This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office (HSM 3.200 / William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue) by **Monday, November 16, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.**

This position is due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for **Friday, November 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**

Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

**Applicant Information**

**Nick Castillo**

Name

**nrc562**

UT EID

nick.castillo1274@gmail.com

Email Address

**Journalism**

Major

**Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information**

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed 12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student) have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

4. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting my application.

5. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least two semesters as a permanent-staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than opinion.

6. By the start of my term of office, I will have served in a Daily Texan management position with supervisory and design responsibilities (as defined by the Daily Texan Handbook) for at least one semester.

*Note: if no qualified applicant has filed by the deadline, the Board shall make an appointment using the Handbook qualifications, each of which shall be waivable by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members present.*

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

**Signature of Applicant**

[Signature]

Date

**11/16/15**
Supporting signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan:

[Signatures]

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of:

- Double Coverage Editor, Fall 2015
- Senior Sports Writer, Spring 2015
- Senior Sports Writer, Fall 2014
- Associate Sports Editor, Summer 2014
- Sports Writer, Spring 2014
- Sports Writer, Fall 2013

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It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

- A résumé
- A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
- Letters of recommendation
- Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
NICK CASTILLO
nick.castillo1274@gmail.com
1044 Camino La Costa, Austin, Texas 78752
254-541-8784
nickcastillojournalism.wordpress.com

EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Expected May 2016 - Bachelor of Journalism

EXPERIENCE
THE DAILY TEXAN
Double Coverage Editor Aug. 2015 – Present
Manage, edit and coordinate The Daily Texan’s weekly football publication

Worked at the sports desk one night a week editing stories, writing headlines and photo captions
Worked and reported on the Texas volleyball beat during the fall and the Texas baseball beat in the spring

Associate Sports Editor June 2014 – Aug. 2014
Assisted and edited stories at the sports desk
Worked and reported on various stories assigned by the sports editor

Sports Staff Writer Sept. 2013 – May 2014
Worked and reported as a sports staff writer covering the Texas men’s cross country beat in the fall and worked on the NFL blog in the spring

The Dallas Morning News
Blogger July 2015 – Present
Cover Texas football and basketball as a college blogger
Write and self-edit at least 30 articles per month

HornsDigest
Intern Aug. 2014 – Present
Cover Texas football recruiting as an intern
Write one to two articles per week

The Paisano – UTSA Student Newspaper
Worked as a sports staff writer covering UTSA baseball and other events assigned by the sports editor

SKILLS
Microsoft Office, Adobe InCopy, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Photoshop, and Social Media
Nick Castillo  
1044 Camino La Costa Apt. 1113  
Austin, TX 78752  

November 16, 2015  

Dear Texas Student Media Board of Trustees,  

My name is Nick Castillo, and I am applying for the position of managing editor of The Daily Texan in the spring of 2016. I am journalism major, and have spent my three years at the University working for the Texan. I am currently serving as the Double Coverage Editor, the Texan’s football preview publication. I hope to lay out my qualifications, goals and plans for the position with this letter. I believe the experience I have gained throughout my three years at the Texan and at other professional publications will allow me to properly serve the role of managing editor and will help me build off the growth set by my predecessors.  

The Texan is one of the first places I ventured to when I arrived at UT as a transfer student. After spending my first semester as a sports writer, however, I wasn’t sure the Texan was a place for me. But I am glad I stuck with the Texan as I was given the opportunity to serve as the Associate Sports Editor in the summer of 2014. That summer was a period of many firsts. The job was my first opportunity to work on the senior staff, my first time to work as an editor and the first time I spent time in the Texan basement.  

Since that summer, I have spent more time in the office not only during my assigned days to work, but because I enjoy being in the office. I worked as a senior sports writer during the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. The job included editing stories during my scheduled night to work on the sports desk, and I wrote headlines and photo captions for the sports page.  

This semester has been the most challenging semester at the Texan. Alongside working as the Double Coverage editor, I also work on the Texas football beat. Working as the Double Coverage editor has allowed me to gain experience managing a publication. I’m responsible for budgeting content, coordinating with my photo editor for the necessary photos for the week’s issue, working with my copy editor to ensure each story has been properly edited, coordinating with my design editor to place stories in the issues, and I also write for the publication. This position has given me skills that I believe are essential and necessary for the managing editor position.  

The Texan has been a rewarding experience. It has also helped me gain an internship with HornsDigest, a recruiting website a part of the Scout.com network, and a blogging position with The Dallas Morning News. I believe the experience at the Texan along with my outside experience qualifies me for the position which I am applying for. I feel the Texan has given me experiences I didn’t think were possible and I feel called to give back to the Texan by serving as managing editor.
As managing editor, I have multiple goals that deal heavily with our online and social media presence. The Texan’s print product, however, will always be first. It has its own place and role on campus and in Austin. It will be important for the Texan to continue working to speed up its production process in order to continue to meet the midnight deadline, while keeping the emphasis on accuracy.

I have many concerns about the way the Texan handles its online content. First, the paper has begun to address issues with the way it handles the 24-hour news cycle. However, not enough has been done. There are hours between stories being published between the various departments and often stories that go into the paper aren’t published until midnight or later. These stories should be spread out throughout the day and evening before it goes in the paper. The way to address and fix this would be to have stories come in earlier and editors available to edit and put the stories up online as soon as possible. I do, however, recognize the limitations of a student newspaper. While staffers balance work at the Texan and classes, adapting to a 24-hour news cycle now allows for those going into the business to prepare for a professional job. This would also allow the Texan to keep a constant online readership with stories being put on the website throughout the day.

Secondly, the Texan falls behind in breaking campus news too often. While there have been improvements to this, the Texan can do and must do a better job of getting news on the website in a timely manner while properly reporting the facts. One plan of action would be to have a tweet with breaking news from the Texan account or from a Texan reporter go into a story accompanied with a few grafs and placed into the website as soon as possible. These stories could be treated like live-blogs and constantly updated as news develops. This would allow the Texan to compete and be a step-ahead of the professional competition.

Thirdly, our social media presence needs to improve. With the addition and creation of the social media editor position, the Texan’s presence has improved. But its social media can continue to improve. The Texan should use all of the social media tools available this includes Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Periscope and any social media platform that can be used in a news manner. Using these tools allows the Texan to engage with its audience. This involves the Texan’s editors helping writers learn how to use properly use these platforms. The 21st century journalist is required to write and use social media in various ways while reporting stories and the Texan is doing its writers and audience a disservice if it doesn’t take advantage of utilizing all these platforms.

Finally, the most challenging and loftiest issue that needs to be addressed is the Texan’s website. It looks old. It’s often difficult to navigate. It also goes down when there are too many people on it. It is my understanding that there is a group assembling to address the website. It would be my goal to see the website issues addressed during my time as managing editor. Whether it’s getting closer to launching a website or my biggest hope is to see a beta website developed before the end of the semester. This is a difficult issue to address and would be difficult to accomplish
during my four month tenure as managing editor, but the Texan needs a fresh look and I’d love to see the publication take a step closer to fixing the issues during my time.

These are a few of my concerns with the Texan and my plans to address them. I have other ideas I would like to see happen if I am certified by the board to serve as managing editor. If named ME, I look forward to working with board and Texan staff members to enact these changes and push the Texan closer to its full potential. I want to build off all the things accomplished by the previous MEs.

Thank you for your time, and for your consideration of my candidacy.

[Signature]

Nick Castillo
Members of the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees,

I write you to recommend Nick Castillo as The Daily Texan’s managing editor for the spring 2016 semester, a task that I am honored to do. I have worked with Nick since fall 2013, and most closely in his capacity working the sports desk as a senior sports reporter last semester and as Double Coverage editor this fall. Nick’s ambition and experience both at the Texan and at professional organizations, along with his dedication to improving his work and the work of his peers, make him an excellent candidate for managing editor.

In Nick’s over 200 articles that he has written for the Texan covering almost every major sport at UT, he has demonstrated again and again his desire to constantly improve and to offer readers a version of the game they can only get from him. Nick has used this experience to work with new reporters as an editor to help them hone their craft. I have no doubt Nick will be able to take this ability to innovate and apply it to a daily production cycle to tell stories in new ways and to ensure that his staff continuously improves over the course of the semester.

Perhaps the most valuable characteristic Nick will bring to the Texan is a desire to innovate. The Texan’s legacy can be both a blessing and a burden. Nick brings years of professional experience with him, primarily as an online contributor to major sports publications. As a thoughtful contributor and consumer of digital media, Nick can use his prior experience to innovate in a newsroom in dire need of some updating.

Nick is always a delightful presence in the office. When editing another writer’s work, or when I would ask him for the umpteenth time to explain an obscure (okay, maybe not so obscure) sports term, Nick is thoroughly cheerful and considerate. This ability to work well with others, especially when giving and receiving criticism, is a key characteristic for working with a large and diverse team in the capacity of managing editor.

While Nick has never been a department head at the Texan, as Double Coverage editor he has served in a leadership position unlike others in the basement. He manages a large staff of writers as well as a copy editor, photo editor and design editor to produce a weekly insert to supplement our regular football coverage. His work is very independent, and he has very little oversight, in large part because I have felt confident in Nick’s ability to consistently assemble a quality product. In the face of new time and space constraints, Nick has lead his team to produce a product that rivals and arguably surpasses previous editions that were not produced under such limitations. Nick takes great ownership over his publication, but he never lets his own concerns overshadow the work of his staff. He has proven to be an organized, dedicated, and thoughtful editor, and I have no doubt he would be able to apply these characteristics to leading a larger team as managing editor.

Nick is confident, but humble. He cares intensely about his work, and he has a genuine passion for the Texan and journalism. Nick has been a pleasure to work with for the past five semesters, and I am confident the Texan would be in good hands should he be selected as the next managing editor. I strongly encourage you to consider Nick for managing editor of the
spring 2016 semester. Should you have any additional questions, please contact me, and I would be happy to speak further.

Sincerely,

Jack Mitts
Managing editor fall 2015
Nov. 13, 2015

To the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees:

I am happy and honored to recommend Nick Castillo for the position of managing editor at The Daily Texan.

Nick has been a student in all three courses I teach at the University of Texas. He reported and wrote four sports stories for Reporting Texas, which published his work; reported and wrote an immersive 4,000-word feature about a gravely injured high school football player for my Long Form writing class; and now contributes enthusiastically and smartly to Reporting Sports, a wide-ranging course that includes less-experienced students who benefit greatly from Nick’s presence.

Throughout, I have seen Nick’s deep burn to improve – from how to write a better sentence to how to shape the focus of an entire story. I have watched him improve immensely. Nick’s work for Reporting Sports routinely ranks among the best in terms of organization, clarity and reporting depth. His copy is quite clean. His work answers questions, rather than raising them. His participation in classroom discussions, especially those involving college sports coverage, raises the level of discourse. His experience at the Texan has made him a fine college journalist.

I think he’ll continue that arc of excellence as its next managing editor. Nick has a calm and assuring manner that, I believe, will make him a great leader. He has a sound understanding of modern journalism, including its ethics and boundaries. He also has a wide network of professionals (myself included) from whom he seeks advice and clarification.

Nick knows journalism. He knows The Daily Texan. He knows and loves the university and Austin. I sincerely believe he would be everything the newspaper wants and needs from a successful managing editor, and I believe this responsibility will further his professional growth. I recommend him without hesitation and invite you to contact me to hear more about this impressive young man.

Sincerely,

Kevin Robbins
Senior lecturer, School of Journalism
(512) 471-0822
kevin.robbins@austin.utexas.edu
Heard-led comeback falls short in 45-44 loss to California
(Originally published: The Daily Texan, Sept. 20, 2015)

Redshirt freshman quarterback Jerrod Heard walked into the press room, his face red and blinking back tears. A furious fourth-quarter comeback had fallen one point short. Cal beat the Longhorns 45-44 on Saturday night.

Seven behind California with 1:51 remaining, Heard led the Texas offense down the field. With one last gallop and the sound of 91,568 fans anxiously hoping for an answered prayer, the redshirt freshman quarterback ran 45-yards for a Texas touchdown to bring it within one.

“I told [my teammates] we were going to get this ball into the endzone,” Heard said. “I had faith in them that we were going to. Coach called the play and I just relied on those guys and did my part.”

But what Heard nor his teammates expected was for senior kicker Nick Rose to miss the extra point wide right. Head coach Charlie Strong said he didn’t watch the kick, he called an extra-point by Rose “automatic.” He prepped his defense for a final stand, in hopes of forcing overtime. It was a far cry from Texas’ 21-point deficit entering the fourth quarter.

But Strong’s defense never got its chance. An onside kick attempt went for naught and junior quarterback Jared Goff and the California offense knelt twice to end the game.

“This one hurts because you watch our team, and you watch Jerrod take off, and there’s a minute and 11, and we go and score,” Strong said. “Then I look up, and, all of a sudden, I see one of their players running down the field, and I was like, ‘Oh, my God.’”

Strong said Heard brought juice to the Longhorns in last week’s win over Rice. He continued to provide a spark for Texas against California, running for 163 yards and three touchdowns and passing for 364 more. He is just the second player in Texas history to net both 300 passing and 100 rushing yards in a game.
Yet, Heard’s two turnovers proved costly. An interception late in the second quarter and a fumble during Texas’ first possession of the second half swung momentum in the Golden Bears’ favor as they took the lead, 31-24.

A poor third quarter from Texas’ defense, which gave up 548 total yards, allowed California’s lead to extend to 45-24.

But the juice flowed through the Texas offense in the fourth quarter. Heard scored on a 13-yard run, followed by a 27-yard touchdown from sophomore running back D’Onta Foreman.

Texas reached its peak when Heard found the endzone and found its low when Rose’s kick missed the goal posts.

“When I saw the ball going right, I was confused,” freshman linebacker Malik Jefferson said. “It was a bad feeling. A nasty feeling when you see something like that occur.”

Heard wasn’t the only one with tears in his eyes. Wide receivers coach Jay Norvell was visibly rocked by the loss. Rose hung his head in disbelief as the Longhorns dutifully chanted “The Eyes of Texas.”

Strong said this is the first time he’s seen the seniors taking ownership after a loss. It was the first time he’d seen his guys hurting.

Heard’s 45-yard run was a highlight moment, but the game will be remembered as the night Texas fell one point short.

Correction: This article has been updated since publication with accurate scores throughout. Link: http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2015/09/20/heard-led-comeback-falls-short-in-45-44-loss-to-california
Freshman catcher provides bright spot in Texas' spotty season (Originally published: The Daily Texan, April 17, 2015)

Trying to steal a base against freshman catcher Michael Cantu isn’t an easy task.

The feat proved especially challenging Saturday, as Cantu displayed his defensive prowess against Oklahoma. In the sixth inning, a Sooner runner tried to steal second, but the freshman made a phenomenal off-balanced throw from his knees to senior second baseman Brooks Marlow for an inning-ending out. He followed that with another equally impressive throw from his knees to freshman shortstop Joe Baker later in the game.

“Cantu did a great job throwing people out at the plate,” sophomore pitcher Kacy Clemens said after the game.

Cantu, a Corpus Christi native, has thrown out seven runners attempting to steal on him this season. He’s hitting .265 on the season and is tied for third in the Big 12 in walks with 25. The 6-foot-3, 237-pound catcher has been a bright spot throughout the season — especially when the team overall is struggling.

Although Texas dropped two out of three against the Sooners, Cantu hit .500 and drew three walks. Head coach Augie Garrido said he was impressed with Cantu’s play.

“He threw out every runner that tried to run on him,” Garrido said. “He was a very mature baseball player. If we could get everybody particularly on offense competing the way he competes — they certainly have a leader and a model to follow in him.”

Cantu came to the team with high accolades. Before coming to college, he was ranked the No. 1 catcher in the state by Perfect Game USA. Perfect Game USA also named him an underclass second-team All-American in 2013 and a third-team All-American in 2014. The Texas Sports Writers Association named him a first-team all-state catcher in 2013 and second-team in 2014. Cantu was also drafted by Chicago Cubs in the 30th round in 2014.
Cantu has proven himself with his confident play from behind the plate. Cantu said that confidence comes from his trust in himself and his baseball ability.

“You got to be confident,” Cantu said. “I was always told that there’s no age in baseball. It doesn’t matter. If you can play, you can play. That’s the big thing: You got to have confidence and trust yourself and trust that what you’ve been doing that’s got you here will keep you going.”

Although he isn’t shy about his skill, Cantu also is quick to mention his teammates and throw the spotlight off himself.

“I’ve just been trusting myself and having confidence in my teammates,” Cantu said. “I threw a guy out that Joe [Baker] caught [against Oklahoma]. The ball was up the line, and he made a great play on it. It’s just trust in ourselves and trusting our defense.”

Texas (19–18, 6–6 Big 12) hopes to live up to that trust as they continue to battle through recent struggles.

Cantu and the Longhorns will try to break out of their slump in a three-game series against Kansas starting Friday at 6 p.m. in Lawrence, Kansas.

Miscues aplenty as Texas 'just didn't play hard' against TCU

Nick Castillo
FORT WORTH - Texas' mistakes came early and often Saturday, leading to a 50-7 loss to No. 4 TCU.

"I'm totally frustrated and disappointed," coach Charlie Strong said. "We came out today and just didn't play hard."

Texas stopped TCU on the game's opening drive, but it gave the ball back when senior wide receiver Daje Johnson fumbled after a gruesome hit. The Horned Frogs took advantage of the turnover with a 13-yard touchdown pass to freshman wide receiver KaVontae Turpin to give them a 7-0 lead.

The Longhorns' struggles snowballed after a fourth-down snap flew over freshman punter Michael Dickson's head and through the end zone for a safety. TCU scored again on the following possession, extending its lead to 16-0.

The Horned Frogs onslaught continued through the first quarter as they scored two more touchdowns to push their lead to 30-0.

While the Longhorn defense gave up 28 points in the first quarter, their offense didn't help them as they only managed to gain 137 yards in the first half while scoring no points.

"We obviously didn't do enough in the first half offensively to make it very competitive early," wide receiver coach Jay Norvell said. "That was very disappointing."
Texas had its chances, though, as it was able to get inside TCU's 25-yard line twice in the first half. But senior kicker Nick Rose missed both field goal attempts.

After an abysmal first half, the Longhorns entered the locker room down 37-0. Strong said after Texas' last two games, he expected more fight from his team.

"We knew this was a good team," Strong said. "We knew this is the No. 4 team in the country. But still, though, that should not stop us from going out and playing our best."

After Texas' first half and the 50-7 loss, the Longhorn players are searching for answers. As the Longhorns' game with No. 15 Oklahoma looms, sophomore running back D'Onta Foreman said they have a lot to fix.

"We have to clean up our mistakes," Foreman said. "As a team, we just got to come together and figure out why we made mistakes."

Link: http://www.sportsdaydfw.com/college-sports/collegesheadlines/2015/10/03/miscues-aplenty-texas-just-play-hard-tcu
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Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

**Applicant Information**

Amy Zhang

UT EID: a24552

Email Address: amyzhang@utexas.edu

Plan: Honors / Sociology

Major

**Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information**

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed 12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student) have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

4. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting my application.

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6. By the start of my term of office, I will have served in a Daily Texan management position with supervisory and design responsibilities (as defined by the Daily Texan Handbook) for at least one semester.

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I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Signature of Applicant: 

Date: 11/16/15
Supporting signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan:

Claire Scott - Editor-in-Chief
Marisa Evans - Managing Editor
Mallin McKey - Special Ventures Editor
Kasey Troxell - Copy Desk Chief
Mary Pat Keany - Tech Ops. Man.
Samantha Spence - Comics Editor
Lauren How - Associate Comics Editor
Sara S. - Associate Photo Editor
Dana L. Scott - Associate Photo Editor
Marian Charpentier - Life & Arts Associate Editor
Kelly Smith - Senior Designer
Molly McFadden - Design Editor
Caileigh Gaff - News Editor

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

Staff Photographer (January 2013 - May 2014)
Senior Photographer (May 2014 - December 2014)
Special Projects Team Member (spring 2015)
Double Coverage Photo Editor (fall 2015)
Photo Editor (summer 2015)
Associate Photo Editor (spring 2015)
Associate Managing Editor (fall 2015)

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Education

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- B.A. in Plan II Honors, Sociology | Pre-med concentration | Plan II/UT School of Public Health Graduate Certificate May 2016

Work Experience

Associate Managing Editor / Double Coverage Photo Editor, The Daily Texan, Austin, TX August 2015 to present
- Help manage a staff of 200+ students to produce a 24 hour news website and a five-day print publication
- Oversee production and edit content twice weekly, working directly with department heads and senior staffs
- Coordinated photo editing and selection for weekly special editions of the paper focusing on upcoming football games, contacting other student publications to collaborate and share photos needed for features and away games

Photo Editor, The Daily Texan, Austin, TX May 2015 to August 2015
- Managed small team of photographers, conducted weekly meetings, coordinated photo editing for print production
- Photographed major assignments, encouraged submissions to AP (had numerous staffers get “picked up” by national news organizations)

Associate Photo Editor / Special Projects Team Member, The Daily Texan, Austin, TX January 2015 to May 2015
- Co-managed the Instagram account for the newspaper, regularly publishing content and gaining 500+ followers
- Facilitated the editing of photos for web and print, working 20+ hours a week with senior staff members to create the final print product
- Assisted special projects and tech teams in photo needs for various in-depth projects

Senior Photographer, The Daily Texan, Austin, TX June 2014 to December 2014
- Photographed major assignments for the paper, including several that mandated travel

Staff Photographer / Social Media Team Member (multimedia, spring 2014) The Daily Texan, Austin, TX January 2013 to May 2014
- Photographed assignments, focusing on honing skills and finding wild art, facilitated Instagram coverage once a week

UIL Journalism Judge, University Interscholastic League, College Station, TX January 2013 to present
- Evaluate high school journalism competitors based on their skills in various writing competitions
- Prepare constructive criticism and feedback, advising on how to better succeed

Academic Experience

Research/Creative Intern, The Johnson Center for Child Health and Development, Austin, TX June 2014 to present
- Designed an all-inclusive summer series, creating all graphic aspects of the program
- Assist the director of clinical care in researching for a book about dysautonomia set for publication in December 2015

Undergraduate Research Assistant, UT Voices Against Violence, Austin, TX June 2014 to present
- Evaluated the effectiveness of the “No One’s Asking For It” poster campaign
- Coded more than two thousand survey responses and presented findings to the Counseling and Mental Health Center leadership

Global Health Volunteer, Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children, Las Salinas, Nicaragua August 2013
- Assisted at a health clinic in coordination with the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)
- Presented health lectures in Spanish on medical practices and prevention procedures to primary schools and elderly diabetics in the region

Campus Involvement

Member, Plan II Pre-Med, Austin, TX August 2012 to present
- Design Team Member, The Nocturnal Literary Review, Austin, TX January 2013 to January 2014
- Member, Lions Club at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX January 2013 to December 2013

Awards and Honors

Dillard P. Spragg Scholarship recipient, 2012
Plan II Travel Grant, Summer 2013
University Honors, Spring 2014 and Spring 2015 (Dean’s Honors List -- Cum laude et magna, Spring 2015)
Renee Wolfe Zelmaun and Norman Zelmaun Endowed Scholarship recipient, 2013 and 2014
Red Gibson Award (awarded to a Daily Texan staffer based on accumulated work and contributions above and beyond normal duties), spring 2015

Skills

PC/Macintosh Software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, InCopy), Photo Mechanic, STATA
Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, working and conversational Spanish
November 16, 2015
To the Texas Student Media Board of Trustees:

My name is Amy Zhang, and I am writing to apply for the position of managing editor for the spring 2016 semester. I am currently a senior, majoring in both Plan II Honors and sociology — I have also spent my entire college career as a pre-med student, and am currently a part of the Plan II Public Health program, a cross-institution collaboration between Plan II and The University of Texas School of Public Health. I began working at the Texan in spring 2013 as an issue staff photographer, and have worked every long semester (and two summers) since. I am serving as associate managing editor currently, and believe my experience and vision for the Texan’s future qualify me to serve as managing editor next semester.

My time at the Texan has been a whirlwind. After spending three semesters as a staff photographer, I remember a lot of running around from assignment to assignment, constantly texting reporters who often sent me in the wrong direction, if in any direction at all. Nothing changed when I became a senior photographer, except that running from assignment to assignment occasionally meant hopping in a car and driving for a few hours. Being associate photo editor, then photo editor, really taught me how important communication was, and gave me more appreciation for unlimited texting. Being a photographer, however, has thrust me into the forefront of important issues affecting the University, Austin, and even the nation — I unknowingly photographed David Ash’s last game as a Texas quarterback, I rode along in a cop car, I sprinted through downtown to shoot a protest held after Darren Wilson was not indicted in Ferguson, Missouri (and went home to peaceful College Station the next morning), I visited UTPD at 2 in the morning to photograph an officer working the night shift, I drove to Kansas (and back) to capture a shutout football game against Kansas, I elbowed photographers out of the way to get photos of Dan Patrick as he won the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, I photographed Wendy Davis at a rally celebrating the one year anniversary of the SB 5 filibuster, I captured the happiness of Texans celebrating same-sex marriage equality, I flew to, then sprinted through, South Bend, Indiana, to photograph the Longhorns losing in spectacular fashion to Notre Dame — and those are just the highlights, not counting the countless music festivals and on-campus rallies and lecture series on obscure languages. As I became an editor, staying late was not a concern, considering my lack of morning classes and my determination to make sure my staff’s hard work and effort was properly displayed both in print and online — my favorite part of production was getting to embed additional images that added more to a story. As exhausting as putting together SXSW slideshows until 7 in the morning may seem, in my mind, there was no comparison to the staffers who had photographed the entire day, finally falling asleep across keyboards and office sofas — they’re the real heroes.
I have had the honor of working with incredible photographers while here at the Texan — I am grateful to call them my friends, and still marvel that I got a chance to work with so many talented people. Even so, I had always planned on moving around the departments at the Texan. It speaks to the talent and community of the photo department that I did not; however, as I ascended the ranks of the photo department, I found myself itching to do more. Having always read at a high level, editing my father’s engineering papers for grammar and spelling from a young age, the editing side of production always appealed to me — I found small victories in being able to catch little errors while I examined pages as associate photo editor (even though looking at the pages was primarily to make sure photo captions properly credited my photographers). Perhaps this stemmed from fond memories of my tenure as editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper, The Roar — whatever it was, I found myself asking Jack if he had locked down an associate managing editor for the fall, and found myself uncharacteristically voicing my desire to hold the position, even as he told me he wanted someone with more news experience. Being associate managing editor has certainly been challenging, and has taught me a lot about the pressures of leadership and keeping a cool head while overseeing production, even if everything instinctual screams otherwise. In this position, I have grown immensely as an editor, but continue to seek out knowledge — every night I edit involves questions to every department, and my friends at the copy desk never fail to teach me something new.

If appointed as managing editor, I would have a few goals constantly in mind.

**Increasing community engagement and awareness:** I feel like this is on every potential managing editor’s application, but this only emphasizes how important the idea is — as a student newspaper, we serve a special role to the UT community that no other publication can satisfy. Now, in the time of increasing social awareness and polarization, it is more important than ever to ensure that the community realizes the benefit of the Texan, and learns to trust student voices and value student reporting. While The Texan Talks have been successful this semester, I would like to work with Claire and the rest of next semester’s department heads to make them more accessible to the community.

**Cultivate an effective, productive office environment:** Part of being a successful managing editor is building a strong connection with the staff. As associate managing editor, I feel like I have effectively communicated that I am always available if staffers have concerns, regardless of whether they are work-related or not. If appointed as managing editor, I would continue to stress that my door is always open if staffers need an ear to vent to, or want advice on how to handle a situation. Furthermore, I want to communicate with each department and make sure that all voices are being heard — effective communication is an extremely important part of functionality as a newspaper, and there is no point in cultivating passive-aggressive thoughts towards others, particularly internally within departments. Improving office morale and workflow would be goals for every night of production.
Emphasize the importance of social media: The Texan has gone above and beyond what it has done in the past this semester in regards to social media, elevating it to its own department — it has been a pleasure to be involved in bringing Snapchat to the paper, and our social media editor Erin has done an incredible job highlighting the benefits of good social media. I hope to see social media flourish as a department once more next semester, but also want to stress to the rest of the staff the importance of sharing their own work, and the work of their colleagues — being the most-followed student newspaper on Twitter is an achievable goal, and staffers should recognize that as content-producers, we are also our own readers. If staffers are actively sharing their work and encouraging public opinion, we can find out what the community is interested in reading about — whether it’s No Shave November, vaping, stores on the Drag closing, or campus carry.

Don’t forget about technology and presentation: Bringing my childhood friend Tom to the Texan has been one of my best Texan decisions to date — he has done a fantastic job this semester as tech team manager, and I cannot wait to see what his department does in these last few weeks of production. Following the success of our tech department in the spring, and seeing how things have adapted this semester to correlate with other changes in the Texan, it is more important than ever that we have functional technical support. If appointed as managing editor, digital-first initiatives will be something I concentrate on — in addition to constantly updating online content, I want to focus on online presentation, whether that involves the tech team designing more special pages to highlight in-depth reporting, or working with a team to assemble a much-needed new website. Our multimedia, design, and tech departments are so talented, and are deserving of a website that can properly highlight their work. I encourage staffers to follow my lead as we make online presentation one of the highlights of our job, rather than just an afterthought.

These are only a few points on an endless list of things I would want to do in my final semester at the Texan — my final semester as an undergraduate in college. Despite the uncertainty of everything on my plate next semester, from figuring out what I want to do in life to completing my senior thesis, nothing feels more clear than declaring my candidacy for managing editor, and seeing the inevitable success of the staff as we continue to produce an excellent product. If you, the board, would grant me the opportunity to serve you and the staff, I would be honored to serve as the next managing editor of The Daily Texan — it would be my utmost pleasure to give back to this storied institution that has given me so much in life, and I would love to be able to mentor others to grow as journalists and love the basement and the Texan as I do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Zhang
To the members of the Texas Student Media Board,

I write this letter to express my enthusiastic support for Amy Zhang’s candidacy to serve as managing editor of The Daily Texan for spring 2016. After working with her closely during my own tenure as managing editor, I am confident that she has the skill, tenacity and passion to do the job phenomenally well. The Texan staff would be lucky to have her at the helm in the coming months, and you would be wise to put her there.

In her role as associate photo editor in spring 2015, Amy’s commitment and competency were obvious from day one. Over the course of the semester, she regularly arrived early and stayed late, well past the rest of the staff, in order to make sure the department was running as smoothly as possible. She also worked hard to ensure the photographers’ work received maximum credit. On several occasions, when a photographer brought in a particularly strong take, Amy would be the first to suggest embedding additional photos into the online version of the relevant article — even though that meant substantially more work for her. I cannot count the number of times Amy would come into my office at 2 or 3 a.m. simply to compare two similar photos or get my perspective on whether an additional photo was necessary to the telling of a story. Then, as now, I was overwhelmed and inspired by her dedication to the Texan and to its audience.

Amy’s passion for producing the best possible product has always extended well beyond the outlined boundaries of any given job she holds. On nights we worked together, she also chose to examine the final version of every page of the print edition — something photo editors were not expected or asked to do. In doing so, she regularly caught errors nobody else, myself included, had seen. Her attention to detail is stellar, and her continued willingness to go above and beyond make her a role model for the rest of the staff.

Beyond the talents she demonstrates in her approach to the work itself, Amy has also consistently proven herself to be a thoughtful, level-headed team leader. During my semester as managing editor, I watched her handle any number of staff conflicts with professionalism and skill. She was not afraid to seek advice when necessary, but she also trusted her own instincts. Most importantly, she always demonstrated compassion and understanding — so that even when telling a staffer he or she was in the wrong, she worked to ensure they still felt respected. I know from many conversations with Amy that she is especially sensitive to issues of gender, race and identity as they manifest in a working environment — and this is particularly critical for a place like The Daily Texan, where those issues play out every day in the pages of the newspaper and in the newsroom itself.

For more than a year, I’ve taken every opportunity to sing Amy’s praises as an invaluable member of The Daily Texan staff. I consider myself lucky that our Texan tenures overlapped,
and I have no doubt she would thrive in the managing editor position. Equally importantly, I believe the staff would benefit overall from her leadership. The managing editor job is at times unforgivingly demanding, and as associate managing editor this semester, Amy has seen first-hand what the position requires. The fact that she wants to do it anyway speaks volumes about her dedication and strength.

If you have questions or would like me to elaborate further on any aspect of Amy’s candidacy, I would be more than happy to oblige.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jordan Rudner
Managing Editor Spring 2015
November 14, 2015
Members of the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees,

It is with great pleasure that I write to support the candidacy of Amy Zhang as The Daily Texan’s managing editor for the spring 2016 semester. I’ve had the joy of working with Amy since spring 2013. As Amy and I have moved up the ranks in our respective departments, we have had the pleasure of working more closely together, until, finally, I had the privilege of working with her as my associate managing editor this semester. Amy’s efficiency and thoroughness, along with her past leadership experience and her passion for the Texan, make her an excellent candidate for managing editor.

As associate photo editor, Amy consistently did more than what was required of her, from pitching in with the special projects team to staying late to assemble slideshows to showcase her photographers’ work. Toward the end of the night, Amy would always come over to the copy and design side of the office to check photo captions and credits on page. She nearly always caught edits beyond the photos that saved me and our copy desk chief from an embarrassing typo or an ungrammatical sentence. Her attention to detail is rivaled only by her reading speed.

As photo editor over the summer, Amy managed and motivated her staff to produce work that often graced our covers and double truck stories. Additionally, she collaborated with our video editor to produce our most read and most shared piece of the summer, an interactive depicting UT then and now. Opportunities like this are everywhere across the 40 Acres, and I believe Amy will encourage her staff to find these interesting stories and tell them in innovative ways with a priority on digital presentation.

I have had the pleasure of working most closely with Amy as associate managing editor this semester. She has never hesitated to take on more work, either at my request or of her own volition. She is concurrently serving as photo editor for Double Coverage, and she frequently takes on issues independent of me — trouble-shooting interactives, addressing personnel issues, and sacrificing time during the weekends to manage staff members and publish content. Perhaps most importantly, Amy has a desire to connect with and understand others. She has effectively handled personnel issues, proving always to be understanding, compassionate, and fair. She prioritizes the people producing the work, knowing that this is how you motivate people to achieve the best work. She always encourages staffers to think critically about the implications of our words and actions — characteristics that are essential to managing the large and diverse staff at the Texan.

Amy’s experience this semester as associate managing editor have given her a keen awareness of the ins and outs of the operational processes at the Texan. I believe she will take what she has learned this semester and undoubtedly be able to improve upon it should the board grant her the opportunity to be managing editor. I strongly encourage you to consider Amy for managing editor of the spring 2016 semester. Should you have any additional questions, please contact me, and I would be happy to speak further.
Sincerely,

Jack Mitts
Managing editor fall 2015
UT System pilot has best office on, off campus

By Madonna Melkerson

Rick Kharlar is the chief pilot of the UT System’s Becklerod King Air 350, a nine-passenger aircraft with seating, chairs, shared workspaces and a bed rigged up as a room.

"I love the best office in the world," Kharlar said. "I fly up there, and I feel I’m on top of the world, and if you’re working on a deal or a project in what I do, and I think I could help." Kharlar — who served in the U.S. Air Force for 18 years — has been the System’s chief pilot since December 2006. He said he misses the in-flight service of Air Force flights.

"It’s like the other extreme of the system," Kharlar said. "We’re in the safe, comfortable, air-conditioned comfort!"

Kharlar has been the System’s chief pilot since December 2006 and says he has "the best office in the world."

Senior Jordan Hicks intercepted his first career pass, as he and the Texas defense were dominant in the Longhorns’ season opening 38-7 victory against North Texas. The Longhorns held North Texas to under 100 yards of total offense.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ZHANG

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Sophomore Spencer Delman has emerged as the star of the Texas club hockey team, becoming the top player in both scoring goals and racking up assists.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ZHANG

OCTOBER 29, 2014

With the assistance of former Texas quarterback and current development officer for program alumni relations Vince Young and Texas mascot HookEm, President William Powers Jr. accepts the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge at Gone to Texas on Tuesday night. Gone to Texas is a yearly ceremony welcoming new students to the university’s campus.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ZHANG

AUGUST 26, 2014

At his left, Bill Lavrus co-founders Noah Benesh and Sam Hamlett, along with Chris Dworschak, marketing and engagement director and networking guru, hopes to increase face-to-face interactions between shoppers through their clothing brand. Hunt’s objective is to bring teenagers together and encourage meaningful conversation without the use of social media.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ZHANG

NOVEMBER 13, 2011
Texas V. Notre Dame 109....

The Texas Longhorns kicked off their season in South Bend, Indiana, against

By: The Daily Texan
TENAS CAN DO LITTLE RIGHT IN 38-3 LOSS TO NO. 11
NOTRE DAME

By TOM COYNE — Sep. 6, 2015 12:52 AM EDT

Texas can do little right in 38-3 loss to No. 11 Notre Dame.

SHARE

Texas quarterback Jerrod Heard reacts after being sacked by Notre Dame during an NCAA college football game Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame won 38-3. (Amy Zhang/The Daily Texan via AP)

TENAS COACH STRONG WANTS 'RESTART' AFTER NOTRE
DAME BLOWOUT

By JIM VERTUNO — Sep. 7, 2015 4:57 PM EDT

Texas coach Charlie Strong wants 'restart' after Notre Dame blowout

SHARE

Texas coach Charlie Strong walks off the field after Texas' 38-3
loss to Notre Dame in an NCAA college football game Saturday,
Sept. 5, 2015, in South Bend, Ind. (Amy Zhang/The Daily Texan via AP)
Explore how the UT campus has changed over the years with our interactive: bit.ly/1Kv3JSo

Amy Zhang Retweeted
LBJ Library · Aug 3
Great piece in thedailytexan. See us before & after.

Bryce Seifert @bryceseifert
Explore how the @UTAustin campus has transformed with interactive sliders. thedailytexan dailytexanonline.com/2015/08/03/int...

Bryce Seifert @bryceseifert · Aug 3
Explore how the @UTAustin campus has transformed with interactive sliders. thedailytexan dailytexanonline.com/2015/08/03/int...

See UT campus then and now

Interactive: UT Then & Now
Just photographed my first wedding ever here at the Travis County Courthouse—congrats, Ken and Joey! @thedailytexan

Currently at the Travis County Clerk's office, where same-sex couples are getting marriage licenses @thedailytexan

Amy Zhang @amyyzhang · Jun 26
@DaultonVenglar and I were at the Travis County Clerk's Office for @thedailytexan today—check out our photos here:

flickr.com/photos/thedail...

Texas Same-sex Marriage
Early Friday morning, the Supreme Court ruled same-sex marriage is a right upheld by the Constitution in a 5-4 decision. The Supreme Court ruling ...

flickr.com

Amy Zhang @amyyzhang
3 confederate statues—Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Albert Johnston—were vandalized this morning @thedailytexan

Amy Zhang @amyyzhang · Jun 26
(Darin Upchurch and Ted Burton, after getting their marriage license)
New faces, familiar places: Year in review

The 2014–2015 school year was marked by new faces—a new chancellor, president, governor and basketball coach. The year also featured greater excitement, including a major SSLC expansion, a new 35-foot sculpture, and a successful Student Government campaign that ended in victory. Check out our year in review.

Page 38

Photo credits: From left, top: John Strang, student art director/photographer; bottom: Steve Sinak, student photographer.