

Miquéla V. Thornton

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Madison, WI | Expected graduation date: May 2025 | Professional Master of Arts Candidate, David Maraniss Fellow

Vanderbilt University, College of Arts & Sciences, Nashville, TN, May 2022 | Bachelor of Arts, Creative Writing and Communication of Science & Technology | Cumulative GPA 3.57/4.00 | Dean's List last 5 semesters

EXPERIENCE

UW-Madison, Department of Life Sciences Communication – Graduate Teacher's Assistant **AUGUST 2023 - PRESENT**

- Maintained, distributed, and organized material for the course: "Visualizing Science & Technology"
- Created rubrics and graded examinations, weekly quizzes, and assignments, providing regular feedback to students
- Reviewed quizzes and assignments with students weekly during lectures, prompting discussion among the class of 90
- Made recommendations on the structure of examinations and quizzes based on student performance

FootPrint Coalition – Editorial Intern → Editorial Associate **JUNE 2022 - PRESENT**

- Closely monitored the climate, environment, energy, and related technology news cycles for daily pitching
- Wrote short-form, feature, and profile articles with original interviews and regularly synthesized reblogs
- Aided in brainstorming and writing pitches for potentially televised content
- Collaborated on script-editing and video-editing for short-form media intended for web and social media platforms
- Wrote and copy-edited social media posts intended for Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn

Vestigo Basic Sciences Magazine, Vanderbilt School of Medicine – Assistant Editor **FEBRUARY - APRIL 2022**

- Assisted editor-in-chief in editing Basic Science research highlights, profiles, and relevant news for summer publication
- Edited based on grammar, syntax, content readability and digestibility, and engagement
- Communicated with researchers/writers in the editing process and retained an organized digital filing system of articles

Artlab, Vanderbilt Wond'ry – User Experience (UX) Summer Intern **MAY - AUGUST 2021**

- Developed an augmented reality exhibition using Zapworks to showcase content and promote scientific study through art
- Collaborated with ArtLab fellows to curate and exhibit past collections in a user-friendly and engaging web experience
- Wrote blog posts featuring scientist-artists' presentations and our one-on-one interviews
- Created short videos using Adobe Premiere Pro, communicating both the scientific research and art of our speakers

Vanderbilt Office of Strategic Communications – Heidi Hall Science Communications Semester Intern **JANUARY - MAY 2021**

- Bylined research articles distilling complex scientific studies into research news ideal for general audiences
- Covered science news, event announcements, grant awards, and accomplishments of Vanderbilt researchers
- Interviewed scientists conducting basic and applied research across the natural and formal sciences
- Devised Smart Brevity News templates for lead scientific writer

The Vanderbilt Hustler – Opinion Editor **AUGUST 2019 - MAY 2021**

- Authored op-eds and worked directly with staff writers in editing their editorials
- Created and gave in-depth presentations on the craft of opinion articles and general student journalism
- Effectively led weekly meetings for ~15 staff writers and curated topical and evergreen pitches to inspire my team
- Increased opinion section readership and engagement by 45% during my editorship
- Established successful initiatives to increase racial, gender, religious, orientation, and political opinion diversity of staff

College Voices Podcast of The Vanderbilt Hustler – Assistant Editor **AUGUST 2021 - MAY 2022**

- Edited podcasts created with a close-knit team of <10 based on creativity, narrative, novelty of ideas, accessibility, structure, clarity in reporting, and audio quality

AWARDS, LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, & MEMBERSHIPS

- Winner of Vanderbilt Student Communications Skip Bayless Fellowship for Exceptional Graduating Seniors (May 2022)
- Winner of the Jim Leeson Prize for Journalistic Fairness (May 2021)
- Winner of Kara Walker Award for Student Artists (February 2022)
- The McGill Project - Creative Arts Director (August 2021 - May 2022)
 - Led a team of 6 in planning and executing dorm hall events with the goal of evoking creative expression in attendees
- Vanderbilt New Dawn - Website Designer (August 2019 - May 2022)
 - Designed website, performed routine maintenance, and redesigned for special occasions with original graphics
- Vanderbilt Chapter of The NAACP - Member of Community Service Committee (August 2021 - May 2022)
 - Participated in various service projects to alleviate disadvantages on campus and in the greater Nashville community
- The SciLit Review - Editor-in-Chief & Website Designer (November 2019 - August 2021)
 - Collaborated with editors in selecting science-related poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and art submissions for publication

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Audio and video production: Adobe Premiere, Adobe Audition, Final Cut Pro, Animaker
- Graphic design: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Canva
- Website design and content management: Wix, Squarespace, WordPress (as a contributor)

REFERENCES

- Nan Li, Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Communication – nan.li@wisc.edu
- Susan Robinson, Helen Firstbrook Franklin Professor of Journalism – robinson4@wisc.edu
- Jonathan Shieber, previously FootPrint Coalition Chief Editor – shieber@gmail.com
- Amanda Little, Professor of Investigative Environmental Journalism & Science Writing – amanda@amandalittle.com
- Paige Clancy, Vanderbilt Student Communications Advisor – paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu