



Brendan J. Borrell

GRFP Recipient: 2001

Undergraduate Institution:
B.A. 1999; University of California
Santa Barbara

Graduate Institution:
Ph.D. 2006; University of
California Berkeley

Graduate Field of Study:
Biology

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Current Position:
Freelance Magazine Writer

RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Brendan Borrell has written over a dozen peer-reviewed papers on frogs, snakes and insects resulting mostly from his field research on biomechanics and ecology in Panama and Costa Rica. During his Graduate Research Fellowship, he built robotic flowers to study bee behavior, crushed millipede skeletons to measure their compressive strength, and analyzed the swimming of a bizarre Antarctic mollusk at McMurdo Station. Brendan's fellowship allowed him to follow his curiosity about the natural world during graduate school, and, ultimately, prepared him for a career as a freelance magazine writer covering natural resources, global health, and basic science. The analytical skills he developed working on his dissertation have come in useful whether he is digging through court documents or conducting interviews. He has written for a wide range of newspapers and magazines, including Bloomberg Businessweek, Smithsonian, Nature, and The New York Times, and is a regular contributor to Scientific American's Science Talk Q&A section, where he interviews leading thinkers and policy-makers on timely topics in science.

AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Investigative Reporters & Editors freelance fellowship
- ASJA outstanding article award
- Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting travel grant
- O'Brien Visiting Professor at Scripps College
- AAAS Mass Media Fellowship

POSITION PROFILE //

AAAS Mass Media Fellow, Science Writer at the Oregonian, 2006

Correspondent at the Scientist, 2008-09

Reporter for Scientific American and Nature Publishing Group, 2009-10

Freelance journalist at Archaeology, Bloomberg Businessweek, Discover, Los Angeles Times, Nature, New York Times, Pacific Standard, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Reuters, Scientific American, Slate, Smithsonian, and The Scientist, 2006-present

