

Benjamin J. Leschensky

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A student of the liberal arts, I apply a variety of perspectives to my work and strive to make a difference through my attention to detail, critical thinking, and openness to new ideas.

Education

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Bachelor of Arts, GPA: 3.97 (4.0 scale)

Major: Communication Studies (Strategic Communication, Film & Media Studies concentrations) | Minor: Innovation Studies

University of Aberdeen (Aberdeen, Scotland)

Sept. 2019-May 2020

Work Experience

Bellingham Alive Magazine Editorial Internship (Bellingham, WA)

Jan. 2021-present

- Conducted phone/Zoom interviews with local artists, restaurants, community members, etc. in greater San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties (WA)
- Wrote 2-4 ~500 word stories and additional ~150-300 word stories each month
- Fact checked all content that entered the magazine
- General research and photo collection

Outdoor Recreation (Club) (Tacoma, WA)

Director

May 2020-present

- Coordinated and advertised rental program
- Led interview/hiring sessions for new volunteer Trip Leaders, resulting in 7 new hires (20 members total).

Volunteer Trip Leader

Fall 2017-present

- Created promotional materials for the club (videos, posters, stickers) that helped increase awareness and participation in OR-sponsored events.
- Helped organize, recruit, and lead weekend/week-long trips for PLU students, emphasizing safety, community building, and Leave No Trace principles during trips.

MediaLab (PLU Media Organization) (Tacoma, WA)

Jan. 2019-present

Documentary Team

- Helped film, interview, storyboard, and edit *Turning the Page: The Story of Next Chapter*, a documentary film about Tacoma homelessness non-profit Next Chapter (May 2021 premiere).
- Helped video edit, storyboard, and write narration for *Eyes Above*, a 30-minute documentary film about the Tohono O'odham Nation in Southern Arizona (credited as "Editor").

Client Work

- Created a 3-minute video about proper sanitation techniques for returning to classes (on assignment for PLU).
- Planned and advertised the virtual premiere of *Eyes Above* (130 registrants)

Head of Recruitment

- Led interview/hiring sessions for new MediaLab members, resulting in an increase in applicants and new hires.

Reporter (The Mast Newspaper) (Tacoma, WA)**Sept. 2017-present**

- Pitched, wrote, and edited articles for the school newspaper (news, arts & culture, politics, and opinion sections).
- Provided in-depth coverage of PLU faculty reduction process in 3-part series during Spring 2021.
- Managed, organized, and curated content for the newspaper's social media platforms (Fall 2018).

Sugar Bowl Ice Cream Company/Photography by Brittany Internship (Decorah, IA)**June-Aug 2019**

- Worked with a diverse team to create deliverables (web, graphic design, video, social media content), resulting in greater advertising reach for the small business.
- Assisted owner with engagement, maternity, senior, and family photoshoots by creating video reels for each client.

Non-paid Experience**Birth to Three Developmental Center: Strategic Communication Class Project****Sept-Dec 2020**

- Helped craft a social media plan and B2C communication strategy for Birth to Three to effectively communicate with their clients and families.
- Strengthened skills in teamwork, project management, and client coordination.

Duke Univ. Center for Documentary Studies, Summer Film Intensive (Durham, NC)**June 2019**

- Brainstormed, interviewed, filmed, edited, and produced a five minute documentary film highlighting a Durham (NC) minister and activist.
- Gained skills in storytelling, video editing, interviewing, teamwork, and working under pressure of a tight deadline.

Black Fleet Brewing Company: Communication Inquiry Class Project**Feb-May 2019**

- Learned the intricacies of communications-specific research (ethnography, survey, interview, and content analysis/coding) while working with Black Fleet to help them better understand how to engage with present and future customers.
- Strengthened skills in teamwork, critical thinking, and writing.

2019 Wang Center Video Contest Winner (Tacoma, WA)**March 2019**

- Storyboarded, filmed, and edited a video about my study away experience in New Zealand that took first place in PLU's Wang Center for Global Education competition.

References**Dr. Kate Drazner Hoyt (Assistant Professor of Communication, Pacific Lutheran University)**

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Robert Thompson (Assistant Athletic Director for Recreation, Pacific Lutheran University)

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Sean Robinson (Visiting Professor of Communication, Pacific Lutheran University; Night/Sports Editor at Tacoma News Tribune)

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