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Author Biographies

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Author Biographies

Author's Biographies

Samantha Yoest is a Junior Environmental Studies major (policy concentration) and an Economics minor. Her interests lie in sustainable development, environmental economics, and issues of climate change. On campus she is a participant in IWU Cheerleading, the Sierra Student Coalition, and Economics Society. She has spent a semester abroad through the IWU London Program and will be travelling to Vietnam for May Term this year. She has interned with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Council, both in Springfield, Illinois. Following graduation, Samantha hopes to attend graduate school in the United Kingdom.

Brianna Bacigalupo is a senior Political Science and Environmental Studies double-major with a concentration in Environmental Policy. She is especially interested in women in politics, group representation, and environmental politics. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and serves as a Political Science Research Assistant on campus. This spring, Brianna has interned with the Illinois Environmental Council in Springfield, IL, and gained experience working with the Illinois state legislature. Following graduation, she is pursuing the Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program through the University of Illinois at Springfield, as well as other state and local government experiential opportunities. Brianna ultimately aspires to have a career in state or local government, either in administration or public policy.

Katelyn Schwiderski is a senior Political Science and Economics double major. Her interests lie in populism and transitional justice. During her time at Illinois Wesleyan, Katelyn has been an active member of Alpha Kappa Psi, Omicron Delta Epsilon (the National Economics Honor Society), and Economics Society. She has also served as an editor for the IWU Undergraduate Economic Review. In the past, she worked for Thomson & Weintraub, LLC and spent the summer serving as a Legislative Intern to State Senator William Brady. Following graduation, Katelyn plans to attend law school.

Hannah Lyons is a junior International Studies major with a concentration in Western European Studies. Before transferring to Illinois Wesleyan, she studied at Heartland Community College and spent two years studying abroad, one in China learning Mandarin at the Beijing University of Language and Culture, and one in France studying French. Her interests lie in culture and international systems and relations. On campus she works at the writing center and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Following graduation, she plans to pursue her master's Degree.

Megan Baker is a freshman Political Science and English Literature double major at Illinois Wesleyan University. She holds the position of Civic Engagement Commissioner on the Executive Board of Student Senate, in addition to her job at the English Department coordinating their social media presence. She strongly believes in American progress, and values the role that higher education plays in accomplishing that goal. Following graduation, Megan hopes to extend her place in the community and settle in a career that focuses on helping others.

Yovana Milosevic is a freshman English major with a concentration on writing. She is interested in the written word and the various ways it can be used as a tool to further knowledge. She is a member of IWU's Lyrical Grafitti, where she performs original poetry once a month. She works at the Ames Library, and wants to continue focusing on her love for literature and writing during her time at IWU.

Ethan Pogge is a sophomore Business Administration and Political Science double major. His interests lie in constitutional originalism, the Supreme Court, the effects of foreign policy on international stability, and the driving forces behind the stock market. On campus he is involved with The National Society of Leadership and Success, Big Brothers Big Sisters of McLean County, and IWU Men's Basketball. This May, he will be studying Politics and Society in Contemporary South Africa. Following graduation, he plans to attend law school or pursue a master's degree in business.

Benjamin Nielsen is a junior Political Science major and Advocacy minor. His interests are in voter's political knowledge, motivation to vote, and local economic development. Benjamin plays Men's Soccer at Wesleyan, and is also involved with Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the Action Research Center, and is an Elizabeth Weir Fellow. During his time at IWU he has worked for the City of Bloomington with Professor Renner and will work this summer to acquire grant money for the West-Bloomington community. Following graduation, Benjamin plans to attend graduate school to receive a master's Degree in Public Administration and work as a city-manager.

Zoe Bouras is a senior Political Science and International Studies double major. Her interests lie in vote choice, rural poverty, populism, and international development. On campus she is active in Kappa Delta Sorority, IWU Rock Climbing Club, Model United Nations, and works at the Writing Center. While at IWU she has spent a summer as an IWU Freeman Asia Intern in Seoul, South Korea, and spent a year studying at the University of Oxford IWU Pembroke Program. Following graduation, Zoe plans to pursue a master's Degree from the University of Oxford in Latin American Studies.

Olivia Heffernan is a senior Political Science and Economics double major. Her interests lie in comparative politics, especially between the United Kingdom and United States, international human rights, and the effects of public policy on economies. Olivia has been an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, serving as the Philanthropy Chair and on the Collegiate Advisory Committee. She has also worked on campus as a writing tutor. In her junior year, Olivia studied abroad in Scotland where she took classes and worked as an intern in the Scottish Parliament. She spent the following summer as an IWU Freeman Asia Intern in Hong Kong working for Mission for Migrant Workers. Following graduation, Olivia plans to take a gap year before enrolling in law school.

Alex Stogin is a senior Political Science and Accounting double major at Illinois Wesleyan University. He is the former Treasurer of the Student Senate and current Class President for the Class of 2018 and Co-President for Illinois Wesleyan's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Following graduation this May, Alex will be going to work as a public auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago. He hopes to continue fighting for progressive candidates in his free time and being an active community member to advocate for progressive values that benefit all members of society.