

Thomas Sumner

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SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR AND JOURNALIST

I am a science communicator, journalist and editor in New York City with over a decade of experience translating exciting research results into stories everyone can enjoy. While my background is in physics, I have written about everything from beaver dams to planet-eating stars. My work has appeared in publications such as *Science*, *Science News*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, *Live Science* and *FoxNews.com*.

CAREER

Simons Foundation

Senior Staff Writer and Media Manager

New York City

May 2017 – Present

Penned and coordinated press releases and articles about cutting-edge research supported by the foundation. Press releases included the discovery of a planet-eating star, which generated 65 news articles. Supported the rapidly growing organization's evolving communications strategy. Project managed and helped edit the foundation's annual report. Promoted to senior staff writer in April 2020, senior staff writer and media manager in October 2023.

Science News

Earth Sciences Reporter

Washington, DC

July 2014 – May 2017

Covered the earth and environmental sciences beat for print and digital editions, scouring journals, talks and current events for original stories. Scoops consistently generated high readership and social media impact, such as a series of stories on the underestimation of methane emissions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Science

News Intern

Washington, DC

Jan – July 2014

Reported on scientific research and policy for *Science's* news website and print journal, such as precision electron mass measurements and genome encryption. Stories regularly featured on the front page of Reddit and Slashdot.

American Geophysical Union

Science Writing Intern

Washington, DC

June – Dec 2013

Wrote press releases on topics such as a lost Apollo experiment. Organized press conferences and ran social media for the AGU Fall Meeting. Generated coverage by ABC News, Wired, *Science News*, the *Washington Post* and others.

Stanford University

News Service Intern

Stanford, CA

March – June 2013

The Californian

Science Writing Intern

Salinas, CA

Jan – March 2013

American Institute of Physics

Newswriting Intern, Inside Science News Service

College Park, MD

Sept – Dec 2012

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Cruz

Science Communication Graduate Certificate

Santa Cruz, CA

June 2013

University of California, Santa Cruz

Physics Bachelor of Science

Santa Cruz, CA

June 2012

- College Service Award; Social Justice and Community Leadership Award
- Research assistant for NASA space weather mission

TECHNICAL SKILLS

AP Style, WordPress, PHP, HTML, CSS, SEO (Certified), Python, Photoshop, InDesign, Google Analytics

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Science Writers, Science Writers in New York, The Society for Editing