Certification of candidates
for
Editor In Chief
of
The Daily Texan

Riley Brands
David Maly
APPLICATION FORM  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN  
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA  
Term of Office: June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015

Please complete all sections of this application and return it to HSM 3.200 (William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue).

Application Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will be certified at the TSM Board of Operating Trustees meeting on Friday, February 7, 2014. Please plan to attend the meeting to discuss your application with the Board of Operating Trustees.

SECTION I. Name and Address

William Riley Bonds  
Full Name

917 E. 40th St., Apt. C302  
Local Address

Austin, TX 78751  
City, State, Zip Code

ribra@gmail.com  
Email Address

wrb6734  
UT EID

Linguistics  
Major

512-658-8128  
Telephone Number

SECTION II. Authorization for Release of Information

I hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify the information requested below for the purpose of application for an elected or appointed office of Texas Student Media. Further, I understand that the 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: 1/30/14
SECTION III. Include the following with this application:

A. Resume

B. Up to three samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)

C. At least three letters of recommendation
   (from professional journalists, administrators, faculty members, etc.)

D. Letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position

E. Official UT transcript of all work done at the University

F. Signatures from at least five editorial staff members of
   The Daily Texan supporting your candidacy for editor-in-chief

SECTION IV. Experience Record

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of:

Associate Editor                June 2013 —

Life & Arts Staff Writer        February 2013 — August 2013

Copy Desk Chief/News Editor    January 2013 — May 2013

Associate Copy Desk Chief      August 2012 — December 2013

Copy Editor                    July 2012 — August 2012

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
SECTION V. Certification

Items marked with * may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present upon candidate certification. If a provision is waived for one candidate, the Board must open up the application process again for any student that fits the new qualifications.

1. Is the applicant a registered student in good standing at U.T. Austin this semester?  
   
2. Has the applicant completed at least 30 hours at U.T. Austin with a minimum grade point average of 2.25?  
   
3. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion?  
   
4. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one other semester as an issue staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than opinion?  
   
5. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have demonstrated competency in media law by completing J360 or an equivalent course?  
   
6. Has the applicant obtained signatures from at least five editorial staff members of The Daily Texan supporting their candidacy for editor-in-chief?  
   
7. Does the applicant agree to pass a libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser to ensure that he or she is fully capable of maintaining libel-free content?  
   
8. Will the applicant be upper-division by the time they begin their term of office?

Signature of Editorial Adviser  
Jan. 30, 2014  
Date
General Provisions

1. The editor-in-chief shall be a registered student in accordance with U.T. Austin institutional rules. The editor-in-chief may take no more than 12 semester hours as an undergraduate or 9 semester hours as a graduate or law student, but no fewer than 3 semester hours, during each long term. The editor-in-chief need not enroll for classes during the summer session.

2. The term of office shall be June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015.

3. Any member of the Board of Operating Trustees of Texas Student Media who becomes an applicant for editor-in-chief shall resign from the Board at the time he or she applies.

4. Any person who shall have served a regular full term as editor-in-chief shall be ineligible for a second term.

5. Any member of the Texan staff who applies to run for editor-in-chief must take a leave of absence without pay from the date of certification through the date of the election (or through the date of the runoff if one is necessary). This provision applies only if the candidate has one or more opponents in the race.

6. The editor-in-chief shall leave to the decision of the managing editor the makeup and display of the news in The Daily Texan while the managing editor will leave up to the editor-in-chief all decisions regarding content of the opinion page(s). In the event of a disagreement between the editor-in-chief and managing editor over any area of Texan policy, the decision of the editor-in-chief shall prevail, unless the Board waived one of the provisions for certification of an editor-in-chief candidate, in which case the managing editor shall prevail in all matters outside the opinion page(s).

7. The editor-in-chief shall enter into a contract with the Board to perform duties for and in consideration of the salary, and shall not be paid for work in any other department or supplemental section above and beyond the agreed-to salary.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications.

[Signature]

Date: 7/30/14

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM Handbook. You are subject to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/). Read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
William Riley Brands
912 E. 40th Street, Apt. C202
Austin, TX  78751
512-658-8188
ribran@gmail.com

Education


Honors

Enrolled in Linguistics Honors Program, currently completing a thesis on word order in street name pairs.

Experience

The Daily Texan, newspaper for the University of Texas.

Associate Editor, May 2013 to present.
Write editorials and edit opinion columns.

Life & Arts Staff Writer, February 2013 to August 2013.
Wrote an advice column as well as other stories about culture and entertainment.

Copy Desk Chief / Wire Editor, January 2013 to May 2013.
Led a staff of 19 copy editors. Set work schedules. Wrote weekly critique of staff’s use of AP style. Pulled stories from the AP wire for the World & Nation page.

Associate Copy Desk Chief, August 2012 to December 2013.
Reviewed work of copy editors. Made final changes to stories before they were sent to the printer.

Copy Editor, July 2012 to August 2012.
Edited stories for style, grammar and accuracy. Wrote headlines, slugs and label heads.

Linguistics

President of the Undergraduate Linguistic Society
Currently in the process of restarting a group that discusses language and developments in the field of linguistics in addition to promoting the discipline to the UT community.

**Research Assistant, May 2013 to August 2013**
Read and summarized articles for a graduate student's dissertation on language use by LGBT families. Offered advice on how to analyze interviews.

**Undergraduate Research Week, April 2013**
Was part of a select group of students that presented research to the UT community.
Democrats' excitement over Davis unfounded

BY RILEY BRANDS
JULY 9, 2013

Over the past few weeks, much ink has been spilled on the rising star of state Sen. Wendy Davis, whose 10-hour filibuster of the previous special session's abortion bill, Senate Bill 5, delayed a vote until just after the midnight deadline.

On social media and in the papers, Davis has been heralded as the Texas Democratic Party's newest superstar, as well as its best shot at regaining the governor's office next year.

However, the exalted status the Fort Worth Democrat has achieved in some circles is out of proportion to the weight of her actions in the filibuster and the current political calculus in Texas.

To be sure, Davis' filibuster has laid out a bright future for her in Texas politics. Standing up against a bill for close to the equivalent of two workdays requires both determination and strength. That said, the excitement over Davis, which has spawned memes featuring the pink tennis shoes she wore as well as a short animated film recapping the filibuster, just doesn't compute with last week's show of political grit.

Our leaders ought to win public office after gaining the respect of voters through repeated political achievements, not by dazzling the media at a politically opportune moment. The governorship, especially, is a serious position that requires more experience than Davis presently has.

In their scramble for a viable candidate for governor against the as-yet unknown Republican heavyweight, the Democrats have latched onto the most politically galvanizing Texas Democrat to come along in years. Not since 2003, when Texas House Democrats fled to Ardmore, Okla., to break a quorum on a redistricting bill beneficial to Republicans, has the Texas Democratic Party been the focus of so much attention.
And not since former Gov. Ann Richards has a woman been at the center of it all.

However, it’s not that the Democrats haven’t had any potential candidates until now. To the contrary, Julian Castro, the current mayor of San Antonio who electrified the Democratic voting base with his keynote address at the party’s 2012 national convention, would likely have posted impressive numbers had he thrown his hat in the ring. The real problem, then, is that none have wanted to put themselves forward because of the political calculus against them.

Not a single Democrat has won statewide office since 1994, and according to a survey conducted by the Texas Politics Project in July 2008, 39 percent of Texans identify as conservative, 41 percent as moderate and only 20 percent as liberal.

But with the Democrats riding high on a wave of adrenaline and the next gubernatorial election less than 18 months away, it makes sense that the party should want to start planning for 2014. However, Davis’ chances of election are bleak. According to a survey conducted by Public Policy Polling, a national polling firm, Davis trails Gov. Rick Perry by 14 points (55 to 39) in a hypothetical race. Davis fared better, though still came in second, against Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott (her most likely competitor were she to enter the race), trailing him by eight points (48 to 40).

What do these numbers tell us? The fanfare over Davis is overblown and premature, a reality acknowledged even by Amber Mostyn, a Houston trial lawyer whom the New Republic has identified as Davis’ “most powerful political patron.” “Don’t get me wrong,” Mostyn said. “I have always wanted Wendy to be my governor, but I don’t want everyone to get carried away with the events of the day without the mathematics having changed.”

In other words: the Democrats have a way to go before they can justify this level of elation.
Czechs in Texas struggle to preserve language

BY RILEY BRANDS

July 16, 2013

One hundred seventy-five years ago, La Grange was nothing more than a sleepy way station between Austin and Houston. Situated on the Colorado River roughly 60 miles southeast of Austin, the village and surrounding Fayette County underwent a transformation beginning in the 1850s, when waves of Czech and German immigrants arrived in the area.

The Czech immigrants who settled there held onto their heritage and language, but also emphasized assimilation through the learning of English, said Retta Chandler, director of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange. The center, first conceived in 1995, seeks to increase awareness of the Texas Czech community through cultural events and exhibits.

After moving into shiny new digs adjacent to the Fayette County Fairgrounds in 2009, the center filled the space with books, paintings, photographs and heirlooms donated by the descendants of Czech immigrants. However, while the excitement over the new collection was a good indicator of the local interest in Czech heritage, it also belied a less encouraging fact about the state of the community: Texas Czech, the local dialect of Czech, is dying.

According to the U.S. English Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based foundation that promotes the adoption of English as the official language of the U.S., 12,805 Texans spoke Czech as of May. However, Chandler understands that number is ever dwindling.

"[The Czech language] is almost gone," Chandler said. "I think my generation is probably the end of it."
Linguists have long observed that immigrant languages tend to die out after just a few generations as the younger generations assimilate to the dominant culture.

In her 2009 undergraduate thesis on the Czech language in Texas, Pavlína Pintová of Masaryk University in the Czech Republic identifies two causes for the decline of Texas Czech, which she dates to the 1920s: the introduction of Americanization programs in response to World War I and tightened immigration quotas.

According to Lida Cope, director of the Texas Czech Legacy Project based here at UT, the decline picked up speed after World War II, when negative feelings toward Czech slowly built up to a tipping point at which Czech speakers abruptly switched over to English.

To Frank Klinkovsky, an 87-year-old docent at the Czech Heritage Museum Genealogy Center in Temple, this assessment rings painfully true.

"[Things are] changing real fast," Klinkovsky said. "The Czechs don’t speak up for themselves. They [don’t] teach their kids [the language]."

Klinkovsky grew up on a farm east of Temple, the son of a Moravian father and a Bohemian mother. As a boy, Klinkovsky spoke Czech to his friends and family, but when he went to school, in a rural two-room schoolhouse, the pressure to learn English was strong, from both teachers and parents who didn’t want to hold their children back. English was the only language spoken in school, so to supplement the language he heard at home, he took Czech classes every summer.

After high school, Klinkovsky married a local Czech girl. Her ethnicity wasn’t a mere coincidence.

"I was a little bit particular that she was Czech," Klinkovsky said. "I don’t know why ... because I talked Czech, and I kind of wanted her to."
It wasn’t an easy courtship, however.

“It was kind of a hassle,” Klinkovsky said. “One time I was going to go see her ... and I was going down a gravel road ... and I got into some loose gravel on the side of the road. The tail end got sliding sideways and I over-corrected, and the car rolled over and landed upright on its wheels.”

Luckily, Klinkovsky wasn’t severely injured, and the couple went on to be married for 55 years. Somewhat ironically, Klinkovsky’s progeny have followed the pattern of the Texas Czech community and don’t speak Czech beyond a few songs and stock phrases.

When Klinkovsky’s great-granddaughter was born three years ago, he had a new opportunity to pass on the language, but limited contact and other priorities made that unfeasible.

“I probably should be teaching her some Czech,” Klinkovsky said. “I don’t know ... That would be nice.”

Like Klinkovsky, Georgia Kovar, a native speaker of Texas Czech, seems to have resigned herself to the fact that there’s not much hope for saving the language in Texas.

“There’s hardly anybody I can talk Czech to anymore,” Kovar said.

Although the center has offered Czech classes in the past, the trends are undeniable.

Still, Chandler believes it’s worth trying to save the language.

“It’s such an important part of our identity,” Chandler said. “It’s something we should be proud of.”
Despite flaws, open access is worth the price
BY THE DAILY TEXAN EDITORIAL BOARD (RILEY BRANDS)
October 11, 2013

Open-access journals haven’t had an easy go of it lately. In its current special issue, the esteemed journal Science has published an article detailing how Harvard biologist John Bohannon duped more than 100 of the freely available online scientific journals into accepting a completely bogus study that should have been thrown out by any competent reviewer. Bohannon’s implication is clear: Traditional print is still superior to open access.

However, there are several flaws with Bohannon’s experiment, the most glaring of which is that he didn’t submit his study to any traditional print journals like Nature or Cell. Without a control group, how can Bohannon say that open access journals are any more likely than traditional ones to let junk science slip through the cracks?

Even if Bohannon had found a statistically significant difference, it wouldn’t change our view that open access represents an important step forward for the greater dissemination and democratization of knowledge.

Open-access journals certainly aren’t perfect, but there are good reasons to support their growth.

The most obvious of these is the ballooning subscription fees of traditional print journals. According to data provided by Susan Macicak, interim collection development officer for UT Libraries, EBSCO, the University’s serials agent, posted price increases of at least 20 percent across all disciplines from 2009 to 2013. Even more distressingly, a report put out by EBSCO on Oct. 4 predicted a continuation of this trend, with an expected increase of 6 to 8 percent from 2013 to 2014.

According to Macicak, UT has seen similar price increases in recent years.
“Those titles we get through [EBSCO] have inflated at an average of about 5.25 [percent] over the last five years, for a total increase in what we paid of approximately ... 26.26 [percent] between 2007 and 2012 — which doesn’t figure in both serials cancellations and new titles started,” Macicak said.

Ronda Rowe, UT’s head librarian for acquisition services, said that the most recent figure, for FY12-13, is around $9.8 million.

Any hope of change through price reductions is ill-founded, according to Georgia Harper, scholarly communications adviser for UT Libraries.

“In my opinion, the solution is unlikely to come from lower rates from the journal publishers,” Harper said. “The journal subscription market can be fairly described as dysfunctional. It does not operate according to the normal market forces that would keep prices low. These forces include, among others, competition and low barriers to entry into the market. Instead, the journal subscription market is characterized by, first and foremost, a monopolistic good — copyright. Copyright is a federally-sanctioned monopoly that allows those who possess a copyright to charge more than the market would ordinarily bear for a good or service.”

Less practical, but just as important, is the symbolic nature of free access to information. While we understand the need for scholarly publications to fund their operations, we can’t ignore the incalculable benefits that accompany the wide availability of knowledge. Not only does it allow research to reach more people, but it also provides an invaluable check against the sort of bogus science that Bohannon tried to pass off as legitimate.

While open-access journals certainly suffer from their own problems, the benefits outweigh the risks and official measures should be taken to promote their growth. Such initiative must start at the university level, where the vast majority of scholarly output originates. Many American universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of North Texas in Denton, have adopted official policies in favor of open access. UT-Austin has a digital repository where student and faculty work is stored.
Policies alone, however, won’t be enough to swing the balance in favor of open access. The well-entrenched reputations of traditional journals will keep them in positions of power and influence over the future of the academic publishing world as long as researchers continue to attach greater prestige to them than to open-access journals.

Curt Rice, a UT alumnus and current professor in the department of languages and linguistics at the University of Tromsø in Norway, recently wrote an article for The Guardian in which he criticized both the methodology and conclusions of Bohannon’s experiment.

Rice expanded on his views in an email to the Daily Texan editorial board on Wednesday by offering some ideas for how open-access journals could entice more researchers to publish in their pages.

“One strategy [to enhance the prestige of open-access journals] would be to try to get some of the high prestige traditional journals to switch to the [open-access] model,” Rice said. “Then the prestige of that journal would just be exported to the [open-access] domain, and people would still want to publish there.”

“Another strategy is that people who are fairly far along in their careers start using more [open access] ... But these are all on the ‘carrot’ side of the equation. One has to ask if part of the impediment is also inadequate use of the ‘stick.’ It sounds simple-minded in some ways, but [the National Institutes of Health], [the National Science Foundation], the [European Union], and lots of national research councils are now saying that publicly funded research must be freely available. That will force people to [open access], which in turn should contribute to raising the prestige and start leading others there [willingly].” Harper agrees with this assessment.

“Prestige is a big factor in the individual decision of where to publish,” Harper said. “That factor is theoretically under our control, of course. We could determine the value of our faculty-author’s research without relying on journals to tell us what’s good and
what’s not, but we seem unable to unlink an analysis of the worth of a faculty member’s research from the journal that accepts it for publication.”

However, Harper cautions that while there were definite flaws with Bohannon’s study, there is some basis to the perception that open-access journals aren’t quite up to the same standard as traditional print journals.

“Of course, [open-access] journals and subscription journals both rely on peer review, but many [open-access] journals still lag behind the established ones in their prestige,” Harper said. “I think it will take time for [open-access] journals to establish themselves as reliable indicators of the value of the research they publish.”

Admittedly, some open-access journals still need to make improvements before they can attract the sort of work that will bring them up in esteem. As Rice said, it’s going to take a carrot-and-stick approach to solve this problem. Someone is going to have to give researchers that initial nudge to make the switch. Luckily, there are events here on the 40 Acres that are helping to further that effort. Open Access Week 2013, which is being put on by UT Libraries later this month, attempts to “[promote] the movement for unimpeded accessibility to scholarly research.” Hopefully, through this and other similar efforts, open access can find the acceptance that it needs to thrive.
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR MR. WILLIAM RILEY BRANDS: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF—THE DAILY TEXAN

January 30, 2014

Dear Members of the Board:

I am delighted to offer my highest recommendation on behalf of Mr. Riley Brands, who is a candidate to become editor-in-chief at the Daily Texan. I have known Mr. Brands since Spring 2012 when he was a student in my large introductory lecture survey course, AMS 310/HIS 315G: “Introduction to American Studies.” We have kept in regular contact since then. He is currently a student in my graduate course, AMS 390/HIS 385: “Watershed Decade: the 1970s.” In all respects, I am deeply impressed with his intelligence, collegiality, drive, and good character.

AMS 310/HIS 315 is an interdisciplinary historical exploration of the World War II era as a watershed period in American history. Our analysis of the subsequent cultural, economic, social, and political transformations of the United States springs from a careful consideration of the wartime milieu at home and abroad. Although the course carries a lower-division designation, students are required to read six books—all of which are primary sources written during the time of the historical period under examination. Students also must write three essay examinations (two of which are in class and the final is a take-home). Mr. Brands performed beautifully at every turn, displaying an impressive ability to synthesize large amounts of material into concise and perceptive historical analysis. He received a nearly perfect score on his final essay exam. His cumulative course grade ranked him as one of the top two students in a class of 170.

Given Mr. Brands' superb performance in my undergraduate course, I readily accepted his request to enroll in my graduate seminar—even though the course was full. I should note that this is the first time I have allowed an undergraduate student to enter a graduate course. I made an exception because I am highly confident that Mr. Brands will be able to meet the demands of this class. Indeed, although we only have had two class meetings because of the MLK holiday this semester, he has already distinguished himself: Mr. Brands is the first student in the class to present me with a thoroughly thoughtful research proposal for our
final paper. Using the rich archival materials of the *Daily Texan*, Mr. Brands will examine the volatile relationship between Frank Erwin and the paper’s editorial staff in the early 1970s as a microcosm of the broader national student movements during this tumultuous decade.

Mr. Brands would be an outstanding editor-in-chief at the *Daily Texan*. His plans to increase news coverage of graduate students and the campus’s vibrant sorority and fraternity activities are excellent. He is also committed to building the paper’s financial resources by reaching out to members of the *Texan’s* distinguished alumni community, in addition to other companies and community organizations. He is a seasoned journalist and possesses invaluable prior work experience at the paper. The Daily Texan is a superb student newspaper with a venerable history. I am delighted to offer my highest recommendation on behalf of Mr. Brands with no reservations, whatsoever.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to speak with me at janetmdavis@austin.utexas.edu; or at 512-232-1848.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

Janet M. Davis
Associate Professor
American Studies, History,
Women’s and Gender Studies
January 29, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am very pleased to write in support of Riley Brands’s application for the position of editor-in-chief of the Daily Texan.

I first met Mr. Brands in 2012 when he was a student in my summer historical linguistics course here at UT Austin (LIN 345 - Language Change and Language Variation). This is an upper-level undergraduate course required for linguistics majors. The content of the course is very technical, and it involves rigorous analysis that is particularly intense in the compressed summer half-term. In what follows, I will comment on Mr. Brands’s performance in the class and about him as a student and person more generally. I am not an expert in journalism and I have no experience working for a newspaper in any capacity, so I can’t address those parts of his profile. However, in terms of his work and character that I am familiar with, I hold Mr. Brands in very high regard.

Mr. Brands was one of the best students in my class, and I got to know him personally fairly quickly because he was a frequent visitor during office hours and occasionally by appointment. He didn’t visit me because he was having difficulties in the class, but more because he was very engaged in the material and wanted to talk more about it and take the discussion further. That kind of enthusiasm is not very common, especially in the summer, when time constraints are tight and pressure is high.

I remember early in the class that Mr. Brands wasn’t satisfied with his performance on an assignment. He emailed me and asked to set up an appointment with me to discuss his performance. It really wasn’t a big problem, but this showed me that he is mature and careful to get things right immediately, not delaying or becoming shy or withdrawn as some students unfortunately do. It also shows that he has good communication skills and is proactive in his studies and development. His performance in the class improved to a high level, and he ended up with a final grade of A-.

Another thing that still really stands out to me about Mr. Brands is that shortly after the class ended, he emailed me asking for references and information about how to find a set of recent articles that I had mentioned near the end of the. Mr. Brands showed a rare enthusiasm and motivation to learn more and engage in scholarly literature as an undergraduate student.
I will end by saying a few things about Mr. Brands as a colleague in general. Mr. Brands was always very professional, enthusiastic, honest, pleasant, and trusting in my interactions with him. I see that he has held various roles within the Daily Texan, including leadership roles. His leadership is also attested by the fact that he took the reins of the Undergraduate Linguistics Society at UT, an informal group of organized students of linguistics that had lain dormant for a few years. Therefore, with all of the information I have about Mr. Brands, his work ethic, and people skills, I give my highest recommendation for his application for editor-in-chief for the Daily Texan. Thanks you for your attention.

Sincerest regards,

Eric Campbell

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Linguistics
University of Texas at Austin
To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Mary K. Moore, and I'm writing to recommend Riley Brands for the position of editor-in-chief of *The Daily Texan*.

Since he joined *The Daily Texan*, I have witnessed Riley rise from copy editor to copy chief to associate editor and editorial board member in the span of a year and a half. Riley is a well-read, meticulous editor (at one point, instituting a daily copy critique of the entire paper) who is also socially and politically engaged. His awareness of issues both on campus and off give him a maturity and perspective unsurpassed by his peers. As a manager and individual, he is personable and open-minded, lending to the free discourse needed for any vibrant, productive newsroom. His experience working in various departments has only reinforced his cohesive management style. Riley balances this with an invaluable understanding of the interplay between the business and editorial sides of a daily publication, always exploring new ideas for revenue outreach. As an associate editor, he's also pushed for wider, more diverse staff recruitment as well as balanced, fair coverage of underrepresented campus groups.

Even with his accelerated educational pace, Riley's sense of responsibility is far beyond the university level. Having worked for over a decade as an editor of major consumer magazines in New York, I can say that Riley's competency and skill competes with that of any senior level staffer.

Outside of being a solid editor, writer and manager, he is well-spoken, charismatic and an overall ideal representative to uphold the journalistic standards of *The Daily Texan*.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Moore
512.636.0888
To TSM Board Members,

I’m writing in support of Riley Brands regarding the candidacy of The Daily Texan’s Editor-in-Chief for the 2014-2015 academic year.

I met Riley when he was a tryout in the Copy Desk department, knowing immediately that showing this shy guy the way out of his shell was going to be worthwhile to the establishment. During Riley’s time at the Texan he has made himself an invaluable contributor to the paper as a writer, editor, peer, and mentor.

Riley’s sharp eye and judgement has made him keen toward editing varied content, while remaining sensitive to writer’s intent and style. His observant nature and unbiased disposition has helped him carefully identify unheard voices and gives them a chance to speak to their community. And in addition to all this, he’s made his peers comfortable expressing their concerns, and works with them to reach solutions.

I’m confident all this will help him reach his goals for the Editor-in-Chief position, which are strongly in favor of strengthening the paper’s coverage and readership by giving several overlooked groups in the UT community a chance to be heard.

Riley is more than qualified for this position, and I can’t wait to see what great things are to come for The Daily Texan, as well as Texas Student Media.

Thank you,

Kristine Reyna
To the Board,

My name is Riley Brands, and I submit the following letter to you as part of my application for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

When I first set foot in the Daily Texan office almost two years ago, I never imagined I would end up in the position I hold today as associate editor. But what began as a summer job has since blossomed into a passion, for journalism broadly, but more specifically for the Texan and its future. I am consistently amazed by the high-quality product we turn out every day, but I know that our ability to stay in print is imperiled by our rapidly falling advertising revenues. The Texan has a long and rutted road ahead, and I believe I'm the one to lead us over it because of my experience and my consensus-based management style.

To address the funding problem, I will look into ramping up our outreach efforts to Daily Texan alumni in conjunction with the recently formed alumni group Friends of the Texan. I will also include companies and organizations in my search, but I will never accept money with editorial strings attached.

I'm invested in seeing the paper thrive, no matter what. While I do have an attachment to print, it's not vise-tight. If elected, I will determine the best path forward for the paper by seeking out the opinion of the Texan staff as well as by overseeing a market research analysis to determine how best to deliver the content the UT community wants to read.

In my time at the Texan, I have worked in three different departments. On the copy desk, I worked as a copy editor, an associate copy desk chief and finally as copy desk chief, during which time I doubled as a wire editor, pulling stories from the AP wire for our erstwhile World & Nation page. In Life&Arts, I worked mostly as an advice columnist but also wrote stories about culture and entertainment in the Central Texas area. Finally, in opinion, for the past three semesters I have worked as an associate editor, writing editorials and editing opinion columns for print.

As editor, one of my main goals will be to improve the coverage of two key groups on campus: graduate students and the Greek community (in all its many councils). I think it's fair to say there's a general feeling among graduate students that the Texan is primarily an undergraduate exercise that doesn't concern itself with their issues. The Greek community, on the other hand, feels that its coverage in the Texan leaves out the positive work it does in the community. To right this wrong, I will improve relations between the Texan and the Greek community by giving the latter's good deeds the coverage they deserve, encouraging sorority and fraternity members to apply to write for the editorial page and promoting fairer and more balanced coverage in the news pages. Let me be clear: The Texan will not be a mouthpiece for these groups, but it will give them the fair shake they deserve.

I would like to increase the output of the editorial board by starting to use the editorial blog again. In addition to our daily print editorial, we will have a daily blog post where members of
the editorial board will respond more immediately to the latest news. Luckily, the infrastructure is already in place; now all we have to do is use it.

To enhance the quality of the copy in the paper, I will hire a standards editor whose sole job will be to go through the paper every day and identify every mistake, either grammatical, stylistic, factual or logical. This person will then send out a daily report to all staff members so that they can improve their writing. In theory, this job could be done by the copy desk chief, but having served in that position myself, I can tell you there’s simply not enough time to write up such a report every day.

Finally, I will keep the dialogue with the campus community open after the election. To keep my finger on the pulse of the latest issues, I will attend the meetings of the college councils and Greek councils around once a month.

The next 15 months are going to be difficult for the Texan, but I believe that by implementing these ideas we can drive the Texan toward a better future.

Sincerely,

Riley Brands
I support the candidacy of Riley Brands for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

Name: Amil Malik, asm675  27th Jan, 2014
Name: Reena Keenen, rbk393
Name: Sara Reinsch, slr2337
Name: Brett Broncher, em289
Name: Jack Mitts, jjm3726
Name: Omar I. Longuna, ojl76
Name: Harun Barlas, hbl6947
Name: Charlie Pearce, ctp446

Date: Jan. 27, 2014
Date: Jan. 27, 2014
Date: Jan. 27, 2014
Date: Jan. 27, 2014
Date: Jan. 27, 2014
Date: 1/27/14

APPLICATION FORM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA
Term of Office: June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015

Please complete all sections of this application and return it to HSM 3.200
(William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue).

Application Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will be certified at the TSM Board of Operating Trustees meeting
on Friday, February 7, 2014. Please plan to attend the meeting to discuss
your application with the Board of Operating Trustees.

SECTION I. Name and Address

David Nicholas Moly
Full Name
1801 Rio Grande St. #301
Local Address
Austin, TX, 78701
City, State, Zip Code
DavidMoly2@gmail.com
Email Address

SECTION II. Authorization for Release of Information

I hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify the
information requested below for the purpose of application for an elected or appointed
office of Texas Student Media. Further, I understand that the 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:

UT EID:
dla789

Major:
journalism and economics

Telephone Number:
512-318-2220
SECTION III. Include the following with this application:

A. Resume

B. Up to three samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)

C. At least three letters of recommendation
   (from professional journalists, administrators, faculty members, etc.)

D. Letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position

E. Official UT transcript of all work done at the University

F. Signatures from at least five editorial staff members of
   The Daily Texan supporting your candidacy for editor-in-chief

SECTION IV. Experience Record

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of:

Spring 2012: General Reporter
Summer 2012: Senior Reporter
   Covering Crime
Fall 2012: Senior Reporter covering crime and copy editor
   Published more than 200 times
   While at The Daily Texan
SECTION V. Certification

Items marked with * may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present upon candidate certification. If a provision is waived for one candidate, the Board must open up the application process again for any student that fits the new qualifications.

1. Is the applicant a registered student in good standing at U.T. Austin this semester? [Yes/No]

*2. Has the applicant completed at least 30 hours at U.T. Austin with a minimum grade point average of 2.25? [Yes/No]

*3. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion? [Yes/No]

*4. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one other semester as an issue staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than opinion? [Yes/No]

5. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have demonstrated competency in media law by completing J360 or an equivalent course? [Yes/No]

6. Has the applicant obtained signatures from at least five editorial staff members of The Daily Texan supporting their candidacy for editor-in-chief? [Yes/No]

7. Does the applicant agree to pass a libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser to ensure that he or she is fully capable of maintaining libel-free content? [Yes/No]

8. Will the applicant be upper-division by the time they begin their term of office? [Yes/No]

Signature of Editorial Adviser: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Feb 3, 2014
General Provisions

1. The editor-in-chief shall be a registered student in accordance with U.T. Austin institutional rules. The editor-in-chief may take no more than 12 semester hours as an undergraduate or 9 semester hours as a graduate or law student, but no fewer than 3 semester hours, during each long term. The editor-in-chief need not enroll for classes during the summer session.

2. The term of office shall be June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015.

3. Any member of the Board of Operating Trustees of Texas Student Media who becomes an applicant for editor-in-chief shall resign from the Board at the time he or she applies.

4. Any person who shall have served a regular full term as editor-in-chief shall be ineligible for a second term.

5. Any member of the Texan staff who applies to run for editor-in-chief must take a leave of absence without pay from the date of certification through the date of the election (or through the date of the runoff if one is necessary). This provision applies only if the candidate has one or more opponents in the race.

6. The editor-in-chief shall leave to the decision of the managing editor the makeup and display of the news in The Daily Texan while the managing editor will leave up to the editor-in-chief all decisions regarding content of the opinion page(s). In the event of a disagreement between the editor-in-chief and managing editor over any area of Texan policy, the decision of the editor-in-chief shall prevail, unless the Board waived one of the provisions for certification of an editor-in-chief candidate, in which case the managing editor shall prevail in all matters outside the opinion page(s).

7. The editor-in-chief shall enter into a contract with the Board to perform duties for and in consideration of the salary, and shall not be paid for work in any other department or supplemental section above and beyond the agreed-to salary.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications.

[Signature]

[Date]

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM Handbook. You are subject to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/). Read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
DAVID MALY  
1801 Rio Grande St. #301  
Austin, TX 78701  
Phone (cell): (512)-318-7770  
Email: Davidmaly1@gmail.com

**Education:**  
McDowell Senior High School — Erie, PA  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania — Indiana, PA  
Knight School of Journalism MOOC on data-driven journalism  
The University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX  
(9/05-6/09)  
(6/10-8/11)  
(7/13-10/13)  
(8/11-present)  
Majors: Journalism and economics, Minors: English and government

**Experience:**  
**The Texas Tribune:** Intern (8/13-present)  
I write news content on Texas politics that I have pitched and have been assigned. I also work on the publication’s famous Ethics Explorer project.  
**ORANGE Magazine:** Social Media Director (8/13-present)  
I run all the social media accounts for the award-winning entertainment magazine ORANGE, which is operated by The University of Texas students.  
**The Horn:** Editor-in-Chief (8/13-present)  
I run the entire UT student publication, writing, hiring, fundraising and shaping our means of distribution.  
Past positions at The Horn:  
News, Opinion and Sports Editor: (5/13-8/13)  
Associate News Editor: (1/13-5/13)  
**The Oxford Student:** News Reporter (5/13-8/13)  
I covered news for the University of Oxford’s student newspaper while studying abroad there.  
**The Daily Texan:** Reporter, Copy Editor (1/12-1/13)  
I covered all types of news stories for the UT student publication, focusing on crime, and working as a copy editor. I was published 198 times.  
**Rental Property Management:** Owner (2/11-employed)  
I manage rental properties owned by myself and others.  

**Campus Involvement:** UT chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law fraternity (member), UT chapter of Sigma Alpha Lambda honors fraternity (member), UT Hispanic Journalists (member), ISOJ (member), SPJ (member), Sigma Pi Fraternity International (member and secretary)

**Volunteer Experience:**  
- Longhorns Running the 2014 Boston Marathon Volunteer Effort: Founder

**Skills:** I am proficient in Word, Excel, Outlook, PP and InCopy. I am also a social media expert.

This is the first article that I got published in The New York Times while working at The Texas Tribune. For it, I had to do a lot of research, examining legal documents and talking to city officials from around the state. It focuses on Uber, a San Francisco-based company that allows users to order a ride in a luxury or standard vehicle using mobile phone applications. The company recently took a lot of heat in Dallas from incumbent transportation companies it was usurping, and I was able to break news with this story of Uber’s efforts to expand into other parts of the state.
App Lets Riders Forgo Cabs and Ignites Debate on Dallas' Code

Sunny Singh, who uses Uber as a driver, with the app last week in Dallas.

By DAVID MALY
Published: October 31, 2013

When Uber, the San Francisco-based company that allows customers to order rides with a cellphone app, expanded its operations to Texas, it chose Dallas as its starting point.

But the company's arrival has caused friction with the city's cab and limousine drivers, and raised debate over what regulations should apply to it. As officials deliberate whether to change the city code to address Uber's operations, the company is continuing efforts to expand in Dallas and other Texas cities. But cab and limo business representatives say that if Uber is not subject to the same regulations they face, they could go out of business.
Soon after beginning operations in Dallas in October 2012, the city sent Uber a cease-and-desist letter, telling it to halt operations because it did not have the proper licenses.

"We’ve seen this conversation happen before," said Leandre Johns, general manager of Uber’s Texas operations. He said Uber was a technology company, not a transportation company, because it connected riders with drivers it did not employ. He said that though it met or exceeded many standards that govern transportation companies — screening drivers and tracking customer satisfaction, for example — it was different. Uber makes money mainly by taking a portion of its drivers’ fares, Mr. Johns said.

A technology company would be exempt from many of the taxes, fees and regulations that affect taxi and limousine companies in Dallas. That includes providing transportation to all parts of the city and for customers with disabilities.

In an email to Joey Zapata, Dallas’ assistant city manager, a lawyer for Dallas Yellow Cab called the lack of regulations for Uber unfair, and asked to have Dallas police ticket Uber drivers or stop charging cab companies thousands of dollars in permit fees.

"I’m getting very angry in the Uber intrusion and your department’s lack of protection," the lawyer, John Barr, wrote in the email. "What will it take? Bankruptcy of the cabs?"

According to an investigative report from the city that was released Oct. 23, Uber ignored the cease-and-desist letter and Dallas police began ticketing Uber drivers for violating transportation code. Uber paid for lawyers to challenge the citations.

In August, A. C. Gonzalez, the interim city manager, placed an item on the City Council agenda — with no prior council discussion — that would have effectively halted Uber’s operations there. The item was a proposed overhaul to city code that would have required minimum limousine fares and a 30-minute prearrangement for a limo ride.

The lack of discussion over the proposal prompted council members and Mayor Mike Rawlings to call for an investigation into how the item came to be placed on the council agenda.

The report from that investigation faulted Mr. Gonzalez for putting the item on the agenda without prior discussion, but said no illegal activity took place. It also dismissed remaining tickets given to Uber drivers.

Councilman Scott Griggs said officials would look at ways to ensure that Uber is facing the same regulations as taxi and limo services, taking changing technology into account.

But representatives for the cab and limo drivers say Uber should be subject to the same regulations and permit fees that they are.

Mr. Johns said that while Uber would like to expand into Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and other major Texas cities, the focus now is on Houston.

For Uber to operate there, Mr. Johns said, the city would have to change its laws setting a $70 minimum fare and 30-minute prearrangement time on limousine rides. The city is conducting a study of the laws, and Uber is in talks with city officials.

dmaiy@texastribune.org

A version of this article appears in print on November 1, 2013, on page A21A of the National edition with the headline: App Lets Riders Forgo Cabs and Ignites Debate on Dallas’ Code.
University law student attracts heat over 3-D gun design -published in The Daily Texan on 10/4/12

With this story, I became the first reporter at a mainstream publication to break the news that UT Law student Cody Wilson was developing designs that could easily be shared online and used with a 3-D printer to print out guns. News of his efforts soon appeared in the Austin American-Statesman and on a New York Times blog. Wilson has since quickly advanced his work, and I continue to cover developments within it. Wilson continually gives me scoops on his latest endeavors due to the professionalism I have shown while covering his work in the past.
University law student attracts heat over 3-D gun design

UT law student Cody Wilson has been developing software that would offer a design for the making of firearms by 3D printers.

Tagged: Cody Wilson, law student

Published on October 4, 2012 at 2:30 am
Last update on October 4, 2012 at 2:14 am

UT law student Cody Wilson is making headlines as he continues to develop software that would allow anyone with the funding to easily build a gun from the comfort of their own home.

Wilson has been working with several other researchers and financial backers to create a design for a gun that could be shared through the internet and printed using a 3D printer, a piece of machinery used for manufacturing solid objects from digital designs. Although the printers cost between $10,000 and $30,000 on average, there is no permit required to purchase or lease one. As a result, some are raising concerns that current gun laws have not kept up with changing technology.

Wilson said the software is near completion, and he is facing increasing opposition to it. The company he leased a 3D printer from, Stratasys, took back possession of it earlier this week, citing legal concerns about what Wilson could do with it.

In a press release issued Wednesday, the company wrote, “We believe Mr. Wilson intended to use Stratasys property to produce a weapon that is illegal according to the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 (a.k.a. “the plastic guns” law) which prohibits the manufacturing or possession of a gun undetectable by airport metal detectors.”

Wilson said he has no intentions to break any laws with his project, and he has been carefully
examining the legalities of the software throughout its development.

He said he is upset with Stratasys for making accusations about his intent.

"They make it seem like we were about to go break the law or something, which I think hurts us, and Stratasys just doesn’t care," Wilson said. "They want to keep their name clean, so they are happy to just throw us under the bus."

Wilson said he recently got the project’s fund up to $20,000, and hopes recent opposition to the project won’t affect its support base, which has also been growing.

There are legal licenses required to build a gun in some circumstances, and Wilson said he will be obtaining the proper licenses to ensure his efforts are legal before he creates any weapons.

Wilson said he sees potential hazards with his new technology, as it could allow anyone with the funds to more easily build a gun, but he doesn’t think it would be possible to control the sharing of these files under constitutional freedoms.

"How do you stop that, and should you?" he said. "I think the answer is ‘no.’"

Michael Reyes, the resident agent in charge at the Austin branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said he spoke with Wilson about the project earlier this week and he has no concerns that Wilson is attempting to do anything illegal.

"[Wilson’s] done his research into the firearm regulations," he said.

Reyes said Wilson even went into his office to inquire about the legalities of the project.

"[Wilson’s] obviously got his ideas, and he just wants to be careful of what he is doing," Reyes said.

Wilson said after obtaining any gun licenses that he feels may be applicable to his project, he plans to obtain another printer and continue with his efforts.

"This thing is really growing," he said.
Dallas Hair Braider to Sue Over Regulations -published on The Texas Tribune’s website on 10/1/13

In this article, I examined an expected lawsuit against the state from a Dallas-area hair braider who was asked by state officials to attend 2,250 hours of instruction and open a 2,000-square-foot facility in order to independently run a hair braiding school. The article broke news of the suit and looked at an issue that had a serious effect on a small business owner, someone that might not have otherwise gotten much attention over their concerns.
Dallas Hair Braider to Sue Over Regulations
by David Maly  Oct. 1, 2013  30 Comments

Isis Brantley has been braiding hair for more than 30 years, and she wants to pass her trade on, teaching others the techniques she has used on clients ranging from musician Erykah Badu to homeless Dallas residents.

When she contacted the state earlier this year to find out what she would need to do to start teaching hair-braiding from her south Dallas shop, she was shocked. Officials told her she would need to attend 2,250 hours of instruction and open a 2,000-square-foot facility to comply with the Texas Barbering Administrative Rules and the Texas Occupations Code.

On Tuesday, she will file a lawsuit against the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, alleging in federal court that the state’s rules violate her constitutional right to equal protection under the...
14th Amendment. Brantley will ask the court to exempt her from the regulations and grant an injunction preventing the state from applying the rules to other hair braiders.

“This lawsuit means economic liberty for my community,” Brantley said in a statement. “Economic liberty is especially important for black women. This is our new civil rights movement.”

An official at the state regulating agency acknowledged that the rules for barber schools could be difficult for hair braiders to comply with.

It’s not the first time Brantley has been in court over her hair-braiding career. She was arrested in 1997 for braiding hair without a state license, which required 1,500 hours of education. She challenged the license law, and the training requirement was reduced in 2007 for hair braiders to a 35-hour certificate.

While Texas law now only requires a 35-hour certificate to work as a hair braider or to teach hair-braiding as an instructor at an established school, there is little under state law that separates hair-braiding schools from professional barber schools, so many of the same requirements apply to both.

Current law, Brantley said, would require her to obtain irrelevant instruction and pay for facilities and equipment that aren’t used for hair braiding, including barber chairs and wash stations.

Arif Panju, an attorney for The Institute for Justice Texas Chapter, a non-profit civil liberties law firm representing Brantley, said she now teaches braiding for free to students in her community, some of whom are homeless, and she wants to open her own school to expand that effort.

“A lot of these young ladies I found were homeless and jobless,” Brantley said in a YouTube video posted Friday. “I took them in, I trained them, gave them skills and now they have become entrepreneurs.”

The lawsuit will be filed against William Kuntz, executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, which is charged
with enforcing the requirements, and the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation, the agency charged with making many of the rules that govern hair braiders.

Elizabeth Perez, manager of the Barber and Cosmetology Program at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, acknowledged problems with current regulations and said she didn’t know why the laws were the same for braiders and barbers.

“It could be a hardship for someone that just wants to do the braiding,” Perez said.

Panju said the outcome of the case could impact other fields with broad governmental restrictions.

“If we win this case, it could have national implications, as it would stand for the right that individuals have to earn an honest living free from unreasonable restrictions from the government,” Panju said.
Dear Texas Student Media,

I’m writing on behalf of David Maly for the position of Editor-in-Chief at The Daily Texan. During my last semester as the news editor for The Horn, David worked as my associate news editor. He was an invaluable co-worker who helped take our news staff to the next level in a short amount of time.

David is a great asset to any news organization because he is constantly digging for news. As a former reporter for The Daily Texan, word spread quickly around campus that David was one of the best. When breaking news occurred, David was always there — immediately contacting sources, updating Twitter, and making sure to keep his news team in the loop.

When he joined us at The Horn, we were thrilled to have him teaching our younger reporters those same skills. David always took the time to walk reporters through the best sources to contact and how to build a relationship with the people they interviewed. He also spent many nights brainstorming with our staff on how we could build a better multimedia team, and added new beats for our reporters to cover so we could expand our coverage.

David is the kind of goal-driven person who is always figuring out how our news organization could improve, and he still is doing this as the current news editor of The Horn. Since he took the position, I’ve noticed that the website’s summer coverage as expanded immensely and their news team is more active than ever. Summer is usually slow for college campus news, but David knows news never stops.

He’s dedicated his college career to making news accessible and interesting to college students, and I know he would do the same for any news organization and audience that he works for in the future. His work ethic and love of news will benefit not only you, but your readers as well.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Best,

Jessica Huff
Web Producer, POLITICO
jhuff@politico.com
703-206-8234
Feb. 27, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Editor-in-Chief of The Horn, an online alternative news source for the University of Texas and Austin news. I’ve had the opportunity to work with young reporters since the website first began publishing in 2010, and I chose to seek out David Maly for a position on our editorial board last year. I highly recommend him for any reporting or editing position.

David was hired as Associate News Editor in December. He has incredibly strong writing skills, especially with breaking news, and continually produces articles of a higher caliber than his peers. In fact, his strong work ethic and knowledge of state and university news convinced me to offer him the position, and he has quickly excelled. His job requires him to multitask as a reporter and editor, and he does both skillfully. David quickly rose to become the best news reporter on our staff, and I have yet to meet another reporter that has surpassed his skills and journalistic drive for breaking news.

Over the past few months David has helped lead a staff of reporters while continuing to cover the UT-Austin and local Austin community through his own stories. Once again, he surpassed my expectations with his dedication to his work. I have no doubt that David’s professionalism, creativity and commitment to his trade with make him an excellent edition to your staff. I am sure that you will find the same for yourself.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Perrone
Editor-in-Chief, The Horn
600 W. 28th Street, Ste. 210
Austin, TX 78705
Cell: 512-453-6778
Email: cmptexan@gmail.com
To whomever it may concern:

I’m Jody Serrano and I’m a current associate news editor at The Daily Texan. I have worked with David Maly for about a year. Let me just say outright that if you’re looking for someone who is always reliable and does his very best to go above and beyond what you ask, you will not find anyone more capable than David.

David is one of the Texan’s best senior reporters. He covers the University of Texas crime and city crime. Although he is not a journalism student, he tackles his work with a drive that makes me forget that. Whenever I’m looking to inspire other reporters, I tell them David’s story: “David did not start out as an amazing reporter, but he worked hard everyday to get to where he is now. He is a living testament that if you practice a skill over and over again and work to get better, your hard work pays off.”

He goes to the courthouse every morning to check the affidavits and see if there is a story. I looked at his notebook one day and saw he was looking into 12 possible stories for the week, even though reporters are only required to do three stories. Whenever we need someone to cover a story, he is the first to volunteer even if he is already working on other things, and he always does so with an earnestness that lifts the spirits of others.

I strongly advise you to consider David for a position in your organization. If you do, I guarantee you he will always there ready to learn and willing to do whatever he can to help accomplish your daily goals. If you have any questions, please contact me at 956.372.0932.

Kindest regards,

Jody Serrano

Associate News Editor, The Daily Texan
Throughout my time at The University of Texas, I have been greatly invested in the journalism programs and opportunities that it offers. I want to pursue a career in news journalism in order to make a difference in the world, and I feel that working as editor of The Daily Texan is not only a way to begin to do that, but also a way to gain invaluable experience that will help me pursue my professional aspirations for the rest of my life.

I believe that The Daily Texan is an invaluable resource. It provides a journalism education to dozens of young, promising students each year, giving them the tools they need to one day pursue a professional career in the field. It also gives them a chance to help report on the issues affecting the University of Texas community, issues that often affect the entire world due to the large role that UT plays within it.

Throughout my time at The Daily Texan, I learned so much and got to be a part of that role. I broke major news stories, including the news that a student was releasing online plans that would allow people around the world to actually print out a gun at home with a 3-D printer. That student’s work is still being debated on nationally and along with members of U.S. Congress, the topic has even been commented on by the vice president of the United States. This is just one example of the large and important role that The Daily Texan can play in today’s journalism landscape.

I was published roughly 200 times at The Daily Texan and have gone on to have great journalism success since the year I spent there. After leaving The Daily Texan in January of 2013, after having spent a year there working as a news reporter and copy editor, I went on to work as editor-in-chief of The Horn, another student newspaper at UT, social media editor of UT’s student-run ORANGE Magazine, a reporter for The Oxford Student at Oxford University in England, a reporter at The Odyssey and an intern at The Texas Tribune. What I learned at The Daily Texan has guided me through all of that and I desperately want to help more students get from the Texan what I got from it, while helping to report on the vastly important events of The University of Texas.

The Daily Texan is currently at a crucial juncture. It must changes with the times, meaning it must keep up with and implement current reporting technology while remaining true to its values. That means continuing to print the publication five days a week while producing a strong website and social media presence. That means remaining editorially independent. And, that means doing the solid reporting that the publication has done these past 114 years.

The Daily Texan is an invaluable staple to the University of Texas community, and as editor-in-chief, I will ensure that continues while growing the publication. I will work diligently to ensure that the publication’s values and quality remain protected, while working to grow it, rather than just to hang on to what it currently has.