# Deborah J. Balthazar

djbalthazar15@gmail.com | deborahjbalthazar.com | 862.438.0360

## **EDUCATION**

**New York University** Sept. 2021 - Dec. 2022

M.A. in Journalism; Science, Health and Environmental Reporting

New York, New York

**Caldwell University** Aug. 2013 - May 2017

B.A. in Biology (Pre-Med); Minor(s): English & Chemistry, GPA: 3.62/4.0, cum laude Caldwell University Scholarship, Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society (President) Caldwell, New Jersey

## **JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE**

## **Freelance Science Reporter**

Sept. 2022 - Present

Sept. 2022 - Dec. 2022

Pitching and researching stories for different outlets.

Intern

**Science News** Washington, DC

Wrote news stories for a general audience at Science News Magazine and writing for middle school students at Science News Explores. Also converted Science News stories into Science News Explores stories.

Made TikToks and wrote scripts for Science News social media, wrote book reviews and did factchecking.

Intern May 2022 - Sept. 2022 Scholastic New York, New York

Researched and wrote science news and feature stories for young magazine readers (ages 8-14) on topics including engineering, life science, statistics, and history for Science World and SuperScience

Reviewed and edited page layouts and copy for stories, games, as well as teacher's resources

## **Contributing Writer & Copy Editor & Factchecker**

Nov. 2021 - Present

Scienceline

**New York, New York** 

- Pitched, wrote, and published stories about biotechnology for the Science, Health and Environmental Reporting's online publication
- Copyedited pieces before publication to catch spelling, grammar, and AP style mistakes

**Freelance Reporter** 

Dec. 2018 – Aug. 2021

TAPinto.net

West Orange, New Jersey

Pitched, reported, wrote, and fact-checked 250 stories related to local government and community on topics including COVID-19, dress code controversy, protests, business openings and sensory science

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Substitute Teacher** 

Nov. 2019 - March 2020; Feb. 2021 - May 2022

**West Orange Public Schools** 

West Orange, New Jersey

- Worked as a daily substitute paraprofessional and teacher mostly in STEM and biology, and other subjects throughout the district
- Served as a long-term replacement for a special education middle school science teacher on leave, creating engaging lesson plans and labs

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Undergraduate Research Student** 

Sept. 2016 - May 2017

**Caldwell University Department of Natural Sciences** 

Caldwell, New Jersey

Studied the effects of toothbrush contamination and suggested solutions for toothbrush decontamination; grew and identified bacteria through morphology

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

May 2015 - July 2015 Baltimore, Maryland

**Diversity Summer Internship Program** 

- Collected data on Maryland food recovery efforts and its effect on food waste with the Maryland Food System Mapping Project (MFSMP) team in the Center for a Livable Future
- Published a blog post based on research topic on Center for a Livable Future Blog

# **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- <u>2021 Anne O'Hare McCormick Scholar</u> for the next generation of outstanding female journalists
- 2022 Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) Diversity Fellow supports journalist attendance at the 2022 SEJ Conference in Houston, Texas

# **SKILLS**

- Adobe Audition, Hindenburg, Descript, Zoom H5 Recorder, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Docs
- Language Proficiencies: French and Haitian Creole (can read and write)