our database with original reporting and cowrote a story. Streamlined my reporting with Python. Conducted interviews, gathered primary documents and researched using media/legal databases.

Indiana Daily Student - Bloomington, IN

Digital Redesign Manager, February - April 2017
Worked with editorial, advertising and a contracted CMS provider to redesign the website. Focused on improving mobile user experience and increasing ad revenue. Tested and revised mockups based on user feedback.

Investigations Reporter, January - December 2016
Analyzed and visualized data. Created maps, charts, and custom websites. Stories on campaign finance, campus crime and health care.

Digital Director, August - December 2015
Managed editors producing interactive and social content. Created multiple responsive websites and data visualizations. Developed well documented software. Managed homepage during breaking news.

Digital Editor, January - May 2015
Produced interactive graphics, websites and videos. Introduced analytics into editorial meetings. Developed a digital style guide.

Photographer, Jan 2014 - Dec 2016
Made photo essays, breaking news, and illustrations. Designed websites for optimal photo layouts. Covered beats. Toned and selected own photos.

Daily Monitor - Kampala, Uganda

HIV Reporting Intern, May - June 2016
Reported on HIV medication shortages and patient records for East Africa's largest independent newspaper. Wrote a story for an Ugandan audience and another for an American. Made photos and developed a website for the story. Studied at African Centre for Media Excellence.

Society for News Design - Bloomington, IN

Designer, June 2015 - June 2017
Designed pages for the 36th-38th "Best of News Design Book". Wrote software to improve efficiency on the 38th book.

President and Treasurer, October 2016 - May 2017
Managed the club and organized designers for the SND38 Book. Responsible for managing a $10 thousand budget.

Facilitator, January 2016 - January 2017
Facilitated the SND37 and 38 contests by helping select individual pages to appear in the book from the winning entries.

Education

Indiana University, May 2017
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
Certificate in Informatics (28 credits)
GPA 3.59

Awards

Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle
1st Photo Illustration, 2015
1st News Feature - Digital, 2014

Society for Professional Journalists
National Finalist Online News Reporting, 2016

Indiana Collegiate Press Association
2nd Animation / Interactive Graphic, 2017
2nd Informational Graphic, 2016
1st News Feature Reporting Online, 2016
1st Feature and Sports Photo Yearbook, 2016
1st News Photo, 2016
2nd Photo Essay, 2015

Skills

Web Development
Javascript, JQuery, HTML, CSS, SASS, D3, Flask, Leaflet, CartoDB, Gulp, Git, Responsive design, Basic PHP, Wordpress.

Data Analysis
Python, SQL, Excel, Pandas, Numpy, Matplot, Jupyter notebook, Web scraping, Relational database design.

Additional
Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, QGIS, UI design, AP Style, FOIA Requests, DSLR Photography, Nexis, Factiva, Westlaw.