



May 2010

Authors' Biographies

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "Authors' Biographies," *Res Publica - Journal of Undergraduate Research*: Vol. 15

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/respublica/vol15/iss1/5>

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Authors' Biographies

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Lindsey Haines is a senior double major in Political Science and Economics with a Spanish minor. She interned in the Scottish Parliament working on housing issues when studying abroad in Scotland and also worked on Debbie Halvorson's congressional campaign in 2008. She is editor in chief of the *Park Place Economist*, a Weir Fellow with the West Bloomington Revitalization Project, and co-captain of the golf team. Post graduation, she will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago to obtain her masters degree in Urban Planning.

Erin Strauts is a senior Political Science major and Psychology minor who works as a Political Science Assistant. She is active in College Democrats and Pride Alliance and has previously interned with the Human Rights Campaign and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC). She will be attending the University of Connecticut next year as a PhD candidate in Social Psychology. There she will continue her studies of political psychology and survey research.

Nate Wheatley is a Political Science and Economics double major. He has been involved in Student Senate and the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra all four years, in addition to being a member of the Financial Advisory Board for three. He is currently seeking employment prior to attending law school. Distinctions include being published in both the *Park Place Economist* and here, as well as his Eagle Scout award. He enjoys discussing politics, playing the string bass, computer games and reading.

Erica Podrazik is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University, and will graduate in May of 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a minor in History. Erica's primary areas of interest include state building processes and international law. She is a member of various groups on campus, including Illinois Wesleyan College Republicans and Illinois Wesleyan University Global Politics Society. After graduation, Erica plans to study international law and, one day, pursue a career with a non-governmental or inter-governmental organization.

Connie Margaritis is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University. She will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Political Science. Connie served as the President of her sorority, Sigma Kappa, and was a member of the Order of Omega Greek Honors Society, Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, and the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society. Connie spent the Spring 2009 semester studying in Athens, Greece where she wrote an honors thesis on the Turkish-Armenian Conflict and its place in International Law. Connie will be attending Washington University in St. Louis School of Law next year where she hopes to pursue a JD/LL.M. in International Law.

Samantha Kaplan is a junior Political Science major at Illinois Wesleyan University. She works as a research assistant for the Political Science department. In the summer of 2009, Samantha worked with the McLean County YWCA as part of an Action Research Project.

Sara Ghadiri is a junior with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy with a minor in Music. Her interests include electoral studies and ethics. Currently, she serves on the Executive Board for Sigma Alpha Iota and as Vice President for Pi Sigma Alpha. Additionally, she serves as Music Ambassadors Coordinator for the Music Admissions office. Next year, she will graduate from Illinois Wesleyan and pursue a career in law.

Jennifer Biess is a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University. She will graduate in May 2011 with a Sociology and Political Science double major. She interned with the Scottish Parliament while studying abroad in Scotland. She is a member of various groups on campus, including Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Delta.

Kim McDonald is a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University. She will graduate in May 2011 with a double major in Political Science and Mathematics. She works as a Lab Assistant for the Political Science department and is a tutor for the Writing Center. She is also a member of various organizations on campus including Alpha Phi Omega, Pi Sigma Alpha and College Democrats. Upon graduation, she plans on attending law school

Jillian Schmitz is a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University. She will graduate in May, 2011 with a double major in Political Science and English Literature. After graduation, Jillian plans on attending law school.