

J. GAINES ‘JEFF’ WILSON, Ph.D.

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SUMMARY

Three-time founder, academic leader, and environmental scientist with a career spanning Y Combinator-backed startups, university teaching, administration, and federally funded research. Founded and led three technology companies (Kasita, Jupe, No Cap), personally raising over \$25M in capital. Former associate professor and dean at both an HSI (UT-Rio Grande Valley) and an HBCU (Huston-Tillotson University). Recipient of the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award from the University of Texas System. Texas State University-San Marcos Distinguished Alumnus. Participated in ~\$9M in NSF/NIH-funded research and published 31+ peer-reviewed articles. PhD in Environmental Science (University of Canterbury, NZ) with post-doctoral work at Harvard.

EDUCATION

Harvard University	Post-Doctorate	School of Public Health
U of Canterbury (NZ)	Ph.D., Environmental Science	College of Science
Y Combinator	S21 (Jupe), W23 (No Cap)	Startup Accelerator (1% acceptance rate)
Texas State University	M.S., GIS (Geography)	College of Liberal Arts
Texas A&M University	B.S., Industrial Distribution	College of Engineering

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder

No Cap AI, AI-Powered Investor Platform (Y Combinator W23)
Led product vision and creative strategy for the first AI early-stage investor. Raised capital and drove company positioning. Company acquired by Audos in March 2026, one year to the day of public launch.

Founder & CEO 2019–2024
Jupe, Off-Grid Volumetric Housing (Y Combinator S21)

Created flat-packed autonomous housing technology addressing 1.5B humans in need of shelter.
Deployed hundreds of units across a dozen+ U.S. states. Acquired by largest customer in 2024.

Founder & CEO 2015–2019
Kasita, Micro Smart Housing

Built stackable micro smart homes born from “The Dumpster Project,” a year living in 33 sq ft.
Named one of Fast Company’s Most Innovative Companies. Won the SXSW Interactive Innovation Award (2015). Acquired by a tiny-home hotel company in Austin, TX (December 2018).

Founder & Executive Director 2014–2016
The Dumpster Project 501(c)(3)

Designed and executed a year-long sustainability educational experiment, living in a 33 sq ft converted dumpster on the Huston-Tillotson University campus. Led directly to the founding of Kasita and a career transition from academia to technology entrepreneurship.

Project Manager PM for first-of-kind 'Microdrive' hardware. IBM Corporation, San Jose, CA	1998–1999
Staff Consultant, Strategy Group Ernst & Young Management Consulting, Houston and San Jose.	1996–1998

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Dean, University College Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX (HBCU)	2013–2015
Associate Professor of Environmental Science Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX (HBCU)	2013–2015
Assistant Dean, College of Science, Math & Technology University of Texas at Brownsville (now UT-Rio Grande Valley), TX (HSI)	2012–2013
Assistant Professor, Environmental Science University of Texas at Brownsville (now UT-Rio Grande Valley), TX (HSI)	2008–2013
Adjunct Professor, Geography Texas State University-San Marcos	2007
Research Fellow Harvard University, School of Public Health (Harvard Initiative for Global Health)	2006
Lecturer University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand	2002–2005

HONORS & AWARDS

Distinguished Alumnus Award. Texas State University System.	2021
SXSW Interactive Innovation Award. Kasita.	2015
Ford Foundation HBCU Sustainable Communities (\$75,000)	2013
Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (\$25,000). University of Texas System.	2011

SELECT PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (OF 31+)

- Wilson, J. Gaines, S. Kingham, J. Pearce, and A. Sturman. 2005. A review of intraurban variations in particulate air pollution: implications for epidemiological research. *Atmospheric Environment* 39: 6444–62. >400 citations.
- Wilson, J. Gaines, J. Ballou, C. Yan, S.P. Fisher-Hoch, B. Reininger, et al. 2010. Utilizing spatiotemporal analysis of influenza-like illness and rapid tests to focus swine-origin influenza virus intervention. *Health and Place* 16: 1230–9.
- Wilson, J. Gaines, S. Kingham, and J. Pearce. 2010. Air pollution and restricted activity days among New Zealand school children. *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* 41: 140–154.
- Wilson, J. Gaines, S. Kingham, and A. Sturman. 2006. Intraurban variations of particulate matter air pollution in Christchurch, New Zealand. *Science of the Total Environment* 367: 559–72.

SELECT RESEARCH FUNDING

Rio Grande Valley Initiative: Resource Stewardship STARS	\$5,000,000
Head of GIS/Non-PI (Principal Grant Author). University of Texas System. 2013–2015.	
AUGMENTS: Advancing Undergraduate to Geoenvironmental Masters	\$600,000
Harvard Post-Doc, National Science Foundation S-STEM.	
Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand (HAPiNZ)	\$210,000
Research Team. NZ Health Research Council / Ministry for the Environment. 2002–2006.	
Health and Air Pollution in Accra, Ghana	\$600,000
Research Team. National Science Foundation. 2006.	
HBCU-UP Research Initiation Award (DUMPSTER)	\$200,000
Faculty Mentor. National Science Foundation. 2014–2015.	

LANGUAGES

English (native), Brazilian Portuguese (proficient reading; intermediate writing and speaking), Spanish (intermediate reading and speaking)

FEATURED MEDIA

Hundreds of features including NPR, Fast Company, CNBC, ABC, NBC, CBS, USA Today, Fox News, The View, and Yahoo Finance.