

# ROBERTA KWOK

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## Education

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- Graduate Certificate, Science Communication**, University of California, Santa Cruz December 2008
- M.F.A., Creative Writing**, Indiana University at Bloomington June 2007
- B.Sc., Biological Sciences**, Minor in Mathematics, Stanford University June 2000

## Writing Experience

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- Freelance Science Writer** January 2007 – present
- Clients include *Nature*, *New Scientist*, *Conservation*, *Salon.com*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Science News for Kids*, *California*, *Mongabay.com*, *Loh Down on Science*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*
  - Won the American Geophysical Union's 2010 Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism
- Science Writer, Conservation's Journal Watch Online** July 2009 – July 2010
- Wrote four stories per week about new research findings for *Conservation* magazine's website
  - Identified papers, found artwork, published posts to website, and moderated comments
  - Covered ecology, marine science, geology, climate change, and conservation
- News Intern, Nature** January – March 2009
- Wrote about new studies, conferences, and government hearings for *Nature*'s news website and blog
  - Covered science policy and community news, including climate-change law and stimulus package grants
  - Contributed research summaries, news briefs, and two feature stories to the weekly print magazine
- Research Communications Fellow, Idaho National Laboratory** July – December 2008
- Wrote news releases and responded to media requests about US Department of Energy research
  - Produced website features on a variety of topics, including energy, space, archaeology and technology
  - Created lab's first research podcasts and set up Idaho National Laboratory iTunes channel
- Reporting Intern, ScienceNOW** March – June 2008
- Wrote stories about new research findings for *Science* magazine's daily online news service
  - Interviewed researchers and outside experts for each story, with two- to three-day turnaround
- Production Intern, SETI Radio** January – March 2008
- Assisted production of the SETI Institute's weekly hour-long science podcast, *Are We Alone?*
  - Edited audio, wrote portions of script, prepared interview questions and developed show ideas
- Reporting Intern, Salinas Californian** September – December 2007
- Wrote two to three stories a week for Monterey County newspaper (circulation 17,000)
  - Covered agriculture, environment, health, community, education and election night

## Research and Engineering Experience

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- Scientific Programmer, Stanford University Medical Center** July 2003 – July 2004
- Developed software and designed database to support evolutionary analysis of protein sequences
  - Set up Mac OS X computer server to allow file sharing and website hosting in laboratory

**Ontology Engineer, Ingenuity Systems**

July 2000 – June 2003

- Developed software to build knowledge base of gene pathway data for biotechnology start-up
- Managed an interdisciplinary team of scientists, software engineers and QA engineers

**Student Researcher, Stanford University**

September 1998 – June 2000

- Completed thesis on identification of signalling element in immune response gene
- Recipient of Howard Hughes Summer Research Fellowship

**Teaching Experience**

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**Associate Writing Instructor, Indiana University at Bloomington**

August 2004 – May 2007

- Taught four creative writing classes and two composition classes to undergraduates
- Designed course syllabi, ran fiction workshops and extensively edited student work

**Multimedia Skills**

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- Experience recording and editing podcasts and video
- Familiar with Sound Forge, Audacity, Soundslides and Final Cut Express
- Co-developed website robertakwok.com using HTML and CSS

**Awards**

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- Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism – Features 2010
- Idaho National Laboratory Fellowship, University of California, Santa Cruz 2007–08
- Ross Lockridge Jr. Award in Creative Writing, Indiana University at Bloomington 2006
- Omar Castaneda Fellowship in Fiction, Indiana University at Bloomington 2004–06
- Phi Beta Kappa Society, Stanford University 2000
- Howard Hughes Summer Research Fellowship 1999
- Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Scholarship 1997–98

**Professional Memberships**

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- National Association of Science Writers
- Northern California Science Writers Association

**References**

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Available upon request.