

ROBERTA KWOK

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Education

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

Freelance Science Writer January 2007 – present

- Clients include *Nature*, *Conservation*, *Salon.com*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Science News for Kids*, *California*, *Mongabay.com*, *Loh Down on Science*, and *Biomedical Computation Review*
- Reviewed popular science book for the *San Francisco Chronicle*

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

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

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

- Experience recording and editing podcasts and video
- Familiar with Sound Forge, Audacity, Soundslides and Final Cut Express
- Created own website using HTML and CSS

Awards

- 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

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

References

Available upon request.