

MEGAN ZEREZ

meganzerez@gmail.com | c. 808 - 284 - 3857

EDUCATION

Columbia University - Stabile Center for Investigative Reporting M.S. Journalism, part time | May 2021 (exp.)

Investigated effects of COVID-19 on New York's most vulnerable using web-scraping and enterprise reporting in collaboration with non-profit newsroom, *The City*. Worked with team to produce weekly live radio broadcast. Covered elder care facilities and undocumented home health aides. Served as representative for parttime cohort on school SPJ chapter.

University of Texas at Dallas & University of North Texas M.S. Biotechnology / Science Communication | May 2019

Pioneered new masters' concentration in Science Communication as a part time student. Wrote thesis on South African media ethics and citizen journalism during 2015 #FeesMustFall national student uprising.

University of Texas at Dallas B.S. Molecular Biology (honors) | May 2017

Coursework in political science, education & computer science. Academic Excellence Scholar, National Merit Scholar.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

News Intern

WNYC/Gothamist | New York City/Remote | Jan - Aug 2020

Reported, scripted and produced breaking stories for daily audio newscast, including original data journalism and features on elections, census and nursing homes through the height of the pandemic. Helped build Gothamist's COVID tracking project after transition to remote work.

Staff Reporter & Photographer

The Mercury | Richardson, Texas | 2018 - 2019

Pitched and reported 2-3 stories a week for college newspaper. Covered breaking news, labor, sexual violence and local government. Investigative series on exploitation of student workers won state and national SPJ awards.

Radio Editorial Intern

KERA News | Dallas, Texas | 2018

Pitched, edited and helped produce shows and social media for daily flagship show, *Think with Krys Boyd*. Reported and produced original audio and web pieces, including feature on refugee gardeners, broadcast statewide as part of *Texas Standard's* Best-of Texas Radio 2018.

Freelance Reporter

New York, South Africa & Dallas, Texas | 2016 - 2020

Contributor to local news site *West Side Rag*. Produced audio stories for KERA, such as a profile on a drama club at North Texas' first Muslim high school. Documented police brutality, municipal courts, protests and education during national student #FeesMustFall protests in South Africa.

REFERENCES

Richard Yeh *Sen. Producer, WNYC / Prof., Columbia University*, ryeh@nypublicradio.org

Chad Thomas *Dir. Student Media, The Mercury*, chadthomas@utdallas.edu

Samantha Guzman *Producer, KLRU Austin (formerly KERA)*, 972-768-6665

SKILLS

Investigative Journalism: *Public Records Law; trauma informed reporting practices*

Data Journalism: *Statistical analysis/ database building (SQL, Python, Tableau, Excel); web scraping; data visualization; Bloomberg Terminal.*

Audio/Video Production: *Adobe Premier, Audition, iMovie, Audacity, tape-syncs, remote production.*

Visual: *Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, WordPress*

Memberships: *Asian American Journalists Assn, Assn of LGBTQ Journalists, Investigative Reporters and Editors, SPJ*

BEFORE JOURNALISM

- 2014-2018
▶ **Research Assistant/Lab Manager**
University of Texas at Dallas/UT Southwestern
Led several research projects on CRISPR/Cas9, co-authored research paper and successful NSF & NIH grants, trained new lab members, organized STEM outreach program for low-income youth. Editor of university research journal. UT Southwestern Medical Center Green Fellow.
- 2013-2015
▶ **Student Teacher, Bussey Middle School**
Dallas Independent School District
Developed hands-on, lab based curriculum to make bioengineering concepts accessible in an low-income school district
- 2009-2020
▶ **Paying the Bills:** *Cashier, Costco; Server, local gastropub; Shift lead, AMF Bowling Alley; "Worm Rancher" / Biologist, Texas Worm Ranch; Cashier, Punahou snack bar*

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