

**Tai Kersten**  
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### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

BIRTH: Seoul, Korea  
UPRAISING: Montana, USA  
MARITAL STATUS: Single  
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.  
MOTHER TONGUE: English

### **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

My philosophy of teaching, while bolstered by a strong knowledge base and a strong sense for class room dynamics, is just as much informed by a flexible attitude. Challenges come in many forms and I am willing to both take an independent role in creating lessons while also tailoring my skills to the needs of an already developed curriculum. I understand the necessity of having solid goals and a clear vision for the each individual in the class while also equipped with the experiences to be personable to my students and address each challenge with creativity and humored poise.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **100 Hour TESL/ TESOL Certification**

2011 LCC PSU; Portland, Oregon

- Practiced classroom management and confidence building exercises
- Acquired a collection of activities and exercises to enhance classroom engagement

#### **Bachelor of Arts in English**

2010 Montana State University; Bozeman, Montana

- Studied literature and writing while working as a PR writer in the Architecture Department at MSU
- Attended the New York State Skidmore writing Conference in 2009
- Studied abroad with MSU study group in Oaxaca, Mexico in 2008

#### **High School Diploma**

2005 Billings West High; Billings, Montana

### **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### **Graphic Designer | Hardly Digital Software | 2010 - 2011**

- In late 2010, started a software development company named, “Hardly Digital” with colleague, Sebastian Goodman
- Worked as graphic designer and Marketer on two applications for Android Phones: “C-Sharply”, a music education program, and “Defaced” a photo editing entertainment application

- Wrote 5 custom PR releases to announce the release of C-Sharply which currently has over 2500 downloads on the Android Marketplace

#### **Feature Writer | MSU Exponent | 2007 – 2009**

- Wrote 10 feature length articles (1500+ words) for the school paper and 15 smaller articles on many subjects
- Submitted thousand word or greater articles on deadlines in time lines as short as two days
- Wrote with partner editors and used feedback to improve technical writing skills

#### **Staff Counselor | Eagle Mount Day Camp | 2003 – 2005**

- Developed people management skills early on in life as I worked with developmentally challenged individuals with disabilities such as Down's syndrome and Autism
- Cared for 20 clients whose ages ranged from 15 to 25 while coordinating a staff of 15 volunteers whose ages ranged from 9 to 45 years old
- As the only male counselor in the camp, I handled unique problems such as bathroom emergencies and physical conflicts

### **RELEVANT ACQUIRED SKILLS**

**Research and Application skills:** As a student and an independently employed person, I have realized the necessity for researching new ways to problem solve. When a project stagnates, the ability to gather new information in order to move forward is essential. Just as importantly, I also understand how to implement that information in compelling and creative ways.

**Communication and Language skills:** From writing memos for large agencies to intimate interviews in a small room, I have acquired an ability to communicate and hear ideas, both mine and others, in a fashion that tailors the message for that specific group. Connecting with people while using proper and flexible language is a cornerstone of both my education and my day-to-day life.

**Reporting skills:** While working as a PR writer I had to learn how to relay information from numerous sources to upper management. This taught me how to tactfully write messages in a timely fashion in order to act as an intermediary between numerous groups.

**Accountability:** While working as a graphic designer and a cook for my school I learned that responsibility is not to be taken lightly. Knowing exactly why you are using a certain technique or tool and knowing when that tool or technique is not working is necessary to always be moving forward in a pursuit.

### **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

**Dr. Michael Sexson** | Literature Prof. | Montana State Uni. | [sexson@english.montana.edu](mailto:sexson@english.montana.edu) | +001.406.994.5189

**Adam Smith** | ESL teacher | [adambensmith@gmail.com](mailto:adambensmith@gmail.com)

**Reed A. Gerth** | Financial Advisor | Edward Jones | (406) 652-8276

### **PERSONAL REFERENCES**

**Sebastian Goodman** | Programmer | Hardly Digital | [sebastian.goodman@gmail.com](mailto:sebastian.goodman@gmail.com) | +001.406.599.0040

**John Miller** | Teacher | Billings West High School | [millerj@billings.k12.mt.us](mailto:millerj@billings.k12.mt.us) | +001.406.655.1487

**Evan Mayer** | Associate | Self-Employed | [mayerewan@gmail.com](mailto:mayerewan@gmail.com) | +001.406.217.5669