TEGHAN SIMONTON

CONTACT

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SKILLS

- Investigative and news reporting
- R, Python, SQLite, Microsoft Excel
- Webscraping
- Github Actions
- Datawrapper, Mapbox, Tableau
- Profile and feature writing
- Copy editing and AP Style
- Photography and photo editing

AWARDS

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOC.

- 2022 Scholarship winner

KEYSTONE MEDIA AWARDS-PRO

- Third Place, Education Reporting, 2021

DOW JONES NEWS FUND ALUMNA

- Data Journalism, 2019

KEYSTONE MEDIA AWARDS-STUDENT

- First place, General News, 2019
- Honorable mention, General News, 2018
- First place, Feature Photography, 2017

SPJ MARK OF EXCELLENCE

- Region 4 finalist, Feature Photography, 2017
- Region 4 finalist, General News, 2017
- Region 4 finalist, Feature Writing, 2017
- National, first place, In-depth Reporting, 2016
- Region 4 Best All-around Non-daily, 2016
- Region 4, first place, In-depth Reporting, 2016
- Region 4 first place, General News, 2016

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS

University of Missouri | Aug. 2021 - May 2023
- Focus: Investigative & Data Reporting

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Waynesburg University | Aug. 2015 - May 2019
- Major: Journalism & Public Relations
- Minor: Digital Design
- GPA: 3.94

EXPERIENCE

DATA REPORTER, BUSINESS & HEALTH
TAMPA BAY TIMES | JUNE 2023 - PRESENT

- Analyze data for news stories and investigations using R and Python. Work independently and collaborate with journalists across newsroom to bolster reporting with data.
- Report on topics related to poverty, cost of living and growth in Tampa Bay. Notable topics include rising energy costs, ballooning rent prices, and an ongoing series evaluating investor activity in the region's housing market; The latter garnered at least 28 newspaper subscriptions, millions of page views and massive reader response.
- Create engaging data visualizations with Datawrapper, Mapbox and other digital tools for innovative storytelling.

RESEARCH FELLOW
WATCHDOG WRITERS GROUP | AUG. 2022 - MAY 2023

- Assisted journalists in nonprofit fellowship program that produces nonfiction books and investigative reporting. Performed research, records requests, data gathering and analysis for original investigative stories on state prisons and mass incarceration across the U.S.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT
IRE & NICAR | AUG. 2021 - DEC. 2022

- Cleaned and analyzed datasets for newsrooms across the U.S. Assisted reporters in making sense of data from government and private sources, including identifying key questions and developing story direction.

INVESTIGATIONS INTERN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL | SUMMER 2022

- Authored stories for Review-Journal Investigations team, incorporating data analysis, public records requests and in-depth interviews for impactful narrative storytelling with an accountability focus. Spearheaded complex, long-term, data-driven projects using R and SQLite.

STAFF WRITER
PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW | OCT. 2019 - MAY 2021

- Reported breaking and daily metro news in Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania, with topics including COVID-19, politics, education and local government. Created video and captured photos as needed.
- Developed investigative stories relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring angles such as school response, hospital capacity, vaccine distribution and outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

DATA INTERN & FREELANCE JOURNALIST
USA TODAY NETWORK | SUMMER 2019 - PRESENT

- Interned with national data and investigative teams to mine and clean data for enterprise investigative reporting on police misconduct, college admissions and other topics; Utilized digital tools to interpret data and created clear visualizations.

REPORTING INTERN
THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION | SUMMER 2018

- Provided in-depth coverage to issues relating to colleges and universities, including politics, economics, public policy and campus safety. Noteworthy assignments include institutions' responses to alumni in political positions, health concerns in campus buildings and faculty rights disputes.