

Brendan W. Allison

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Summary: Having worked as the grant writer/editor for fifteen departments of Texas Tech University, as writer/editor for a biochemistry laboratory at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and with experience publishing for a mid-sized newspaper, I am uniquely qualified to calibrate my writing to distinct audiences and goals. I believe that good writing comes from good groundwork.

Professional Background

Grant Writer, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA (09/2016 to 05/2019)

Responsibilities: Facilitate, review, and edit grant proposals to local, state, federal, private and corporate entities for faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, while serving as a liaison outside of it. Establish the basic model of grant editing in the College, building various resource sets to support faculty and graduate student development in this inaugural position. Align efforts with broader strategic priorities. Create web presence (HTML).

Deliverables: Team lead for a successful NSF S-STEM proposal with several dozen faculty from two Colleges. Developed online resources, among them a GIS-rooted analysis of student demographics and admissions for use in recruitment and retention proposals. Proposed and developed a library of 500+ sample proposal narratives. Played a role in bringing in more than \$1.4 million to the College. **Distinguished Staff: Matador Award, 2018**

Sample Project: An overarching focus of my time at TTU was to build awareness—whether through maps, statistical analyses or direct faculty outreach—of the distinct overlap between TTU’s rural West Texas setting and national trends towards rural brain drain stagnation and population loss. From this foundation, I personally built a series of interventions and a proposed package of scholarship support successfully funded under the Type II track of the NSF S-STEM program, bringing together faculty from five STEM fields and the College of Education for this five-year project beginning in Spring 2020

Scientific Writing Assistant, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA, USA (02/2014 to 01/2016)

Responsibilities: The composition and editing of manuscripts, chapters, reviews, and grant applications for an audience of scientific peers. Development of writing skills among laboratory members. Reimbursements, purchasing, filing, documentation and other aspects of group organization and donor communications.

Deliverables: Worked with students, postdocs, the group PI, and other PIs for publications in journals such as *The Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *Angewandte Chemie*, and others. Led/coordinated two laboratory moves.

Sample Project: I composed, as first author, a 30-page chapter for a Royal Society of Chemistry book series in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), titled “Diffusion NMR in Confined Systems.”

Laboratory Technician, Wuxi Calex Science and Technology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA (09/2010 to 07/2012)

Responsibilities: Development of protocols and operation of rheometer, particle size analyzer and other equipment. Data cleaning and analysis. Conference calls with Chinese partners. Training and supervision of junior technicians from the nearby university.

Deliverables: Measurement protocols were used by all laboratory members and provided tight error bounds. Rapid and consistent characterization of photovoltaic pastes prior to printing, and of wafers after firing. Cross-Pacific communication.

Sample Project: Computer program that automated a key step in data analysis. Where three arbitrary points were manually measured to determine printed line heights and widths, automated line-identification and normalization to zero allowed for a fuller characterization of the lineshape.

Correspondent (Intern), Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Barbara, CA, USA (06/2008 to 08/2008)

Responsibilities: Story formulation, research, revision, and publication. Interviews and other story elements were accompanied by News Press photographers.

Deliverables: The composition of more than thirty articles, at least seven of them front-page stories, for a newspaper of more than 35,000 subscribers.

Sample Project: My summer at the News Press happened to coincide with the Santa Barbara Gap Fire, which burned intensely for a month in the hills over Santa Barbara at a time when simultaneous fires were breaking out across the state, stretching firefighting resources thin. There are few other times in the life of a city when a newsroom is more important, and I was lucky enough to play a role in gathering and transmitting reliable and relevant information to the public.

EDUCATION

RECENT AND ANTICIPATED COURSEWORK

Anticipated Coursework Texas A&M University 2019-2020: In anticipation of graduate programs, I have left work at TTU and begun full-time coursework at Texas A&M University. This should result in Bachelor of Arts in Computing in one busy year. The expected courses are as follows:

Computer Science: Intro to Programming Design, Discrete Structures for Computing, Intro to Computing, Data Structures and Algorithms, Computer Organization, Programming Languages, Introduction to Computer Systems, Programming Studio, Topics in Computer Science Seminar, Database Systems, Parallel Computing, Artificial Intelligence

Other: Engineering Mathematics III, Mathematical Statistics I, Mathematical Statistics II, Linear Algebra

Past STEM Coursework (all semester system with the exception of general chemistry): General Chemistry I, II and III, Calculus I and II, Biology I and II, Organic Chemistry I and II, Genetics, Cell Biology, Principles of Ecology (Texas Tech University GPA: 3.87)

FIRST DEGREE

University of California, Irvine: Bachelor of Arts in Literary Journalism, 2009 (Overall GPA: 3.67)

Honors: Regent's Scholarship, Campuswide Honors Program, Humanities Honors Program, Libraries-UROP Research Fellowship (awarded in support of undergraduate honors thesis), Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

Program Summary: The literary journalism program at UC Irvine consists of the study and production of pieces of long-form narrative non-fiction. My honors thesis was focused on the personal narrative of an auditor who saw something suspicious in the investment strategy of wealthy Orange County in the run-up to its 1994 bankruptcy but did not raise a red flag. The resultant \$1-billion debt was only paid off in July of 2017.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer, English Opens Doors, Punta Arenas, Magallanes Region, Chile (03/13 to 07/13)

Responsibilities: Independent and team-teaching in a Chilean public school, from 5th to 12th grade (program of the Chilean Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Programme-Chile). 25 classroom hours, 10 hours lesson-planning and extracurricular.

Deliverables: Cultural exchange, sharing of my background as motivation for students to consider English language and culture as something accessible and motivating. Lesson plans built around active learning. Fun!