

Eric Lau

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI

May 2024

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Minors in Science, Technology & Society (STS) and Digital Studies

Coursework: *Programming Paradigms, Programming Languages, Introduction to Computer Architecture, Data Structures and Algorithms, Discrete Math, Database Management Systems, Foundations of Computer Science, How Algorithms See, Data Visualization, Critical Data Visualization, Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis, Rhetoric of Infographics*

EXPERIENCE

The Texas Tribune Austin, TX

Data Visuals Fellow

Jun. 2022 – Aug. 2022

- Collaborated with reporters to analyze data with Observable and Python, and produce over 20 graphics using Datawrapper, D3, and Adobe Illustrator.
- Analyzed historical polling data, interviewed several pollsters, created graphics, and wrote a story on Texas public opinion regarding abortion.
- Improved accessibility in the team's graphics kit, allowing screen readers to read alternative text for D3 and Illustrator visuals.

Engineering Fellow

Jan. 2022 – May 2022

- Converted several Django templates to flatpages with a new layout, reducing code duplication and allowing for easier copy changes with our in-house CMS.
- Implemented quality-of-life features for the photo team (e.g., copying photo IDs, ability to modify photo dimensions inside a grid, etc.) with Django and Web Components.
- Modified a Slack bot to surface donation campaign names, helping gauge the real-time performance of fundraising campaigns, utilized Python and the Salesforce API.

The Michigan Daily Ann Arbor, MI

Senior Software Engineer

Jan. 2023 – present

- Built a crossword player and administrative dashboard with SvelteKit. Collaborated with crossword writers and the business and design teams to publish weekly puzzles, garnered over 18,000 page views.
- Wrote dozens of pages of educational and referential material on web development and data journalism to aid in knowledge transfer and new member onboarding.

Managing Online Editor

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022

- Led the newsroom's team of 40 engineers, designers, and data journalists to create over 50 special websites, designs, data graphics and stories published on our WordPress website and React microsites.
- Developed bore, an in-house data graphics library built on top of D3, allowing data journalists to quickly prototype basic and stylistically consistent visualizations.
- Oversaw and contributed to the release of The Daily's mobile app, utilized Expo, React Native and the WordPress REST API.

Data Journalist

Sep. 2020 – Dec. 2021

- Collaborated with reporters and analyzed data from FOIA requests, online sources, and student surveys to create 24 data graphics and write 3 data-driven stories.
- Wrote a live election results scraper for Washtenaw County using Python, developed graphics to showcase Ann Arbor's 2021 special election results with Svelte.

SKILLS

Languages: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, SQL, C/C++, Java, PHP, ArchieML, Dart
Technologies: React, React Native, Svelte, D3, Node, Flask, Django, Git, AWS, Docker
Applications: Adobe Illustrator, QGIS, Datawrapper

AWARDS & HONORS

Lipsey Journalism Award for Multimedia Reporting (2022), SPJ Region 4 Mark of Excellence Data Visualization (2022), SBUHacks Best UI/UX – Aurora Hack (2020), National Merit Scholarship Finalist (2020), University Honors (Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021), AP Scholar with Distinction (2019, 2020)