Jake Neenan

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EDUCATION

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism | New York, N.Y. | August 2023

Master of Science, Data Journalism, with advanced training in investigative and computational techniques of data acquisition and analysis to tell data-driven stories. Projects include:

- Investigation into overdose deaths in New York State prisons for New York Focus. Used Python to analyze years of state mortality reports and statistical tests to confirm findings.
- Reporting on hackers using WordPress exploits to place ads for illicit goods on government websites.

Boston University | Boston, Mass. | May 2022

Bachelor of Arts, Physics. Rigorous grounding in experimental and mathematical methods of classical and modern physics.

EXPERIENCE

Reporter, Broadband Breakfast, Los Angeles, CA., Aug. 2023 – Present

Covering telecommunications policy with a focus on broadband infrastructure. Pitching and filing 5-10 stories per week on tight deadlines while pursuing long-term accountability projects. Projects and scoops include:

- A $10 billion broadband subsidy program got 3.7 million Americans inadequate internet, all while enriching the country's biggest telecom companies. Used Python and QGIS to analyze data on millions of locations across the US.
- Virginia and the Commerce Department are at odds on the requirements for a major broadband subsidy.
- States are looking to open up some wireless broadband service areas to subsidized fiber-optic builds.
- After taking billions to expand infrastructure through 2021, ISPs are ripping up formerly subsidized equipment.

Research Fellow, Sunlight Search, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 2023 – July 2024

Conducted rigorous research to build chronologies of congressional candidates, verifying claims about employment, education, and more. Used public records and open-source information including property and business records, financial disclosures, tax records, satellite imagery, and more.

Journalism Intern, Boston University Spark!**,** Boston, Mass., Jan. 2021 – May 2022

Worked on multiple data-driven journalistic projects for media outlets that partnered with BU's start-up incubator, including:

- Reported and wrote an investigative piece on the Massachusetts Department of Correction that was published on the front page of the Boston Globe. Requested and used Python to analyze thousands of pages of inmate grievance forms.
- Read and classified 1000+ federal appellate decisions and newspaper archives to train machine learning models to identify instances of prosecutorial misconduct.
- Used Python to analyze 2009-2019 Boston voter and census data for correlations between voting patterns and demographic changes. Analysis formed the basis for a story in the Bay State Banner, a local Boston newspaper that serves the city's Black and Latino residents.

Student Journalist, The Boston Globe, Boston, Mass., Sept. 2021 – Jan. 2022

Partnered with Boston University and The Boston Globe to report daily and enterprise stories on news events in the Boston suburb of Newton. Published stories on topics including how parents adjusted to the pandemic and the restoration of a historic church tower.

SKILLS

Programming: Python, Java, R, Playwright, Pandas, Beautiful Soup, Tika/tesseract, SQL, Command line, Scraping, Regex
Investigative: Court records, FOIA, State record laws, PACER, Excel, Advanced Google search

REFERENCES

Brooke Williams | Professor, Computational Journalism, Boston University | brooke@bu.edu
Joe Neff | Reporter, The Marshall Project | jneff@themarshallproject.org