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Women's Summit 2017, Interview with Kate Bayles '11 and Kenzie Berggren '19

Berggren: Who has been the kindest to you in your life?

Bayles: Who has been the kindest to me...in my life? Oh, I should probably start by saying my name is Kate Bayles. And I graduated in 2011. And I was an education and anthropology double major. I work in a botanic garden now...I'm an educator in a botanic garden. It's the best ever.

Berggren: That's pretty cool. [Laughter]

Bayles: So, who has been the kindest to me in my life? ...I feel like a person that is kind is a person that can be kind to you even if you are not necessarily being kind to yourself or kind to those people around you but understands that that's not your innate nature and kind of accepts you for where you are when you are that. So, I would have to say my mother. [Laughter]. 'Cause you know like there's something about parents or people that are very close to you...they see the kind of not so good parts...or the not so amazing parts. And they still love you and are kind to you even though you might not be being kind to yourself. I say that because in the keynote today...it was...Casey was talking about being a perfectionist and I think I often found at many times in my life that I was such a perfectionist that I was the most unkind to myself. That I set the highest expectations for myself, or that I was trying to accomplish so much and wouldn't stop to just be...whether that's self-care or to just be kind. And so my mom would be the person to remind me to take a break, take the night off. It's okay if you got a "B," or whatever. Whatever it was that I was trying to do at that time. So, I would say my mom.

Berggren: Solid answer. What are you proudest of?

Bayles: In recent memory I am proudest of my ability to...leave. My ability to leave. My ability to have the choice to leave situations that are not working. I...went straight from college to grad school and straight from grad school to my first job. Super idealistic and super naïve. And super like yeah! And like as you should be. And I had a horrible first job experience. It was just crummy. It was a really amazing organization. It was a really amazing mission...but the whole culture didn't fit my...my personality. So the organization wasn't horrible...the people weren't crummy, it just wasn't a good fit for me. It took a lot...a lot a lot for me to realize that it wasn't my fault. It just wasn't a good fit. And that's okay and that it was a learning experience. But after going...you know... to school and school and school and school...you get so geared up for that job. You know, like your first job, and then it's not what you expected it to be. And it never will be. I never thought that it would be exactly how you imagined it, but I tried to convince myself that there was something wrong with me. I work in the non-profit field so I literally was thinking about just like quitting it all and going and working like at an insurance company. It would have been so silly—

Berggren: [Laughter]

Bayles: I would have been so unhappy. Then instead I realized oh okay, like this has nothing to do with me or the organization. It's just not... it just doesn't fit. So I quit and I have never really quit anything before. I was like, "oh is this how it works?" you know. Of course I quit because I had been offered this really amazing other position...and I was so excited about it...you know...it all works out in that way. But I was really proud of myself for saying like this isn't working and I am going to do something about it's because for a while I just said like, "this isn't working...why isn't it working? How can I fix it?" And then like if you can't come up with the answers and then put that in motion then it just ends up being like, "why isn't this working?" "Why isn't this working?" And the narrative doesn't progress. It doesn't change, it just gets stagnant. And so I was really...I was really proud of myself. It was about a year ago...year and a half ago that I was like nope, no more! Need to change! Make a change! As we...yeah so—

Berggren: Well you seem really happy now! [Laughter] So it must be a good decision.

Bayles: It was a good decision. And even if it hadn't been. It was the power to know that I could say that this isn't working for me. And it's okay for me to admit that, and to figure out what the next step was going to be. You know...if you keep doing it and doing it and doing it then you might have to look back and say okay is it me? Is it the field? Is it just something bigger that's wrong with this picture that isn't fitting? But, it would had been okay you know if this hadn't been the right fit. I'm glad it is right now. But, it might not be in five years, and I now feel like I have the skill set to be able to say like when is the time to transition.

Berggren: Well... Hmm...hmm...

Bayles: Hmm...

Berggren: Hmm...

Bayles: Dramatic pause.

Berggren: For your great, great grandchildren...listening to this years from now...is there any wisdom you would want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

Bayles: What would my great, great grandchildren...I guess the first thing that comes to mind is because I work outside...is that like I just worry about like whether or not they'll know like the sound of wind through trees, or like the smell of flowers, and the sound of birds and naturally occurring water that flows in places and spaces or like immense quiet of a snowstorm or the... that amazing noise when you like step on ice and underneath it...with the crunch, crunch, crunches...Or...falling leaves. Seeing it. Feeling it. Hearing it. All those things. Like I just wonder. I wish I could capture and like bottle all of those sensations. Because I work in nature-based education, so it's just like getting outside and always being very cognizant of the fact that I get to at my job offer experiences to kids that are totally underexposed to the natural world that like come from Milwaukee and that

are in cities that don't really get to like be around it and they get to see for the first time and just their eyes...just like blown...it's like stimulus overload. So I just wonder like...oh man...in three or four generations...are our kids going to have access to those things? Are you know...is that is...there going to be...is...what's it going to look like? I just get curious about that and a little scared...sometimes.

Berggren: I guess it's so strange for me to hear like people already not knowing like...I'm from such like a small town area—

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: Everyone lives on farms, like this is big city to me...Bloomington is.
[Laughter]

Bayles: Yeah. Yeah. It's it's...I live in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. So it's north of Milwaukee. It's about 50,000. It's very similar to Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Less college town...more...more industrial. Less post-industrial I guess. But...it...we get kids from Green Bay and kids from Milwaukee. That just don't- like they're are scared of everything. Like they are scared of bees because bees sting. They are scared of wind because it could be a tornado or a storm. Just because like...they haven't had...they haven't been around it...they haven't been exposed to it. So getting those kids out. And my...the garden that I work at is inspired by children's literature, so it's a really...really safe space because like there are 65 different garden environments. Like you get to meet Winnie the Pooh but you're also outside in this giant forested area. You get to build a fairy house and a gnome home. You get to walk on a rainbow. Like they see children book characters...like there are recognizable things for them outside or inside their classroom walls. So it's kind of a...it's an interesting transition. When a group gets off of a bus, and you start like noticing some of those major deficit disorder signs...you're like okay this two hours is going to be totally different. Like if at the end of the two hours if I can get a child more comfortable being outside that might be my goal versus any other higher learning outcome. It's just like shifting it around...like we just need to be comfortable...and you know with rain and being outside in rain. You know, like it's amazing...that smell. I miss it right now. I'm ready for spring. So, yeah...I-I guess that's not something I would want to pass along but I just hope that it is still available for those generations.

Berggren: If you don't mind me asking, where you work- is that like a fieldtrip kind of place? Do like kids come there for a fieldtrip? —

Bayles: Yeah, so we have about 6,000 students that come per year from May till October because we live in Wisconsin. We have 6,000 students that come from fieldtrips per year and then about 100 families that have camps. Like we bunk camps with us. And recently we started doing classes and workshops for learners of all ages. So, that's anything from age two to first structured experience to early childhood experience all the way through like adult classes in like floral design, gardening, and cooking classes and anything that is really mission centric. And our mission is to support learners of all ages through

exploration in a garden environment inspired by children's literature. So, there's a literature piece of it, there's a garden and outdoor piece of it. So, it's really fun because like having a broad mission means that you can do so many fun things like I imagine in the future...it's only my the second year at my job...but like teen...I was just reading about like blackout poetry—

Berggren: Oh yeah.

Bayles: Yeah. Like teen blackout poetry workshops and then like you know gardening 101...for someone who knows nothing about gardening or starting your own herb collection. I'm always just like dreaming and scheming...

Berggren: Yeah, actually. The herb collection. That is becoming such a big thing—

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: Especially like people are now living on their own and they're like wow food's expensive and it would also make much more sense for me to grow it myself.

Bayles: Yeah, exactly. And it's funny; when I was at Wesleyan it was the first time that I ever maintained a garden of my own. When I ever grew my own food was here. At the corner of something and something. It's right over by the president's house. It's a little yellow house on the corner over there. —

Berggren: Oh...

Bayles: And it was-- now there are apartments and stuff over there that is Wesleyan owned—

Berggren: Oh...the Gates?—

Bayles: Maybe, yeah. I don't know. They're new... to me. But yeah, that was the first year that I lived there... I adopted this garden that someone who had lived there before had and we expanded it. And I learned that if you had a giant compost heap and you kept like cherry tomatoes you have pulled out in them, the next year you would have a full giant compost heap full of cherry tomato plants [laughter]...and they would live and survive. It was like cool. Kind of like "ooooh, I grow this and I get to do things with it." It was one of the first connection spots for me, which I didn't realize would function into like what I am doing later on. You know, one thing kind of leads you to another. So, I went from here to living in rural New York. Up state, 2,000 people, super farm town. So, so I gotcha on that.

Berggren: [Laughter]

Bayles: And it was like absolutely amazing to be able to go to the farmer's market and get all of your eggs, meat and everything. It was just local and then also super weird for

me being from like the south side of Chicago originally, which is where my parents live still. Like seeing the back of a deer like hanging out of a truck...

Berggren: [Laughter]

Bayles: During hunting season...and being like, “Ahh” like “What is that?”

Berggren: My favorite experience is when people experience combines over the roads.

Bayles: Ah, ha

Berggren: Because you can't cross the combines because they stretch out over the whole road—

Bayles: [laughter]

Berggren: Or if there are no lines. That was my favorite. Like I have cousins who live up in Chicago and they came to visit and on country roads you don't have...well the roads are not always marked with like lines down the middle right? And they just didn't know what to do. They were like what side of the road do I drive on? Does it matter? Am I supposed to be in the middle? Is it one lane? [Mumbling]

Bayles: Just drive until you see another cars! Slow down and see what's going on. [Laughter] That's funny.

Berggren: You'll be good. It's a good time. [overlapping] Well for...hmm...how about this...for new incoming students at IWU...what would you want to say to them?

Bayles: For new incoming students...at Illinois Wesleyan...what would I want to say to them? I was super...like...ironically enough. I was not ironically enough but like I didn't have like an epic struggle at Wesleyan. I like- I loved it. I had such a good experience. And I think that I am trying to figure out why that was the case. I guess every opportunity that I took...I just like ran with it. Like I wanted to study abroad...went to London...and I wanted to be a double major. People told me I couldn't... did it anyway. Like oh, this is my first...this is a funny story. My first museum's class and I ended up with a masters in museum's studies. My first museums class... I was a freshman. And it was my first class of my freshman year. First day of classes, and it was a visiting professor. I feel like she still maybe teaches here so I probably should be careful what I say, but she...I wasn't on her roster. There were only like eight people in the class and she like knew I was not on the roster. It was an anthropology class like a 200 level versus like a 100 level. And the head of...Chuck Springwood...the head of anthropology at the time... Gerhardt was somewhere... was like “oh, yeah you can take that if you want to go into museum work.” If you know that already then you should definitely take this class. I don't know the next time it will be offered. So I decided to take it. And this professor was so- and she was like- “you're not on my list.” And I was like “oh, well I just registered a couple days ago because I knew. I am a freshman and we just registered.” And she was like “oh, freshman

can't be in this class." And, I was like "no, this what I want to do with my life." "Like I want to work in museums...like...you don't get it lady...like—

Berggren: [Laughter]

Bayles: I'm ready. And she was just like...at the end of the class she said some passive-aggressive thing like..."well anyone who feels like the course load might be too much"...and she like looks straight at me...like feel free...you have until this day to drop the class. And I was like- and then it was like game on! —

Berggren: It's like, "oh no, I'm not..."

Bayles: Nope! I'm not dropping this class. And I ended up with an A- and I rocked it. And like I was like the first one to raise my hand. I was like I am going to prove to you that I can do this. Like just kind of realizing that teachers are humans and that they can have preconceived notions about what a freshman looks like. This professor was coming from Illinois State University. And maybe an ISU kid couldn't handle that type of course work as a freshman? I don't know. I don't want to make assumptions, but like I had to prove it to myself then and to prove it to my-- I'm pretty competitive sometimes so it was nice to be able to like...you know...I can do this...don't worry. I'm gonna--I'm gonna ace your class. But, I think if I was going to give one piece of advice to an incoming freshman it would be to worry less about what other people think of you and to focus more on what your passions are and just to follow that. I mean...the people that I've--are...that I am still connected with are the people that I shared...not necessarily all of the same interests or all of the same outlooks on...but I shared passions with them and those are the people that I am still connected with. It doesn't really...like it might not be the person you were randomly assigned in your freshman year dorm with but...and for me she is one of the people that I am still connected with. I just went to her wedding this past year, but you know it might be that random person that you are assigned to a multicultural children's literature project with. It might be someone who is a transfer student midway through a semester in choir. It might be someone who is in a sorority and you're like, "sororities..." and it's not your thing. You know it's the people you connect with. They stick with you and they still keep having like—the--...your life keeps on getting impacted by them. Like that was one thing I guess was really surprising to me is that the connections that you make here...even more than the connections that I made in grad school and the connections that I made at my first job...the connections that I made here at Wesleyan have stayed and I think that's because of shared experiences but also because you...if you can come to a space and place at Wesleyan and you're vulnerable and open yourself up to realizing mistakes or to approaching relationships in a new way and to meet people. You are all in the same place of vulnerability in your--you know your first year...so for some reason you like...those relationships are cemented in a different way than relationships other places in life. One thing that has been super hard over the last six or seven years is realizing that there is no way like how do you meet adult friends? Like you know like college, they literally just like give them to you. People are everywhere...it's so great. Same with grad school. But then like once those structures go away, how do you put yourself out there? Especially when you're introverted and you

love your job and you're working all of the time you know, those like weird things. So never take for granted the fact that like you have this like set of people. Make friends! If you want them...not everyone always wants them.

Berggren: Especially living in like "Funsell" hall. —

Bayles: [Laughter]

Berggren: I was one of those super introverted; I like wanted to live in Gulick. I was like...I want the small one. Get me out of there. I like don't want people...and then I ended up in the biggest residence hall.

Bayles: [Laughter] How was that experience for you?

Berggren: It was...I needed it that's for sure. Like if I was able to be in Gulick off on my own there, like I probably would have only stuck with ...like I started off as a music major, which is not what I am doing now. [Laughter].

Bayles: What do you do now?

Berggren: Currently, I mean I guess I'm still registered as one, but I am going to be a psychology major—

Bayles: Nice.

Berggren: I am minoring in women and gender studies and don't really know what else I am going to do. Probably going to do more—

Bayles: Very cool.

Berggren: When I was like yeah, I am going to be with all of the music people that's it...I don't want to talk to anyone else—

Bayles: Yeah, why talk to anyone else?

Berggren: Exactly. And then they put me in Funsell with another psych major cause I like was like interested in psych.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: And all of the psych stuff. And all of a sudden like, after like the first two weeks I did engaging diversity so I was here three days early and I had a group with like fifteen people already that we were hanging out with all the time. I was like, what are humans you doing? There are so many of you. This is weird, I'm enjoying this. It was good. It was really really good. Good ole Funsell—

Bayles: [Laughter]. I was there too. Fourth floor Ferguson.

Berggren: I was seventh floor Ferguson.

Bayles: Nice. We didn't have ladies on the seventh floor my year. It was just fourth and sixth.

Berggren: Ours was... We actually had more women in Ferguson than in Munsell. So it was 7, 5, 3 and 2.

Bayles: Hmm...and then the opposite on Munsell?

Berggren: It was opposite for everyone except for the second floor which was women on both sides.

Bayles: Very cool. Well, can I ask you a couple of questions? What do you think? Can we switch it up?

Berggren: Cool.

Bayles: Alright first, what's your name?

Berggren: Well, my name is Kenzie Berggren. I am currently a sophomore, so I'll graduate in 2019...studying psychology and women and gender studies. I guess that's—I am from a small town. Chebanse, Illinois...south of Kankakee, Illinois. 1,100 people.

Bayles: Oh, I know Kankakee. So my best...my very closest friend from Wesleyan who I shared my freshman year dorm with. We were exact opposites. She was in AGD and I was a choir nerd and she was one of the most outgoing person I have ever met in my life. She was homecoming queen and I was like the introvert. She threw big parties and I baked for everybody—thinking that you could bake for parties. And it was good! Everybody liked the parties. She brought the alcohol and I brought the baked goods. It totally worked out! It totally worked out. But she went to Bishop McNamara.

Berggren: Oh yeah!

Bayles: Yep. So she's from Burbank.

Berggren: The Catholic school right by us.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: I am just south of that. Like if you keep driving on 57, you like- you'll see all of these cornfields and there's like a building there...and you're like whoa, that's very strange. It's like in the middle of cornfields. But no that's my high school.

Bayles: [Laughter].

Berggren: It's there. It's a good time--

Bayles: So funny. So tell me about your transition from music major to a psychology major.

Berggren: Well, I actually was originally interested in music therapy. So I was looking between ISU and Wesleyan. I was planning on going to ISU. I was like dead set like don't even need to look at anything else. One of my older sisters went there for a while. My mom went there for a semester. I was like, this is it. This is the one. And then my mom was like, you can't just apply to one school. Like c'mon. And so I applied to a couple of others and Wesleyan was one. I literally just like googled music and psychology schools, Illinois. And Wesleyan popped up somehow. And I was like; oh this is kind of cool. It's a small school. It seemed like there are like smart people there. It's a private school, I don't know. Well I ended up auditioning, which is something that—that's one thing that I will definitely hold in my heart...the fact that I started as a music major, because if I hadn't I would not have come to this school first.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: So, I had to audition early on as in October, which was before my ISU audition. So in my head I was like this is a practice audition. Like I don't really want to go to this school. And then I walked on campus and I was like, oh my god. I was like, this is my home, don't even need to look anywhere else...and my parents were like what are you talking about...we've already had this in the plan...And I was like so like embarrassed. Thought I like did so terrible at my audition because I like couldn't find the requirements and I had some things kind of messed up, but I ended up getting a 19,000 dollar scholarship for every single year for it. And so they asked me back. I had one of the professors actually—on my visit here later on...he specifically like sought me out. When he saw that I was on like the list of visitors...and he was coming from the music department...to like congratulate me. And I was like,

Bayles: What do you play?

Berggren: Piano

Bayles: Oh wow.

Berggren: I've been playing piano for about fifteen years. Most of my life. I don't remember like not playing. So I was like well if I go to Wesleyan, I can double major. So I came in—well technically as one major and declaring your second semester. So, I came in as a music and psychology major because I figured like I'm really interested in the psychology side of it and at ISU I wasn't going to be able to get that. So many classes...like our music theory department...like all of those classes are broken up into like four separate classes at ISU. So, I was able to get a lot more of that science-y kind of background. So I ended up coming here...I struggled so hard my freshman year. I was

like—I was in anatomy and physiology...I was like why am I here? I'm a psychology major. I've got music classes, which as a sophomore I can recognize the good in taking it as a freshman.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: I was in like music theory. I had never had music theory in life. So all of these like hard music classes, which definitely pushed me and I just like wasn't understanding why I wasn't doing super well. I was one of those that like always had straight A's all through school. So to like come here and not be getting straight A's, that was—that was hard. So, then like sophomore year rolled around and you take survey of music history. That's like—almost like a weed-out class for music majors and I was like...I'm not enjoying this. Like why am I here when I am not enjoying this. So I actually ended up withdrawing from the class...I talked to my family about it...I talked a lot with my piano professor about it.

Bayles: Who do you take that with?

Berggren: Dr. Cook. He's the head of the department actually.

Bayles: Yeah. He's great.

Berggren: He's so fantastic and he—we had so many great talks and I like I still take lessons. He's like you know I can tell that you're interested in it. So like continue to do that. And so this is like my first semester without any music courses and it's like all like psych-based and I think I am going to end up with at least a 3.7 for this semester. So like, the major change can make a big difference.

Bayles: Yeah, so are you feeling proud of your decision?

Berggren: That was definitely like the hardest decision I had to make. Having to be like, hey mom, like I know I got this really great scholarship for this but I kind of don't want to do it anymore. Which I talked like to the financial aid...and they were able to just like transfer it as like a different scholarship. They were like you're are not just going to like lose your money. We don't want you to feel like trapped in this.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: Which was fantastic, but along the way I've actually come to realize that I really enjoy language and learning languages...so I found a new passion that I really enjoy. So, I'm currently looking into that, which is strange because like part of how I found out I really like it is in my literature class this semester called Bad Girls. It's taught by Professor Sainsbury, who is like one of the greatest humans in the world and she was like “you like—“ we talked—I had like this great talk after class about language and like learning languages...and I love it so much. And she was like well why don't you do something with it. I was like--

Bayles: I could!

Berggren: You're right.

Bayles: Tell me more! So what does that look for you in terms of the next steps with the language passion?

Berggren: Linguistics...I think linguistics is super cool. I'm trying—and I also like to help people. So like there's-- I actually found there's a branch called psycholinguistics...neurolinguistics...things like that. So can you learn how the brain changes depending on like different—like growing up bilingual versus only knowing one language growing up. Or like learning a language as an adult and how does that affect your brain later on and things like that. Which I've actually just started looking at like graduate schools. It's kind of a strange time right now because I am going to study abroad next year.

Bayles: Aw, that's exciting!

Berggren: I am going to have like one semester to finish a lot of pre-reqs. I am going to like study abroad and then like come back to take the GRE. So it will be a fun year.

Bayles: Where are you studying abroad?

Berggren: Ireland.

Bayles: Wow.

Berggren: My family is from Ireland so I'm so excited that I get to go.

Bayles: Oh that's awesome. So are you like going to be in Dublin or like what?

Berggren: Limerick. Limerick University actually.

Bayles: Nice, and what will you be studying there?

Berggren: I haven't really figured that out yet. I think I might try to do some of my women and gender studies minor over there because studying women and gender studies anywhere outside of the US is always super cool. But definitely something more with how they do their method is of language and learning because in Ireland they do a lot of like you grow up learning Gaelic. But they don't really use it so there is a lot of politics right now about that because their national language is still Gaelic.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: But everyone speaks English. So there's like a lot of that going on.

Bayles: And not a lot of great really great feelings about England in general. Yeah.

Berggren: Especially with all that whole Brexit stuff.

Bayles: Yeah, no...fascinating. That'll be very cool.

Berggren: I'm very excited. Hopefully I will become something like...I could be a linguistics professor or something. I think what would be the coolest from my perspective would be to help new immigrants into the country and help somehow as like--if there's like a way to do that. To be like a counselor but also like an ESL teacher, that would be really cool.

Bayles: That's interesting. I am really bad at doing oral history interviews and not inserting myself so I have to go to the question sheet...so I don't end up...these are so exciting. These are good questions. Okay, if you were going to say what one of the most important lessons you have learned during the last two years at Illinois Wesleyan is, what would it be?

Berggren: One of the most important things I have learned at Wesleyan is...probably to open up to new things. Coming from such like a small town, a conservative area, that's like it's very close minded there...everyone looks the same...everyone, does the same thing, they talk the same. And then you come here...granted we don't really have that much of a diverse school but it's definitely more diverse than what my school was. Which is super cool. I like have no...some of my friends are from countries that are not the US. I mean my significant other was actually born in Poland. There are a lot of people...I think that's what is really cool. Finding all of these people that speak different languages, which is a little biased for as to why I like that. But I think it's cool like hearing all of these different dialects even the difference between Chicago and like Springfield. Like the different ways that everyone talks. I definitely opened up myself a lot when I came here. I ended up joining a sorority and I am one of those that was like, I am never going to do that. I'm not one of those—

Bayles: [Laughter]

Berggren: I don't want to be labeled as a partier; I don't want to have to talk to that many people all the time. I had a lot of things holding me back about it. But that has been an incredible experience for me.

Bayles: What sorority?

Berggren: Kappa Delta.

Bayles: Yeah!

Berggren: I have actually served on council for the last two years as well which has been great. But even for that it was just stepping stones...you had no idea where it was taking you. The leadership skills that I have gained in that which has pushed me to join other things. Like I started to join our badminton club on campus. I had a lot of great talks with people when changing my major and all of that kind of stuff. Talking to people that are in different majors and seeing what they are going through.

Bayles: Yeah.

Berggren: It's been...one of the greatest parts of it I feel like was adding my women and gender's studies minor because that's like unheard of back where I am from like you don't talk about women like having rights and things like that. So getting to actually study that and to be passionate about it here...that's been incredible.

Bayles: So tell me a little about the next two years, because you're approaching studying abroad and figuring out steps past Wesleyan. What are some of the things that you hope you will learn in the next two years?

Berggren: I hope I have actually figured out like what I want to do by the time I graduate...I mean that would be good. I'm one of those that finds something cool every other week and call my mom and I'm like, mom I know what I want to do with my life. And she's like, okay Kenzie.

Bayles: [Laughter]

Berggren: Call me back in another week. So next semester I am going to finish up some pre-reqs. I kind of skipped things around. Like there are some introductory classes that I still need to take actually. Because I skipped past them. So it's gonna be like a funky semester so I am going to take like finite math...it's going to be a strange time. But I figure if I like do a hard semester then my reward is that I'm going to Ireland the next semester.

Bayles: Yeah, push through.

Berggren: I am very excited to go to Ireland. I am very scared to leave but I mean if this was like if this was a big change just like coming to Bloomington then I feel like there is much more growth I have to do. Especially like being out of the country in on my own. That would be really cool, especially in Ireland. I am very excited to see like where my family is from and to take pics around there. I have been looking and I even found an internship for the summer. The Children's Discovery Museum...I will be helping like plan lesson-plans for their kinder-camps and like preschoolers ages 1-5.

Bayles: I had a friend and she did an internship there. A may-term internship.

Berggren: It's for the whole summer. I am very excited. Maybe I will even get a job at the library! Yeah. That's also been like a time trying to figure out where I'm going to live

because I have to live here over the summer so I can have my internship and things like that. I currently don't have a residence so that'll be...It's always a good college thing...like not knowing where you are going to go next—

Bayles: Like not knowing where you are going to live. Yeah. [Laughter]

Berggren: Hopefully I can take the GRE and be done with it over the summer and not have to worry about it because after that I will already be starting my last year here will be [mumbling]...a lot like applying for schools. I hope that my senior year I get to take classes because I am interested in them not because I am like, I got to do this now so I that I graduate, which will be super awesome. Hopefully get into a grad school like not a thousand miles away. We'll see.

Bayles: So if you could speed up like maybe 10 years from now, and look back on it, what do you think will be the most impactful part of your Wesleyan experience?

Berggren: Probably the fact that I have been given the idea that I can continue my education. Like I had no intention coming into school to really do much past a Bachelors. Maybe a Masters because I really enjoy psych and you can't really do anything with a Bachelors in psych. And I'm at the point now where I am like, what are you talking about? I am going to go get my Ph.D. So I hope to be able to...I'm glad that I've had that experience especially talking with professors and things like that and understanding how important education is and like knowing how important it is to me. So I guess that's... being able to understand that I can do more than my undergrad, and Wesleyan empowered me to think that way.

Bayles: Has there been one professor in the last two years that has been the most impactful for you thus far?

Berggren: Singling out like one professor. I can't even think about all of my professors. I mean they all have so many different things that they have done. Like Jaeckle for instance. Everyone who is in the psych department, who's in the nursing department everyone knows Jaeckle. You take him for anatomy and physiology. I was actually one of the few that said that I actually loved Jaeckle. I loved his teaching style...he was a great person. Any time I like went in for help he would just be like, very matter of fact. I would be like, I knew it was that one and he would just look at me and would be like, well then why didn't you put that? Like, wow you're right. He gave me a lot of really great study habits and things like that even though I have never really taken a biology class since then. I probably never will while I'm here. Some of those study habits are some that have definitely made some of the biggest impact, or between him and this semester...I also have Dr. Williams who is a professor for neuroscience. And taking that class has like helped me understand how much I enjoy the neuroscience-aspect of psychology. Like even that was a class where everyone was like, it's going to be tough...you're going to be struggling. [Laughter]. That was a sign.

Bayles: Very cool. Well thank you for taking some time to chat today!