

Elizabeth Grisham

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Summary

I have worked in George Mason University's Office of Research communicating science since 2015. I also have 29 years of experience as a journalist. During that time, I covered federal and state government issues, science and sustainability. As an undergraduate and graduate student, I wrote about the 1918 pandemic, colonial American quarantine laws and social support related to HIV/AIDS in religious settings. I specialize in making science clear for lay and academic audiences.

Experience

George Mason University **Science Communicator**

October 2019-Present

Monitor external media coverage of studies by Mason researchers via social media, Google alerts, press releases and email newsletters. Perform complex internet searches for scientific information. Post appropriate, accurate details of Mason researchers' studies mentioned in news articles to @MasonResearch Twitter. Produce weekly media report of earned media coverage for Mason administrators. Collaborate with researchers to write summaries of grant-funded projects. Compile approved summaries and submit summaries for distribution to Mason administrators. Post approved summaries to EurekAlert! Respond quickly to written and telephone inquiries from administrators and researchers in an accurate and articulate manner. Have revised work schedule and deadlines to improve inquiry response processes. Use a Dropbox file system much like a customer relationship management system to enhance workflow with researchers and administrators. This role involves both independent and collaborative work. All work is submitted ahead of deadlines. Report and write articles about research by Mason professors.

Level 4 Tutor

August 2016-December 2019

Tutored Mason student athletes in history individually and in small groups. Created lesson plans for tutoring sessions and created a website with resources for students to access as needed.

GMU Worker

January 2015-October 2019

Conducted complex internet searches for scientific information related to studies by Mason researchers. Maintained Office of Research Twitter and Facebook accounts and produced weekly media report summarizing external media coverage of Mason research. Maintained Office of Research website.

B.A. Program Director Assistant

February 2015-May 2015

Assisted communication professor with work for Virginia Sea Grant project.

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2013-May 2014

Transcribed research interviews for communication professor for Virginia Sea Grant project focused on helping marine scientists communicate effectively with their publics.

ADA Compliance

September-December 2011; June 2012-December 2013; August 2014-March 2015

Provided classroom support and grading and test-proctoring assistance to blind English instructor.

AACC (now ADLM)

Communications Intern

May 2014-August 2014

Wrote press releases and news articles, compiled media lists, transcribed interviews and provided clerical support to communications team of American Association for Clinical Chemistry (now Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine). Participated in weekly team meetings.

Broadside, Student Newspaper of George Mason University

Senior Staff Writer

January-March 2005

Reported and wrote specially selected stories. Conducted research on habits of award-winning student newspaper staffs. After I departed this role, I wrote a 900-page story idea, leadership and training plan that leaders of the newspaper have used to improve news content and newsroom operations.

News Editor

August-December 2004

Drafted news calendar for Fall 2004 semester. Led staff of more than 30 writers. Assigned and edited all news content. Experience engaging in controlled correspondence (i.e., off-the-record, on background, etc.).

Staff Writer

2003-2004

Reported and wrote articles on local, state and federal issues relevant to Mason students.

University of South Carolina-Beaufort

Temporary Employee

2002-2003

Served as switchboard operator and computer lab attendant. Later served as afternoon receptionist and remote course technical assistant.

Education

George Mason University

Master of Arts, Communication 2015

Science communication concentration; Thesis on HIV/AIDS and social support in religious settings. Conducted research using scientific and scholarly databases. Conducted research at National Library of Medicine.

Bachelor of Arts, Communication 2013

Public relations concentration; Electronic journalism minor

Master of Arts, History 2010

Wrote major papers on 1918 pandemic and 1977 Led Zeppelin concert riot. Conducted research using scholarly databases. Conducted research at Library of Congress and National Archives.

Bachelor of Arts, History 2002

Major paper on colonial American quarantine laws related to smallpox in Massachusetts. Contacted Massachusetts historical society to acquire source material.

Volunteer Work

Society of Professional Journalists, Washington, D.C. Pro Chapter

Board member, webmaster, newsletter editor and recording secretary. Board discussed government communication via Public Information Officers (PIOs) extensively.

Washington Academy of Sciences

Proofreader of Spring 2013 edition of "Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences"

Beaufort County (S.C.) Public Library

Re-shelved books, checked in returned materials and completed historic photo preservation project

Memberships

*Alpha Chi *Golden Key International Honour Society *National Society of Collegiate Scholars *National Dean's List *Phi Alpha Theta *Phi Kappa Phi *Tau Sigma National Honor Society