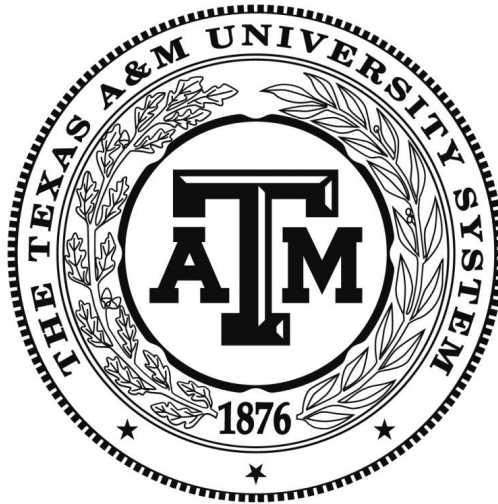


Science and Technology Journalism

Oh, The Places Former Students Go: A Five Part Multimedia Series

SPRING 2021



The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Graduate Program at Texas A&M University

In honor of the Science and Technology Journalism Program's 25th Anniversary, the STJR Program is running a series of profiles featuring some of our notable former students. Here are five multimedia articles, in chronological order of the interviewees' graduation from the STJR program.

Five Former Students' Locations, Mapped



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Writer and Editor Linda Wang Makes and Takes Opportunities

By Riley Farrell



When Linda Wang was a college junior, studying biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her impending professional choices weighed on her.

Unconvinced laboratory life suited her, Wang confided in her biochemistry professor. She mentioned her love of writing, and her professor suggested she look into a field called science writing. Wang said she had never heard of this field before and was intrigued.

As luck would have it, the University of Wisconsin-Madison university offered an elective on science writing. “The course was my first opportunity to write about science, and it was a perfect fit,” Wang said.

Thereafter, Wang sought out opportunities to write about science. In 1998, she joined her school’s newspaper, the Daily Cardinal, as the staff’s only science writer. Wang found her niche, writing about research on campus. Her first article was about astronaut John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, who returned to space for a nine-day research mission. Wang said she was exhilarated. “The morning after printing my piece for the public, I remember proudly going around campus and grabbing all the newspapers so I could have hundreds of copies of my article.”

The thrill of doing what she loves has not subsided, said Wang. After obtaining her M.S. in science and technology journalism in 2001, she has held several positions in science writing and editing. From 2011 to 2021, she was a senior editor at the weekly magazine Chemistry & Engineering News (C&EN) in Washington, D.C. Wang said her job there included a mix of writing, editing, and audience engagement.

Wang said her job at C&EN was especially rewarding because she grew up with the magazine as a household staple. Wang’s father, an organic chemist, has been receiving the magazine for more than 50 years. To this day, every time her dad gets C&EN in the mail, he flips through the whole magazine looking for his daughter’s byline.

How Texas A&M Equipped Linda Wang

Wang’s decision to attend Texas A&M for her M.S. in science and technology journalism (STJR) was easy. Though the program was relatively new in 1999, the STJR program offered her the curriculum and financial support she had been seeking.

Before moving to College Station, Wang spent the summer doing a science communication internship at the Argonne National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy multidisciplinary

science and engineering research center. As an intern, Wang wrote for the laboratory's public affairs office.

Then, at Texas A&M, she immersed herself in the STJR program to learn the basics of journalism. "Being in the master's program at Texas A&M gave me great skills in writing, reporting, and critical thinking."

Hoping to expand her experience, Wang reached out to multiple publications in Bryan-College Station, including the Texas A&M student newspaper (the Battalion) and a local monthly magazine (Insite Magazine). Wang wrote science pieces for both. Graduate school was a matter of gaining as much experience as possible, Wang said. "Anywhere I was able to get opportunities, I would grab them and just write as much as I could."

Wang recalled that she often reached out to science writers she admired while she was at Texas A&M. She sought out opportunities for career conversations with science journalists. One connection she made two decades ago, which she maintains today, is with Kenneth Chang, who has been a science reporter at The New York Times since 2000.

By the time Wang graduated in 2001, she had completed two more internships. In summer 2000, Wang was an intern in the American Chemical Society's communications office, where she wrote press releases. Wang spent her last spring semester at Texas A&M in Washington, D.C., doing an internship at the magazine, Science News.

After earning her master's degree, she was assistant news editor at the Journal of the National Cancer Institute for two years. There, Wang wrote news and feature articles about cancer research.

Digital Technology for Stories about People

Wang joined C&EN as a production editor in 2003. Since then, she has worked her way up through four positions and currently heads the ACS News team. In her years with C&EN, Wang

has acquired various skills in visual and social media that bring her reporting into the modern day. Wang also runs a small photography business on the side. “Multimedia journalism helps because it gives you extra tools to tell the story, especially on social media,” Wang said.

Wang gauges the topics that the general public cares about by engaging with Twitter and other social media. With over 15 years of experience in audience engagement and content creation, Wang seeks ways to make chemistry fun. One recent C&EN series project, Kitchen Chem, invites chemists to conduct culinary demonstrations and talk about the chemistry behind what they have cooked. For example, an article in the series portrays the science of [baking thumbprint cookies](#).



Wang said that although her job integrates various digital skills, her main priority is telling stories about people. These days, Wang’s writing no longer focuses on research. Her beat, employment and education, is human interest-based. “My stories highlight the people in the community. What are their struggles and their successes,” said Wang.

A 2017 article by Wang explores the obstacles that young Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients face as they try to enter science and related fields. For the article,

titled “[Undocumented students remain in the shadows of the chemical sciences](#),” Wang interviewed people who are part of the undocumented youth demographic to understand their future in science in the United States.

Not shying away from difficult topics, Wang has also written about how chemistry is taught to people serving prison sentences. As a part of her research for the 2007 article, “[Chemistry Behind Bars](#),” she attended a science class at San Quentin State Prison in California.

For [a story on chemistry education on Native American reservations](#), Wang spent a week traveling to reservations in Montana. During her 15-hour workdays, Wang looked into the accessibility and effectiveness of various forms of chemistry education there. “I tend to cover diverse communities and chemical sciences,” Wang said.

A recent article that has brought Wang an enormous sense of pride focused on sexual harassment in the chemical sciences. In March 2021, after three years of research and fact-checking, Wang and colleague Andrea Widener published “[Gianluigi Veglia sexually harassed his students and lab staff but wasn’t fired](#).” This lengthy piece centered on a series of sexual harassment cases at the University of Minnesota. “My most fulfilling moment was when we finished that story and had a huge response of gratitude from the community,” Wang said.

Wang said she views her professional future with open-minded optimism, as she will be able to take the skills she has learned at Texas A&M and beyond to apply to any endeavor she desires. In fact, she started a new job in May 2021 as a writer and editor for the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, bringing her full circle to writing about new research discoveries and making an impact.

Wang advised those interested in science writing to explore as many opportunities as possible. “Find the type of science writing that you love and do it,” Wang said. “By taking opportunities, you’ll ensure your future in science writing, because you’ll have built up a portfolio of work that you’re passionate about.”

Linda Wang's
Advice on
Taking
Opportunities



How Barbara Mendoza Went from STJR Student to TAMU Engineering Communications Director

By Riley Farrell



When Barbara Mendoza was growing up in New England, she occasionally visited her aunt who lived in the North Texas town of Southlake. On these vacations, Mendoza's positive experiences ultimately set her on the path to becoming the [Director of Communications](#) at [Texas A&M's College of Engineering](#).

Shopping with her family during a Texas visit as a child, she saw "the most beautiful, fancy, friendly woman" and vowed to her parents that she would attend college in Texas. After multiple twists and turns, Mendoza made good on that promise. She ended up with a leadership position

in communications for one of the largest engineering programs in the country, a family, and a philosophy that "everything works out."

Barbara's Backstory

While Mendoza initially attended Texas A&M for part of her undergraduate career, after one and a half years, she transferred to Newbury College in Massachusetts, closer to home, for personal reasons. At Newbury, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in media writing and communications in 2005. Thereafter, she applied to the science and technology journalism program (STJR) graduate program at Texas A&M.



Mendoza moved back to Texas, without even knowing if she got into the graduate program. Her risk paid off in 2006, as she was admitted and on her four-year journey to earning her M.S. diploma. The timeline for the program is typically two years, but Mendoza attended classes part-time while she worked full-time at Blinn College as a student facilitator and then as an academic advisor. "I was not a traditional student," Mendoza said. "I found my degree experience was fantastic, I was in a small cohort and I could go at a slower pace and take night classes."

Students in the STJR master's program choose between a science writing internship track and a thesis track. Mendoza opted for the internship track. For her internship, she worked at Science Editor, with the STJR program coordinator, Dr. Barbara Gastel, who also worked as the editor-in-chief. [Science Editor](#) is a magazine, published in print and online by the Council of Science Editors (CSE), covering matters of editing and publishing in the sciences. "My internship was the cherry on top of the program," Mendoza said. "I was so fortunate to be published and to talk with notable individuals."

For students wanting to attend graduate school, Mendoza has three tips: "focus on school, get in as little debt as possible, and go with your gut."



After getting her master's in 2010, Mendoza continued working at Blinn College until 2012. Mendoza then shifted to Texas A&M, where she filled various communications positions.

Current College-Wide Communications

Nowadays, Mendoza oversees a staff of 35, implementing new communications initiatives to a college of 20,000 engineering students. One recent project is a series of information impact reports, sent out each semester, that share information about media coverage, website analytics,

and social media reach so that students and faculty are aware of the accomplishments in their department.

"Ever since I was hired, I have not stopped loving the work that I do and the potential impact it has across the college," Mendoza said. "My job is the perfect melding of what I studied in grad school with science and technology journalism, married with my passion for higher education communications."

The engineering communications field is competitive and growing, Mendoza said. "The key to making it in the field is having fantastic customer service because our office is a free service to the College of Engineering," Mendoza said.

As a member of the staff, Mendoza shared her advice for success in her leadership role. "With so much going on, we have many priorities; there's plenty to be reactive to, so we try to be proactive."

At the College of Engineering, Mendoza has had the chance to be a part of noteworthy projects for years, such as the Aggie Race Day celebration in 2014, when Texas A&M hosted professional race car driver [Jeff Gordon](#). In 2016, Mendoza was a part of the team that put on Texas A&M's Hyperloop Design Build Competition, when Tesla founder Elon Musk made [a surprise visit](#) to campus.

Despite the celebrity accolades, Mendoza said she defines her success in the smaller, more personal moments. "I have thank-you notes in my desk from my staff," Mendoza said. "Those are more meaningful than any event that we've had."

How Technical Writer Claire Waters Creates Content and Contentment

By Riley Farrell



Claire Waters—a wordsmith according to her LinkedIn profile—came from an education in the liberal arts. While earning her B.A. in journalism and Spanish at Indiana University, she never thought she would be using words for technical writing about hardware and software. Yet, in 2015, the humanities-trained Waters found herself in Texas A&M's grad-level Risk and Crisis Reporting course, learning about methodical concision in communication, and feeling undeniably happy.



~~Trial and Error~~, More Like Research and Development

After all, Waters' first memorable exposure to journalism looked very different than the writing she does today. Although she "always wanted to do something with words," Waters decided reporting was her calling as she was sitting in seventh-grade history in Fort Wayne, Indiana, watching a film for class. "The movie was about a journalist who was reporting on the Nazi persecution of the Jewish people in Germany," Waters said. "The reporter was trying to represent people that didn't have a voice and I thought, 'Yeah, I want to do journalism.'"

Waters added that she realized quickly, in high school, that high-pressure hard news writing was not her jam, since she enjoyed having the time to finish editorial pieces.

At Indiana University, Waters was aware of technical writing but she avoided the field because she did not think she was "technical enough." That is until 2012, when she did a three-month writing internship with Texas Highways Magazine, a regional, innovation-focused travel magazine housed in the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Because Waters thrived at her internship, she took an opportunity at the Travel Information Division of TxDOT to be an information specialist for a year and a half. In this position, she

worked in marketing and communications for public awareness campaigns, including “Don't Mess with Texas,” “Drive Clean Across Texas,” and “Adopt a Highway.”

Specialization for Professionalization

In 2013, having discerned that she was not passionate about marketing, Waters entered the MS program in science and technology journalism (STJR) at Texas A&M University. She started part-time while working at TxDOT, then left her job and enrolled full-time for two semesters, and finally completed her last semester part-time after accepting a technical writing job.

Waters said she enjoyed the STJR program's interactional curriculum. She said there was a symbiotic ecosystem of students with scientific and humanities backgrounds. "I learned how to talk with people who have heavy hard science backgrounds in a way that would allow me to build good stories," Waters said. "Conversely, I helped my peers hone their writing skills and communicate to a general audience."

In STJR, National Instruments (NI) hired Waters for her first technical writing internship. "I had heard that tech writing was boring, but all the people I met through my NI process were engaged and smart," Waters said.

Headquartered in Austin, Texas, NI is a producer of automated test equipment and virtual instrumentation software, such as data acquisition, instrument control, and machine vision. Waters, who did technical writing at NI, said she “loved the combination of [NI's] engineering topics with the stability of a corporate life.”

Because Waters excelled at her internship, NI encouraged her to seek employment there. Two weeks after her internship ended, Waters started a full-time job at NI that she was able to do remotely from 2015 to 2021. "In tech, five and a half years is a long time to stay in one place so I felt like I should make a move," said Waters.

A Flair For Cloudflare

In January 2021, Waters was onboarded as a technical writer and user experience advocate at Cloudflare. Headquartered in San Francisco, Cloudflare is a website security company that

provides content delivery network services, the mitigation of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), and domain name services.



Waters has a two-week task turnaround at Cloudflare, called a "sprint or an iteration." So far, Waters has worked on multiple sprints. She worked extensively with application programming interface (API) documentation. She also developed a content strategy so users can be successful with products. Cloudflare's consumers using the products are mostly information security engineers. "I constantly think about the purpose of our content, how we measure the content's success, who the content is for, and how we target our users," Waters said.

Currently, Waters is qualitatively researching Cloudflare's success by interviewing employees and customers. Essentially, she asks people questions about how they use Cloudflare's product and the expectations they have in certain types of content, which allows Waters to conduct the journalism that she first fell in love with as a kid.

Waters' said her employment in the technology sector allows her to have flexibility in hours and balance in life. Funnily enough, Waters literally lives in a Texas town called Pleasanton. She teaches yoga in her free time. Despite not expecting to end up in technical writing, Waters said that she is completely content at her job. "I would not be at any company if I was not happy doing the work."

Science Writer Gina Wadas on Maintaining Professional Pride Without Pretentiousness

By Riley Farrell



From 2010 to 2013, pet owners may have encountered Gina Wadas working her typical shift from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. in a veterinary medicine clinic in Aurora, Illinois. One night, Wadas, then in her late twenties, was summoned to clean up a dog's accident in the animal hospital's lobby, which she did without complaint. She completed this unglamorous task with such enthusiasm that the pet's owner told Wadas that he had "never seen someone take so much pride in mopping the floor."

Wadas smiled and responded, "You should always take pride in what you do."

With that same positive attitude, Wadas has educationally and professionally risen up over the last decade. Since 2017, Wadas has worked as a [science writer](#) at the Johns Hopkins Institute of Nanobiotechnology.

Education at the Intersection of Creativity and Analysis

Wadas was an untraditional student in multiple ways.

She transferred as a junior into Western Illinois University (WIU) at 26 years old. Before transferring to a four-year college, she earned her associate of science degree from the College of DuPage, while working to pay for school.

At Western Illinois, she defied convention by majoring in zoology/biology and minoring in creative writing. "My undergrad advisor told me, 'I can't even tell you what the requirements are since I've never had a science student with a humanities minor,'" Wadas said.

Though schools separately develop arts and science curricula, Wadas sees the merging of prose and facts as a valuable device to communicate. "Learning science and creative writing concurrently was a valuable experience," Wadas said. "It really primed me for a career in translating technical scientific research into an accessible form for a general audience."

Wadas finished her bachelor's degree in 2009 and contemplated her next move. Wadas said she originally considered pursuing biology research but felt deterred by the red tape and bureaucracy innate in this field. She also had an interest in pursuing broader knowledge in many subjects rather than deep knowledge in one research subject. Therefore, she utilized the power of the internet to try and find her professional fit. "Lo and behold, I saw there are actual degrees out there in science communication," Wadas said.

Wadas discovered Texas A&M's Science & Technology Journalism (STJR) master's program on that fateful web search. She was attracted to the STJR's coursework in both science journalism and science. Wadas was accepted into the STJR program and she "loved Texas A&M and loved living in Texas."



From 2013 to 2015, Wadas worked first as a proofreader and then as an academic publishing intern at the Texas A&M University Press while earning her MS degree. "STJR students are serious about gaining as much science communication experience as they can while in the two-year program," Wadas said. "That's why we often seek employment or internships outside our course and assistantship work."

Wadas finished her master's degree in 2015. She leveraged her experience at the Texas A&M University Press to be onboarded as an editorial associate at the University of Chicago Press. After ten months in Chicago, Wadas returned to the "more interesting and fulfilling work" at Texas A&M, as an editorial assistant and a graduate assistant. There, she helped underrepresented STEM graduate students with their writing skills until the summer of 2017.

A Collaboration-Centered Career

In May 2017, Wadas moved to Baltimore to start her new job as a science writer at Johns Hopkins University. As a self-described "multipotentialite," she says her job merges her passions for science and storytelling in a collaborative environment. "Multipotentialites have an expanded skill set that brings a lot of good ideas to the table," Wadas said.

Launched in 2006, the Johns Hopkins Institute for Nanobiotechnology at Johns Hopkins University is a multidisciplinary team of faculty, researchers, and student experts. "The research at the institute is quite vast," Wadas said.

Nanobiotechnology is the application of nanotechnologies, that is looking at data on a nano-scale, to biological fields. Wadas describes nanobiotechnology as "an interface of fields" such as medicine, biology, engineering, physics, and math, coming together to solve problems.

The INBT features innovative research from every corner of science, from stem cell and tissue regeneration to cancer therapies and diagnostic devices. Within this context, Wadas has written articles on an array of subjects to promote INBT's presence in the field. Her three favorite projects were translating high-level discoveries such as [biomedical engineering](#) that detects genetic markers of cancer, [lab-grown blood vessel grafts](#), and [stem cell micropatterning](#).

The first favorite piece Wadas mentioned, called "Student develops microfluidics device to help scientists identify early genetic markers of cancer," was a report on a Hopkins Ph.D. candidate's invention. The invention was a HYPER-Melt device that identifies genetic and epigenetic changes, which Wadas described with a 'Where's Waldo' imagery-laden comparison. Wadas said she enjoyed the creativity of that project.

In her other favorite article, titled "Researchers develop a lab-grown blood vessel graft from natural polymers with regenerative properties," Wadas highlighted the feat of Hopkins researchers who created a dissolvable graft to treat heart conditions. This particular graft technology has clinical and commercial potential, which Wadas said was exciting to report on.

Wadas said her third favorite piece, "Bioengineers borrow from electronics industry to get stem cells to shape up," entailed intensive research on micropatterning in stem cells. Wadas added that she loved the explorative challenge of writing on cutting-edge science. No matter the field of science, Wadas said that her favorite articles are intimately connected to her experience with the innovators she covers. "It comes down to the students, researchers, and faculty that I end up interviewing," Wadas said.

"I enjoy my job because science is for everyone," Wadas said. "A lot of research is publicly funded with federal dollars, which means science is your tax dollars at work, so you should know what's going on."



Wadas lives out her aspiration to democratize the public's ability to learn about science and research through multimedia communication. Since 2017, Wadas has worked on the [Nano-Bio Report](#), an annual magazine that includes editorializing stories along with the information that highlights the INBT's accomplishments. She continues to champion the success of the institute via [student spotlight videos](#) on YouTube.

Wadas also takes the time to volunteer. Johns Hopkins encourages volunteering and, each year, Wadas gets two paid days off to volunteer, which she annually uses. She also gives back through unofficial channels on a weekly basis by picking up trash off of her neighborhood streets. "I see myself as a steward of the world."

Wadas has maintained an absence of pretentiousness in her labor and worldview, whether she's working for an elite university or sanitizing a space.

Scientific Script Writer Omar Fabian Makes Science Understandable For All

By: Riley Farrell



Picture this: A Materials Research Society Conference in San Francisco. The hotel where the conference took place buzzed with high-level scientific seminars and cutting-edge minds from all over the world. Outside the hotel, life, as usual, occurred as locals went about their daily routines. Subverting convention, this outside setting is where a 24-year-old Omar Fabian, a research assistant for his University of Texas at Austin graduate program, found out he loved making science understandable.

On the conference trip, [Fabian](#) and his chemistry department lab mates had opted for a more economical hotel option, which required the crew to trek to the conference location every morning, poster presentations in-tote. Waiting for the bus one morning, Fabian's peer half-joked that the graduate students should give a street-style-version of their presentation.

Their presentation was about organic polymers that would serve as fitting candidates for use in electronics and solar cells. Or, as Fabian calls it, "basic science." The topic was rare in his poster session, as his presentation dealt with basic science among other presentations that were entirely about engineering applications.

Though the street performance idea was mentioned in jest, Fabian decided to present. The crew went into a nearby drugstore to purchase tape and then put up their posters on bus poles and benches. During the presentation, a handful of passersby asked scientific questions. Fabian received \$10, a cigarette, and a "meaningful experience" from the ordeal.

"I learned that just because people aren't trained in science doesn't mean that they're not curious," Fabian said. "My favorite part of my job as a scientific script writer is communicating complex science in a way that anyone can understand."

A decade after the impromptu presentation in California, Fabian works remotely in Austin, Texas as a science communicator at [Research Square](#) Company. Founded as American Journal Experts in 2004, Research Square Company uses its preprint platform, promotion tools, and manuscript creation services to share the research of over 2.5 million authors.

A Life of Translation for Understanding

Fabian has always had a knack for bridging communication gaps between various levels of education and different languages entirely.

Fabian grew up in Alice, (population: 20,000), a town near Corpus Christi. His mom professionally made backpacks in the maquiladoras, or factories, in Alice and his dad was

employed as a machinist. Growing up, he learned Spanish and English at the same time. Even now, he primarily speaks with his parents in Spanish and with his four siblings in English.

In 2016, Fabian conducted bilingual journalism with his Spanish and English publication [Hagamos con ciencia](#) for [Materials Research Society](#), which is a nonprofit professional organization for materials researchers, scientists, and engineers. For this piece, Fabian interviewed the head of the Energy and Water Research Lab at Cinvestav-Salttillo, Mexico in Spanish and translated the information for this profile into English. Fabian still utilizes his bilingual capacity. “My Spanish comes in handy at Research Square because, sometimes, we’ll have scripts that customers will want to be translated into different languages,” Fabian said.

Beyond linguistics, Fabian has a mission to decode complex scientific news. To him, many topics in the Science Technology Engineering Medicine (STEM) community are gatekept behind convoluted jargon, making science seem like a cryptic space that only the most educated can enter. Fabian creates multimedia communication tools for the clients of Research Square, such as [videos](#) and [infographics](#), to help narrow the divide of understanding. “After I geek out over research, I like tapping into the accessibility of the researchers' knowledge by breaking down science to the level that our audiences need,” Fabian said. “The *most* fun science communication tends to be siloed, so I try to break out from the normal boundaries of how biomedicine or bioengineering is normally communicated.”



Three Educations, One Student

Though Fabian champions equitable access to STEM information despite one's level of education, he has no shortage of experience and schooling. He has earned three degrees. From 2004 to 2008, Fabian attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he majored in materials science and engineering and completed a humanities concentration in science, technology, and society. He also worked as an undergraduate research assistant in 2007 and 2008. Fabian decided to attend MIT after having a positive summer experience at MIT's [Project Interphase](#). "This 'nerd camp' was a great opportunity to immerse myself in a level of science and math that I hadn't been exposed to before," Fabian said.



Fabian then went on to pursue two graduate degrees. In the summer between his undergraduate and graduate schooling, Fabian was a research intern at NASA in Huntsville, Alabama. He then entered the material science graduate program at UT Austin. Fabian originally planned to receive a Ph.D., but two years into the program, after his advisor unexpectedly died, Fabian decided to get his M.S. instead. While earning his degree, he was a graduate research assistant.

While at UT, Fabian was hired by American Journal Experts (AJE) as an academic editor to edit physical sciences manuscripts. After getting his M.S., Fabian worked full-time for AJE, continuing to work there full-time after he enrolled in the science and technology journalism (STJR) graduate program at Texas A&M University in 2014. Texas A&M is located just a couple of hours away from Fabian's home base in Austin, the convenience of which helped Fabian decide to attend the STJR program. "I was getting more interested in creating scientific content, instead of just editing it, so I decided to go to grad school for science journalism at A&M," Fabian said.



Fabian commuted from Austin to College Station for the entirety of his two-year A&M graduate school experience, which included an internship at the Materials Research Society. The STJR program structure is designed to cater to commuting students, allowing the commuters to attend their block of classes in College Station only two to three days per week. “The STJR program helped me learn the mechanics of writing that could help me be a better science writer to different publics,” Fabian said. “My only regret is I didn't get to immerse myself more in the program because I lived in Austin.”

Attending a variety of educational institutions benefited him, said Fabian. First, he went out of state to MIT. Then he returned to Texas, choosing to attend the two largest state universities, UT and Texas A&M. “I enjoyed all three experiences,” Fabian said. “The level of intellect and curiosity from the students at MIT was the same as the students I encountered at A&M.”

Locally Sustainable and Globally Impactful Science Writing

Fabian’s favorite Research Square projects highlight science across the globe. One video he helped create, in collaboration with the MRS, was about Australian researchers who created [3D printed fins for surfboards](#). Another video focused on a laboratory in Amsterdam that used

optical technology and software technology to reproduce [Van Gogh's artwork](#) in its original colors.

Fabian said he attained a valuable work-life balance. He and his girlfriend enjoy spending time outdoors with their Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He plays league-level dart games with his friends. He said he feels granted autonomy and fulfillment from his profession. “Writing is not a particularly lucrative career but it’s rewarding,” Fabian said. “My mom told me when you find a job that you enjoy doing, it doesn't matter what the peripheral benefits are.”

Special Thanks

With the help of STJR program director Dr. Barbara Gastel and the five subjects of the articles, STJR intern Riley Farrell produced this multimedia profile series. Farrell is a senior at Texas A&M University and will attend Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in fall 2021.