James Urton, Ph.D.

Science writer Seattle, Washington

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Writing Experience

University of Washington News Office (June 2015 to present)

- Public information officer for the physical, engineering and life sciences.
- Beat: 13 departments and institutes.
- Portfolio (as of July 1, 2019): 96 press releases, 32 blog posts, 1 feature story
- Primary responsibilities:
 - Write and edit press releases and blog posts for a general audience.
 - Read and analyze journal articles and interview sources.
 - Distribute press releases and pitch news stories to journalists.
 - Field requests from journalists for UW information, experts and sources.
- Highlights:
 - Researchers expose impacts of Puerto Rico blackout on rural health (web, print)
 - Climate change projected to boost insect activity and crop loss
 - Later school start time boosts teen sleep, school attendance
 - High pregnancy failure in killer whales <u>linked to nutritional stress</u>
 - David Thouless <u>wins the Nobel Prize in Physics</u>

Freelance (August 2012 to February 2015; February 2019 to present)

• Including AAAS, AGU, Mongabay.com, NASA, BitesizeBio.com, Phase Genomics

Stanford University News Service (March to June 2015)

- Highlights:
 - New Horizons spacecraft carries Stanford instrument, software to Pluto & beyond
 - U.S. Army and Stanford engineers partner to set computational record

San Jose Mercury News (January to March 2015)

- Highlights:
 - Stanford scientists help predict solar storms
 - NASA conference <u>considers possibility of life on Europa</u>

Monterey County Herald (October to December 2014)

- Highlights:
 - Gravity and water are villians in Monterey County landslides
 - Monterey conference focuses on water harvesting and conservation

Education

2014 - 2015	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Graduate certificate in science communication
2005 - 2011	University of Washington
	Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology
1999 - 2003	Augustana College
	B.A. in biology; minors in geology and chemistry

Professional Memberships

National Association of Science Writers
<i>Governance Committee member (2017 – present)</i>
Northern California Science Writers Association
Northwest Science Writers Association

Research Experience

2013 - 2014	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
	• Senior scientist and manager in Carissa Perez Olsen's laboratory
	• Studied cell membranes in the worm <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>
2011 - 2013	University of Washington
	• Postdoctoral researcher in Christine Queitsch's laboratory
	• Studied gene regulation in the plant <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>
2005 - 2011	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
	Graduate student in Catherine Peichel's laboratory
	• Studied sex determination in stickleback fishes
2003 - 2005	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
	• Research technician in Meng-Chao Yao's laboratory
	• Studied DNA deletion the microbe <i>Tetrahymena thermophila</i>

<u>Skills</u>

Writing/editing	AP Style
Computer	Microsoft Office, Microsoft Teams, WordPress, Trello
Social media	Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

Interests

religion, classical music, history, art, cooking, traveling, pets

Complete professional writing portfolio available: jamesurton.com/portfolio References available upon request.