

**ALASDAIR ROBERT WILKINS**

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**SUMMARY**

A Master's student in the science and medical journalism at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, I am an experienced writer and a longtime contributor to several national and specialty publications. I have written for a variety of intended audiences on topics ranging from the discovery of the Higgs boson to the current state of diabetes care in Los Angeles's lower-income neighborhoods. A 2010 graduate of Harvard University, I have a strong undergraduate educational background that spans both the humanities and sciences. My previous collegiate experience also featured a number of challenging extracurricular activities that required me to think on my feet, engage large audiences, and manage groups.

**EDUCATION**

**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Chapel Hill, NC**

**Class of 2016**

- Began work this fall on Master of Arts degree in the science and medical journalism program.
- Awarded a Roy H. Park M.A. Fellowship in recognition of superior academic and professional qualifications.
- Awarded 2014-2015 Kathryn M. Cronin Scholarship in Medical Communication and 2015-2016 Maxwell Graduate Scholarship in Medical Journalism.

**Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA**

**Class of 2010**

- Awarded Bachelor of the Arts with double major in History & Science and Anthropology (Archaeology) and minor in Linguistics. Graduated with 3.456 GPA. Recommended for High Honors by both the History of Science department and the Archaeology wing of the Anthropology department.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Gawker Technology LLC, New York, NY**

**2009 – 2014**

Freelance author for io9

May 2012 – March 2014

- io9 is Gawker Media's site devoted to science fiction and emerging science site, averaging 2.7 million readers per month; examples of writings on specific topics can be provided on request.
- Wrote the daily "Morning Spoilers" post, a comprehensive, humorous roundup of all the latest news for upcoming movies and television shows; this post typically attracts 20,000 to 40,000 readers daily.
- Wrote two posts every Sunday on emerging science topics

Reporter for io9

July 2010 – April 2012

- Wrote 25 posts each week, including Morning Spoilers, with other posts focusing on science topics including theoretical physics, evolutionary biology, psychology and neuroscience, astronomy and cosmology, and archaeology.
- Wrote science fiction features, including an analysis of the genre's most common storylines, a personal retrospective of the longrunning British series *Doctor Who*, and a co-authored seven-part literary critique on Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* books.
- Moved to Los Angeles in October 2010 to work as the site's sole reporter in the region, requiring me to work with significant independence and minimal face-to-face interaction with supervisors.
- Interviewed major actors, directors, and writers for movies such as *Captain America*, *Super 8*, *Immortals*, *Sucker Punch*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.
- Formed part of coverage team for major national conventions including San Diego Comic Con and Wonder Con.
- Posts consistently attracted 5,000 to 10,000 readers, with many features reaching from 20,000 to 50,000, and some topping 100,000; highest readership on a single post was over 637,000.

Intern/Contributor for io9

January 2009 – May 2009/June 2009 – June 2010

- Compiled nightly email for previous writer of Morning Spoilers, requiring me each night to assess news value of hundreds of stories.
- Using both online and library resources, provided research for senior staff's posts on unusual or arcane science fiction topics.
- Wrote multiple science and entertainment posts during internship; unusually for interns, asked to stay on as freelance contributor.

**Close Concerns LLC, San Francisco, CA 2012 – present**

Contributor to *diaTribe*

May 2012 – present

- *diaTribe* is an online monthly publication written for people with diabetes.
- Writing duties frequently include vast majority of articles in each issue, including news articles on the latest in diabetes and obesity treatments, devices, legislation, statistics, and clinical trials, as well as the initial draft of the Editor-in-Chief's monthly letter.
- Recently wrote 15-minute speech to be delivered by *diaTribe*'s Editor-In-Chief at inaugural meeting of the tie-in *diaTribe* Foundation.

Managing editor of *diaTribe*

August 2012 – December 2012

- Editorial duties include deciding issue content in consult with editors-in-chief, soliciting and editing contributors' work, organizing staff schedule, working with industry PR reps to confirm accuracy, compiling PDF of each issue in Adobe InDesign, maintaining website at [www.diatribе.us](http://www.diatribе.us), and spearheading social media campaigns on Twitter and Facebook.

Freelance reporter for Close Concerns

April 2012 – present

- Close Concerns, *diaTribe*'s parent company, is a diabetes information company that provides news and market analysis for members of industry and researchers.
- Write business-focused analyses of new treatment guidelines and drug trials results for company's information service Closer Look.
- Formed part of coverage team at national conferences and was in charge of subsequent compilation of multiple conference reports.

**Onion, Inc., Chicago, IL**

2012 – present

Freelance author for The A.V. Club

June 2012 – present

- Complete archive of my articles can be found at <http://www.avclub.com/authors/alsadairwilkins,121552/>.
- Contribute to the TV Club section by writing regular weekly coverage of NBC's *Parks And Recreation*, FX's *Justified*, Fox's *Bob's Burgers*, BBC's *Doctor Who*, Disney's *Gravity Falls*, AMC's *Hell On Wheels*, Cartoon Network's *Regular Show*, and The CW's *Arrow*.
- Write ongoing retrospective coverage of the classic science fiction series *Farscape* as well as additional one-off reviews and longer-form pieces on specific topics from the history of TV, including TV Club 10 features on *Red Dwarf* and *Quantum Leap*.
- Write the Tuesday edition of the What's On Tonight feature, providing a humorous skew on the day's TV offerings.
- Contribute to the Newswire, Inventory, and AV Q&A features, writing primarily about television and film topics.

**Advantage Testing of Northern New Jersey, Short Hills, NJ**

2012 – 2014

Tutor

December 2012 – December 2014

- Advantage Testing of Northern NJ is one of seventeen branches of the nationally acclaimed test preparation company Advantage Testing, which selectively employs its tutors based on an excellent academic record, strong interpersonal and motivational skills, and aptitude for teaching.
- Provide regular, intensive instruction to students in the specifics rules of and rationales behind SAT-level grammar, which generally tracks closely to AP style guidelines.
- Operate largely independently of supervisory structure, requiring me to schedule all sessions with students, plan out lessons and presentations, and balance the frequently overlapping needs of several different clients.

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Performed multiple duties at Harvard's student-run radio station, WHRB 95.3, including broadcasting of live sports event, writing and producing full-length radio plays, serving as member of Administrative Board, and educating prospective members.
- Member of Harvard's long-form improvisational comedy troupe, the Immediate Gratification Players, for all four years of college. Was lead writer of *So You Think You're Funny?: A Students' Guide to Improv Comedy*, (Meriwether Publishing, Ltd). Now available from Amazon.com, Inc. at <http://www.amazon.com/You-Think-Youre-Funny-Performing/dp/1566081734/>.
- Spent a month in Copán Ruinas, Honduras as part of the Harvard Summer Field School in archaeology. Excavated and catalogued stone artifacts at the classic Mayan site of Rastrojon, part of the larger Copán archaeological complex.
- Traveled throughout New Zealand for two weeks before senior year as part of independent research for my senior thesis on the history of the country's archaeology. Visited multiple cultural sites and museums.