

2014 AAAS PITTS FAMILY MINORITY SCIENCE WRITERS INTERN

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What are your goals for the summer?

I hope to investigate cool science stories and annex the Washington metro area under my comfort zone. I also hope to learn more about blending narrative and multimedia elements into my science reporting.

What are you most excited about?

Meeting new people and learning about their experiences. Many of the scientists and researchers I've met so far are certifiably crazy in the best possible way.

Even amidst my excitement, I must admit I am also extremely nervous. The good news is I'm *also* excited to kick my nervousness right in the teeth.

Why are you passionate about science communication?

I love science and I love learning more about the world for the sake of knowledge itself – but in some

ways, I approach science communication as a duty. The world cannot afford to be disinterested in science anymore, and so I want to help people see that science is cooler than a Bose-Einstein condensate of sodium atoms.

Who is your favorite science communicator?

I don't have a favorite per se, but I recently attended a lecture and Q-and-A session given by Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. He is a very charismatic speaker. I'm not a medical professional but if you should ever find yourself bored during one of Tyson's lectures, you may need to consult your physician.



Rebecca Skloot is another science communicator whom I greatly admire. A few years ago I read her book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and was enchanted with the way she wove together history, science, and the deeply personal story of a family with a sentimental prose I did not expect to find in a science narrative.

Finally, Randall Munroe of

“...I APPROACH SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AS A DUTY. THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO BE DISINTERESTED IN SCIENCE ANYMORE...”

xkcd.com does a good job of making you want to look up weird science topics for yourself!

Do you have a link to an article you'd like to share?

<http://goo.gl/Co31HC>

Describe your dream job.

Science communicator by day, video game composer, playwright and novelist... also by day. I'm probably going to have very busy days.

Tell us about something you do outside of the lab.

Favorite pizza topping is bacon; favorite weather phenomenon is snow; favorite ninja turtle is Michelangelo; and I don't much care for potato.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Last summer I worked for a production company and write the score for the pilot of a children's TV show. I met a lot of cool people and played with a lot of cool puppets!