

WELLS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

| Fall 2021



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Photographs of Monroe County by
Christoph Irmscher

Cover image
Monroe County, Summer 2021

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Christoph Irmscher

“...in a few weeks the streets and walkways of our campus will be full of students again, and the voices of our Scholars will again be heard in Harlos House.”

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Wells Scholars Program,

Last week, I had the great good fortune to be allowed to travel again, for both family and professional reasons. In Vienna, Austria, I spent a few hours visiting the house near the magnificent Stephansdom in which Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart spent several of the most creative years of his life, from 1781 to 1786, surrounded by a large family, visitors, students—constant noise and activity. In the middle of that chaos, he composed *The Marriage of Figaro*. In his former apartment, nothing remains from those heady days; the scores in the antiseptic display cases are facsimiles, the wallpaper, apart from carefully preserved swaths rising like little islands from oceans of brown or yellow paint, is long gone, and the few items of furniture are examples of items Mozart could have owned, but not the originals. What is authentic, though, are the windows, through which Mozart would have looked out on the streets of Vienna pretty much the way we do now.

After more than a year of staying inside, or mostly inside, the view from one of these windows had a powerfully moving effect on me—not the least because of the handful of people I saw who happened to be walking outside. Slowly, the old city of Vienna, like other cities across the world, was creaking back to life again. We all know that the pandemic, the period of our Great Confinement, is far from over, with countries like India or Russia continuing to struggle mightily to contain it, that in our own country the virus continues to affect people of color more than those privileged by life or circumstance, and that variants will lead to new surges among the stubbornly unvaccinated. Yet in a few weeks the streets and walkways on our campus will be full of students again, and the voices of our Scholars will again be heard in Harlos House.



View from Mozart's window

Our incoming cohort of Wells Scholars—sixteen outstanding high school graduates from all around the world—is the second class of Wells Scholars that finished high school in the shadow of the pandemic. The view from a window (or its equivalent, the computer screen) has become second nature to them. Together, we will have to figure out ways in which to be together again, in person, both indoors and outdoors—and to think of windows no longer as barriers but as gateways to a larger world and of that world outside as a place where we, too, will be able to live, walk, breathe and, yes, travel again.

This new issue of our annual newsletter contains multiple such previews of that larger world, notably reflections by our alumni, who have so generously given of their time and expertise and shared their life stories when we were restricted to remote interactions and conducted our events via zoom; essays by two of last year's Freshmen about what it was like to begin college during a pandemic; and profiles of our newest alumni donors and the Scholars who are benefitting directly from their generosity. When we opened up our selection process to international Scholars a few years ago, we knew that our program would be immeasurably enriched by their presence. But nothing could have

prepared us for the energy these young students from Israel, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Zambia have brought and continue to bring to us—giving us a view through our particular window that is exciting and invigorating, one that carries us forward into what we must believe will be a better future.



A late spring gathering of Freshman Seminar
L-R: Peyton Eaton, Austen Parrish

In the meantime, my profound thanks to the team at Harlos House, Elspeth Hayden, our Associate Director and the editor of this newsletter; Kristin Varella, our Director of Development; and Amy Robinson, our program assistant. The Scholars and I know that without them, none of this would have been possible.

Please stay in touch and let us know what you think—whether it's about this newsletter, the Wells Program in general, memories of being a Wells Scholar, or suggestions for improving what we do. Email me at cirmsche@indiana.edu or call or text me at 443-622-3277.

Warmly,
Christoph



Lake Monroe, from one of Christoph's bike rides around the county

A HELPING HAND

Despite the many challenges of the last year, we jumped at the chance to use the global pivot to virtual working as a venue for increased alumni participation in routine WSP programming. For the first time ever, we welcomed a significant number of alums as interviewers of prospective Scholars during December's virtual Interview Weekend. Kudos to alumni Aaron Cantrell (WSP '03), Laura Callahan (WSP '07), Ryan Funk (WSP '03), Jenny Huang (WSP '13), Michael Pacold (WSP '95), Ray Parrish (WSP '10), and James Longwell-Stevens (WSP '93), as well as alumni and IU faculty/staff Jeremy Allen (WSP '93), Tim Lemper (WSP '91), and Anne Wymore (WSP '94), for their assistance in choosing our new freshman class!

We were thrilled to invite James back to review preliminary files for our much smaller Internal nomination process in the spring, and give further kudos to Kathleen Plinske (WSP '97) who served on the subsequent interview panel. Here are a few words from James on what it was like to return to WSP in this new volunteer role.

By James Longwell-Stevens

Sometimes you find yourself in the early days of an election-year global pandemic with the added crushing experience of witnessing millions of fellow Americans flaunt their ignorance about what stories are true, who matters in our communities, and why. Sometimes you just need something to do that would be good in and of itself, if not also something meaningful. Sometimes you want to do something that's fun without necessarily being nostalgic, but nonetheless connected to where you come from and what you want to make happen in the world. In one such moment, I reached out to the Wells Scholars Program, which I hadn't done since reconnecting with Charlene Brown in New York City a decade ago. I asked if I might lend a

hand to any projects as my family and I lived the new normal, under lockdown, and I was already semi-permanently attached to Zoom as it was.

When Christoph and the WSP dynamic duo of Kristen Varella and Elspeth Hayden reached out with an invitation for me to participate in the interview and selection process for the new class of Scholars, I was happy to come aboard, but also humbled and a bit anxious. I wondered: "What credibility did I have to be an influence, even a decision-maker, when it came to shaping the future of the Wells Scholars Program?" The truth of the matter, I decided, was two-fold: a) no more than any other Wells Scholar, and b) no less than any other Wells Scholar.



There's an important enabling assumption at play in that notion. One of the best parts of the Wells Scholar experience is the fact that the conversation that you step into when you first meet with a member of the WSP community never quite ends – you just pause every now and again: maybe when you leave a seminar session, or when you go to

sleep (if and when that happens to happen), or perhaps when you graduate, but none of those moments is a full-stop; you're bound to re-enter the conversation at some as-yet-unknown moment.

This was absolutely what I experienced as I met with a variety of WSP applicants for the entering 2021 class, as well as when I read applications for the 2021 Internal Scholars. The variety of topics to discuss and bore down into, not to mention the conversations themselves, were exhilarating and rich, and yet familiar territory for those of us fortunate enough to have entered the conversation at whatever point in WSP history. The program continues to buzz with vitality, and continues to be in good hands, with exactly the right people involved – from Scholars to faculty to administrators to alumni.

Sometimes what you need to do is reconnect, just because. Sometimes what you need to do is rejoin a conversation that's been going on since before you first joined it, and which you only realized you hadn't quite left until you listened in again. Sometimes, especially now, you need to glance back as you look forward.

Additionally, virtual programming was a new frontier for WSP extracurricular events, allowing us to tag in alumni experts from across the world to serve on panels together and engage with current Scholars on a variety of topics. One such event in April covered the medical field, an ever-popular area of study for current Scholars, with alumni Hena Ahmed (WSP '08), Reece Clark (WSP '11), Janice Farlow (WSP '05), and Michelle Sarin (WSP '05). Read Hena, Reece, and Michelle's impressions and updates below!

Did connecting with the Program this year bring up an experience or memory about your own Wells experience?

Michelle: Although no specific moment comes to mind, participating in the health care panel really did remind me of the richness of all the Wells events and how intimate these events felt as a young student. Even in the Zoom setting, the feeling of being among present and future colleagues was invigorating. Just as I felt during these events as a student, I was so impressed by the thoughtfulness of the questions of the current Scholars and of my fellow panelists in their responses.



Michelle and her toddler

Hena: Yes, it reminded me of the wonderful sense of the Wells family, and specifically many of the events at Harlos House. Those small group speakers and discussions were always filled with intriguing debate and of course a lot of laughter.



Hena Ahmed

Reece: Our panel discussion reminded me how enriching it is to be a part of our community. People bring such a variety of ideas and perspectives to the table that you always walk away from a formal or informal get-together with other members of our program able to consider things in a new light. I think that sharing those ideas and perspectives is one of the most valuable things we do.

What do you know now that you wish you had known when you were at IU?

Hena: I wish I had known then how incredibly unique IU is and all that it offers that I could never find anywhere else. I formed lifelong friends at IU whom I still talk to weekly almost ten years later. I learned invaluable leadership, scientific, analytic, and group dynamics skills that have served me well. Specifically, my experience starting IU Global Medical Brigades, working for two years on the Board of Aeons, and doing neuroscience research in Professor George Rebec's lab were the best moments of my undergraduate experience. IU is a special place and truly a treasure. I have also run into IU alumni at so many places following graduation, so the community really does travel with you.

Michelle: Boring answer here—but I wish I had known how important an understanding of personal finance was! I would have made an effort to learn this before graduating had I known how essential it is to life as a functioning adult!



Reece Clark

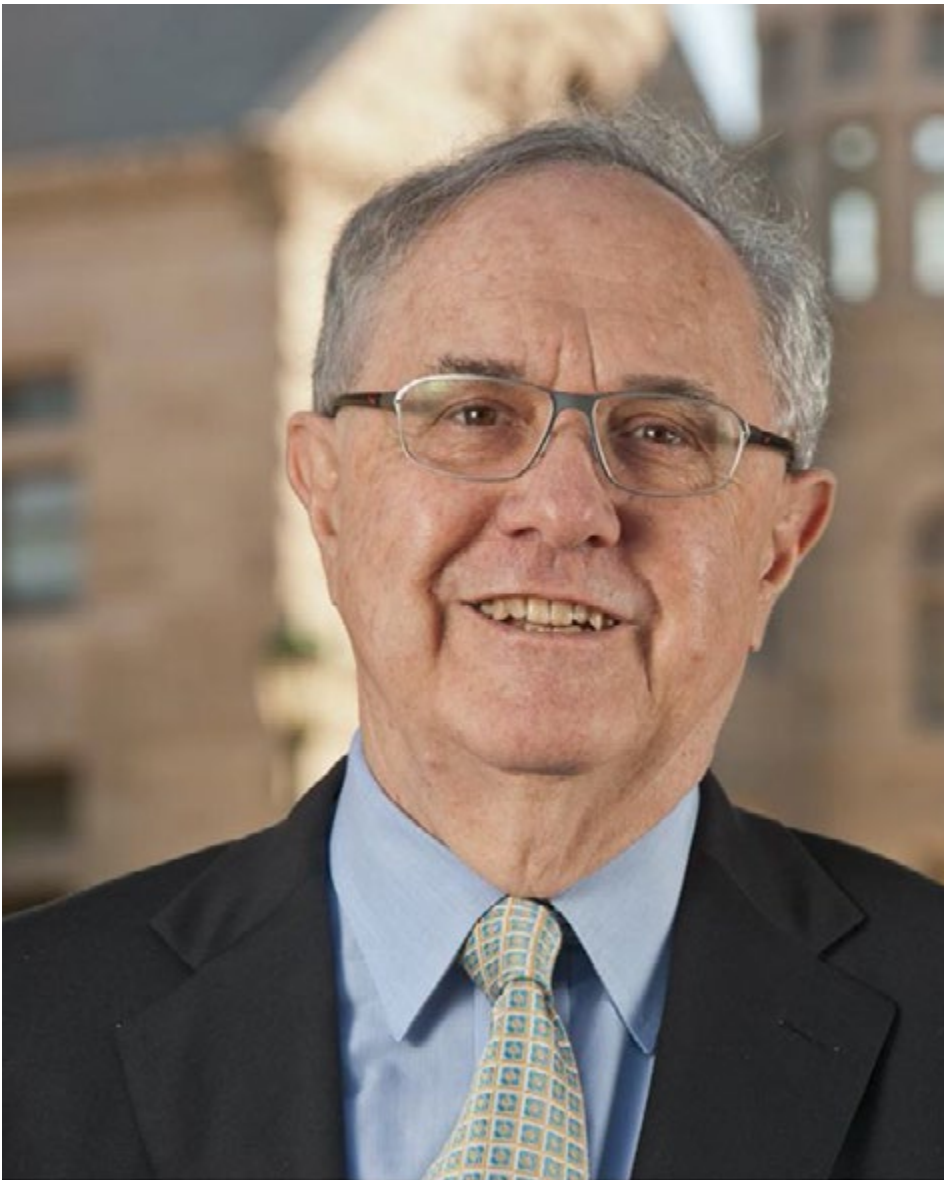
Reece: Becoming a physician, especially if you intend to pursue a surgical subspecialty, is a terrible process that is very unhealthy and damaging to the well-being of many of those who choose to pursue it. Most residency programs are hopelessly understaffed, so you are expected to work nonstop as quickly as you can without interruption for as much as 28 hours straight. Many of my co-residents take antidepressants/anxiolytics. It's a negative thing to say in a newsletter like this, but it would have been good to have known about that as an undergraduate. I never dreamed that becoming a physician was so damaging to people's well-being. As such, I think our current Scholars should know. That being said, I love what I do...but I don't know if I would do it over again.

Did you pick up a COVID habit, or find a silver lining from the pandemic that you hope to keep a part of your life?

Reece: I started spending more time outdoors. Sunshine and fresh air work wonders for our well-being. We shouldn't stay cooped up inside all the time. I definitely plan to continue maximizing my time outside!

Hena: I started randomly calling and texting old friends to catch up and really decreased if not completely stopped my use of most social media platforms. It was not only good for my friendships, but also my relationships and social experiences.

Michelle: I rediscovered the joy of reading for pleasure! I studied English at IU, but after graduation, it was tough to find the time. Working slightly less during COVID allowed me the luxury to enjoy some nonmedical literature.



PATRICK O'MEARA
(1938-2021)

IN CELEBRATION OF A LIFE OF SERVICE

“Patrick helped us reimagine the Wells Program, constantly reminding us of how modern, valid, and relevant Herman B Wells’s vision of a truly cosmopolitan Indiana University remains today, and how our program must play a role in making it a reality.”

By Christoph Irmscher

On 30 March 2021, the Wells Scholars Program lost one of its most steadfast friends and supporters, Patrick O'Meara. In the weeks after his death, many obituaries described Patrick's multiple accomplishments, as a scholar of international and especially African politics and as an administrator (among his many roles was that of Indiana University's first Vice President of international

Affairs). We at the Wells Program knew him as the mentor to whom we could always turn for advice, which he would dispense in a way only Patrick could—always over the phone (he never used email for sensitive matters and, being Patrick, he treated most matters as potentially sensitive ones), in his characteristic lilting voice that still carried traces of his South African homeland, and with deep attentiveness to, and care for, the individuals who would be affected by

a decision that had to be made. Patrick had been an integral part of the selection process of the Wells Program for many years, and watching him conduct an interview with a potential Scholar was an unforgettable experience. It was as if nothing else existed for Patrick as that particular conversation; he treated each of our finalists as if they were, at least at that moment, the most important people in the world.

Patrick helped us reimagine the Wells Program, constantly reminding us of how modern, valid, and relevant Herman B Wells's vision of a truly cosmopolitan Indiana University remains today, and how our program must play a role in making it a reality. It is in large part due to Patrick's influence that our incoming class this year is one of the most international and diverse in the program's history.

If I were to name one of Patrick's most distinctive qualities, I would probably single out his boundless curiosity. The questions he asked, during a Wells interview or when he met a new Scholar, reflected his genuine interest in the stories of each of our Scholars, an interest focused on the person of his interlocutor, not on their achievements captured in a resume. His kindness turned situations that could have been awkward into exhilarating opportunities for reflection and conversations. Patrick was always impeccably dressed, with an elegant scarf (often a red one) draped around his neck and shoulders, which added to his appearance (as if this were even needed) an additional layer of refinement.

Although he had much to say, Patrick never talked needlessly—his sentences, perfectly formed, had completeness and beauty and meaning, as if he'd written them

down and mapped out beforehand (which of course he hadn't). Patrick was widely read, and although his expertise as a scholar was in international and African politics, he was a great friend of the humanities, too, and a regular presence at opera performances, chamber music, and symphony concerts. He knew virtually everybody and would easily and effortlessly befriend those he didn't yet—it is thanks to him that the Lilly Library has the papers of such eminent African writers as Nadine Gordimer and Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

Yet there was not a hint of arrogance or snobbishness or condescension about him. Generous and genuine, Patrick had an instinctive aversion to poseurs and hypocrites and would spot fakeness from miles away. I take an extraordinary pleasure in the fact that several of this year's incoming Scholars were still interviewed by him, via Zoom, a medium to which Patrick, unlike many of his younger colleagues, adjusted effortlessly, asking his questions while sitting at his desk at home, his book- and memento-filled shelves right behind him. I will never forget how he showed up, three years ago, for the first series of international Wells interviews, which we conducted from the library of Harlos House. He would pull up in his beautiful car shortly before the interview, stepping in through our back door, his scarf around his neck,

a stray lock inching down his forehead. And he would decline our offer of a cup of coffee and instead ask, in his unrushed, unruffled, precise way, for a glass of "hot wa-tter." It breaks my heart that I will never hear those words, that I will never listen to that voice again. Thank you, Patrick.



FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

The WSP Class of 2020 had an unusual first year: extremely limited campus visits and recruitment activities throughout the spring and summer, new housing and masking policies to learn and follow, sparse in-person event programming, and all that on top of the usual trials and tribulations of matriculating as an undergraduate. Cooper Sykes and Maia Law didn't let any of this slow them down. Read about their experiences here!

Passion Amidst the Peculiar: A Year at IU in a Pandemic

By Cooper Sykes



Live life passionately. My mantra has remained constant, despite a rapidly changing world around me. No experience has better exemplified this fluctuating existence than my first year at Indiana University. Normally, a transition from the suburbs of Raleigh, North Carolina to Bloomington, Indiana would have been enough change to warrant a tad of anxiety. However, the COVID-19 pandemic added an entirely new set of circumstances to be concerned about. Despite waves of fear, I stayed true to my philosophy and sought opportunities

to pursue my passions at IU. Thankfully, with the support of the Wells Scholars Program and great friends around me, I created a memorable first year at IU.

“...all good things take time, and I know normalcy will slowly return to IU.”

From ordering meals on Grubhub to getting weekly COVID tests, the average student experience at IU was far from normal this past year. I would roll out of bed a few minutes before my first class of the day, logging on to Zoom to partake in my first of several online classes. I would then order my lunch on the Grubhub app, walking downstairs to Woodland Eatery to pick up my brown paper sack of lunch. After more hours on Zoom, I would enjoy an evening stroll about campus, taking in the beautiful scenery of Bloomington. Every week featured a COVID test (one per week first semester, two per week second semester) and a smidge of anxiety that this might be the week that I end up in the quarantine dorm. Aside

from around three meetings of our second semester Wells seminar in-person at the Mauer School of Law, I never got to experience the joys of the lecture halls at IU, nor did I eat in the illustrious dining halls on campus. However, all good things take time, and I know normalcy will slowly return to IU.



The masked Mystery Gang
Wells Scholars L-R: Joelle Jackson, Savannah Price, Rose Schnabel, and Cooper Sykes

Regardless of the odd nuances of life during a pandemic, I chose to define my year by joy, not disappointment. I got to learn about the ethical intricacies of environmentalist

ideologies during the first semester Wells Seminar with Christoph. My close friends from the Wells Program and I spent a thrilling Halloween dressed as the Mystery Gang and even helped commemorate virtual Interview Weekend by making Herman B Wells cakes. Dean Austen Parrish, leader of the second semester Wells Seminar, supported me in my journey to determine a path forward to protect pollinator populations through the vessel of international law. I had the opportunity to meet the kind and memorable alumni of the Wells Scholars Program through our IU Day gathering, and even got to show my passion of classical music to the Wells Program by performing saxophone for our annual Wells Talent Show.



Wells cake

Overall, this year was far from easy or normal. I encountered growing pains away from home and even my own bouts with mental health struggles. However, through the wonderful people at IU and in the Wells Program, I lived, and will continue to live, my life passionately in Bloomington.

And the Show Went On

By Maia Law

"Ah, the masked bandit returns!" Almost every week, I would hear this greeting ring from my laptop speakers as my violin professor welcomed me to my weekly Zoom lesson. The joke never failed to make me smile under that black mask, which did make it seem as though I had just robbed a bank in the Wild West. Every day, I would see hundreds of fellow masked bandits as I walked across campus, enjoying the walk along the Jordan River on the way to the Musical Arts Center, the fanfares of brass players practicing in the parking garage, and the impromptu concerts at various outdoor stages set up across campus. In a year full of online classes and COVID tests, the show continued to go on.



Of course, the show at the Jacobs School looked, and sounded, a bit different this year. The New Music Ensemble, in which fellow Scholar Maeve Whelan and I played this year, was able to perform in multiple concerts throughout the year, after the large ensemble had been broken into groups ranging from 2-10 players. Almost every night, performances from dozens of ensembles and soloists were streamed online on *IUMusicLive!*, providing performers with their own virtual audience. Some of my favorite moments from the Jacobs School this year included an outdoor concert featuring the trombones of the St. Louis Symphony; watching my classmates perform from Korea, China, and across the US; and hearing that my string quartet's coach had gone on to win a Grammy after one of our rehearsals!

Our freshman year in the Wells Program had its share of adjustments as well; however, we not only adapted to these changes but embraced them. For example, the wonders of Zoom allowed us to connect with faculty, guests, and alumni from all over the US and around the world. This included two of our

international classmates, Agness Lungu and Amangul Hydyrova, who truly amazed us all by attending our freshman seminar past 1:00 in the morning every week. Through our frequent Wells and WAVE events, my fellow Scholars and I engaged in moving discussions with many acclaimed guests and program alumni. A particularly stimulating panel that I enjoyed, led by alumni Andrew Dilts (WSP '98) and Kate Schnippel Bistline (WSP '93), explored the crisis of police brutality in America through the lens of a public health emergency.

In our Freshman Seminar, it seemed as though my classmates and I learned about nearly every topic under the sun. In the fall, faculty members Lisa Sideris, Ross Gay, Anne Pyburn, and Richard Wilk introduced us to topics ranging from the introspective practice of listening to birdsong and the healing power of a backyard garden to the ethics of anthropological explorations and how to prepare traditional Belizean dishes. And through literature including Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and David Quammen's *Spillover*, our class learned about the delicate, and often destructive, relationship between humans and our environment. Austen Parrish, Dean of the Maurer School of Law, taught our spring seminar and led us in countless compelling discussions of international, and even intergalactic (!), law.

Aside from hours spent learning legal jargon, I think the best way to sum up my experience with the Wells Program this year can be captured in this story from September of last year. After we had learned that one of our fellow Wellsies needed to quarantine in the isolation building for two weeks, the WSP Class of 2020 came together to assemble a care package for her. (Credit must be given to Joelle Jackson, as this heartfelt gesture would not have happened without her.) Then, a few weeks later, a contact tracing call revealed that it would be my turn to enter into isolation. And sure enough, in what seemed like only a few hours, a paper bag covered in smiley faces and filled with snacks was waiting outside my door.

MEET OUR DONORS (facing page)

In recent years, several generous alumni have created endowed scholarships within the Wells Scholars Program. Each year, at least one current Wells Scholar is designated as the recipient of each of these scholarships, and the funds partially or fully provide four-year support covering the student's tuition, fees, books, supplies, and living expenses. We are exceedingly grateful for the generosity of these donors! Read about the donors and current recipients below

Interested in creating your own endowed scholarship or contributing to an existing one? Please get in touch with our Director of Development, Kristin Varella (krjnorri@indiana.edu) or read further giving information in the back of this newsletter.



The Anne C. & Brian D. Wymore Scholarship in the Herman B Wells Scholars Program

Named in honor of Anne and her husband Brian.



Donor: Anne Wymore

WSP Class of 1994/IU Class of 1998

BA in Journalism, minor in film studies

Favorite course at IU: Almost all of my English courses.

Favorite WSP memory: Staying up late talking about interesting life questions with the kind, talented people I was fortunate to go to school with.

Memory of Herman B Wells: What they said about him was true...he made a genuine effort to personally connect with individual IU students. And he certainly prioritized spending time with us, even during the advanced years of his life. Herman B Wells is a beautiful model of servant leadership and an example of how you can learn as much from the faculty and staff of a great university as you can from the coursework.

Piece of advice you wish you would have been given/listened to when you were in college: I wish I'd reached out to our advisors to learn more about the range of extracurriculars and leadership opportunities across IU.

What motivates you to be generous in your life? Someone who never met me made a gift that provided me with a truly exceptional education. In different ways throughout life, I hope to pay forward a small portion of their kindness.



Recipient: Charley Connon
Rising senior, WSP Class of 2018
Double major in international studies and sustainable development in vulnerable communities (an individualized major), French certificate, Applied Research and Inquiry certificate, Russian minor

Favorite course (so far) at IU:

Central European Cinema. Having worked on three film projects myself, it was very fulfilling to learn how to analyze films and the techniques different directors employ. The course led me to have a greater appreciation for foreign cinema as well.

Favorite WSP memory (to date):

Our Freshman International Experience class trip to Belize in May 2019, the culmination of an anthropology/literature course taught by Dr. Anne Pyburn. We learned about Belizean culture and the various geopolitical and domestic issues that the country is facing and has dealt with in the past. Then, we visited the country for nearly two weeks to continue our studies. In addition, the trip was a great bonding experience for my entire class, and everyone made lasting memories.

Advice or thought you'd like to share with today's Scholars or words of wisdom for future generations of Scholars?

Take full advantage of WSP's special lectures and events—over the past three years, the program has brought in some amazing, often world-renowned speakers that have offered powerful perspectives on academic, social, environmental, and public health issues.

The Roger A. Chrastil Scholarship in the Wells Scholars Program

Named in honor of Rachel's father Roger: a 1970 IU graduate with a BA in English, a poet, a playwright, a teacher, a lover of the English language, and a frequenter of the IU Writer's Conference.



Donor: Rachel Chrastil
WSP Class of 1995/IU Class of 1999
BA in French

Favorite course at IU: I have too many favorites to count. The most directly influential course was my French civilization course on France 1870-1940 with Professor Michael Berkvam.

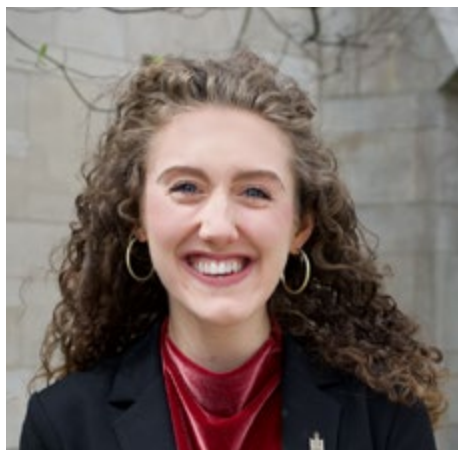
Favorite WSP memory: The weekend at Shaker Village.

Piece of advice you wish you would have been given/listened to when you were in college: Be ambitious in service to others.

Advice or thought you'd like to share with today's Scholars: If you're the one who's always talking, learn how to listen. If you're the one who's always listening, learn how to talk.

Memory of Herman B Wells: I take from the legacy of Herman B Wells the drive to dream big in support of higher education.

Book recommendation: *Choices Under Fire: Moral Dimensions of World War II*, by Michael Bess; *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution*, by Jeremy Popkin; *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*, by Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen; and "The Case for Reparations," in *The Atlantic*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates.



Recipient: Margaret Schnabel
May 2021 graduate, WSP Class of 2017
BA in English and cognitive science,
Spanish minor

Favorite course at IU: 20th-century American poetry with Professor Nikki Skillman.

Favorite WSP memory: Meeting WSP alum and Berlin Philharmonic concertmaster Noah Bendix-Balgley during our Freshman International Experience Trip to Berlin in May 2018

Piece of advice you wish you would have been given/listened to when you started college: Don't be too fixated on following a strictly linear path! Trust your instincts and follow your interests; they'll lead you to where you need to be.

Advice or thought you'd like to share with today's Scholars or words of wisdom for future generations of Scholars? I'll defer to one of my favorite essayists, Jia Tolentino: "The dream of collective well-being has to outweigh, day-to-day, the dream of individual success."

Book recommendation: There are too many! But if I really had to pick just one, it'd be Chen Chen's *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*.

The Aamir and Amy Malik Scholarship in the Wells Scholars Program

Named in honor of Aamir and his wife Amy.



Donor: Aamir Malik

WSP Class of 1993/IU Class of 1997

BS in business (finance)

Favorite course at IU: Honors Business Law with Professor Eric Richards—fun class, memorable professor, and, most importantly, the class where I met my amazing Amy, who is now my wife.

Favorite WSP memory: Our freshman year trip to Brown County.

What motivates you to be generous in your life: Throughout my entire life, there have been people who, often without my knowledge, have been there to help me. I can genuinely say that those people and those moments changed the trajectory of my life. It's my aspiration to now do the same for others.

Advice for today's Scholars: we should all take the time to learn to be a better listeners—there is likely no skill more important, in personal or professional life.



Recipient: Emma Uber
Rising sophomore, WSP Class of 2020

Double major in journalism and international studies, Spanish minor

Favorite course at IU (so far): Behind the Prize, a Media School course that invites a different Pulitzer Prize winner or other accomplished journalist to speak each week. The opportunity to ask some of my journalistic idols questions and better understand their reporting process undoubtedly has made me a better journalist and truly inspired me to continue pursuing a career in journalism.

Favorite WSP memory (to date): Fellow Wells Scholar Maia Law and I

attempted to cook an authentic Belizean meal as one of our projects for WSP freshman seminar. Ultimately, dinner was served almost three hours after we expected because we are certainly not chefs. Not only did I gain a new appreciation for Belizean culture, I realized how lucky I am to have a program that exposes me to so many new cultures and encourages me to try new things.

What motivates you to be generous in your life? Gratitude. When I take a step back from the chaos of daily life I realize how incredibly thankful I am. This sense of gratitude motivates me to share the opportunities and resources I have been lucky to have with others.

Advice or thought you'd like to share with today's Scholars or words of wisdom for future generations of Scholars? Never take WSP for granted and seize every opportunity it provides. Having the financial burden of the college lifted from my family provides not only me but also my family with so much more freedom, and the benefits do not stop there. I encourage future Wells Scholars to explore every opportunity possible.

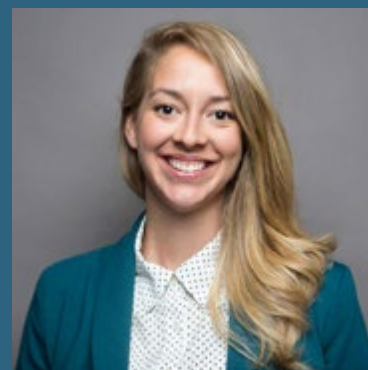
NEW HORIZONS

THE SUCCESSFUL WSP AND OIS PARTNERSHIP

By Rachel Salinas, Director of International Admissions

The fall 2021 incoming freshman class will include the Wells Scholars Program's third group of students to receive a scholarship offer through the international nomination process in partnership with the Office of International Services (OIS). This is the first time three international students will be joining the Wells Scholars cohort. These three students represent the countries of Thailand, India, and Nicaragua and will be pursuing degree programs in international studies, molecular life sciences and computer sciences, and journalism.

Over the past three years, the Wells Scholars Program has received 55 international student nominations from over 25 countries. Nominations continue to grow as the program is further promoted and the existing cohorts share their experience with others. OIS looks forward to the continued partnership and appreciates the global awareness that the Wells Scholarship Program has brought to Indiana University.



Agness plays in the snow for the first time under the Zambian flag, outside fellow Scholar Zoe Bardon's house

By Agness Lungu

Since I had to take the first semester of my freshman year online, being on campus for the spring semester was a completely new experience. I loved taking some of my classes in person because I finally got to meet my classmates and professors and school felt real. Previously everyone was just faces behind screens.

“Overall, I enjoyed my semester...”

I got involved with the *Indiana Daily Student* as a reporter, which quickly became my favorite activity all

semester. I would write weekly articles, and interviewing people for my stories helped me interact with different faculty and students in a variety of departments. I also attended a dance event on campus by a group called Step Afrika! and they performed a South African dance which I was familiar with!

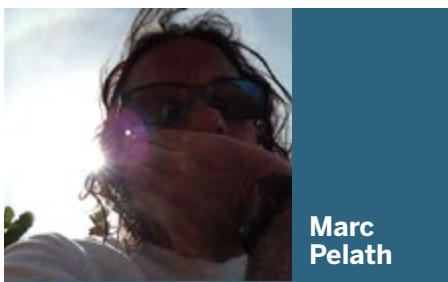
Overall, I enjoyed my semester, I got to try different foods from other countries visiting the international restaurants around Bloomington. I have discovered I really like Chinese and Thai food.

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1991



Kyle Kramer is the executive director of the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, a nonprofit, interfaith spirituality center in Louisville, KY (www.earthandspiritcenter.org). He hosts the Earth and Spirit Podcast on National Public Radio and his second book, *Making Room: Soul-Deep Satisfaction Through Simple Living*, was just published by Franciscan Media.



Marc Pelath lives in Chicago with his wife Diana and daughter Nell. He still works for Quantitative Risk Management as primus inter pares in the Behavioral Modeling Group. Marc plays touch guitar, builds modular synths, and produces both covers and original music under the pseudonym The Laconic. He

endeavors to live by the philosophy of the porch.

CLASS OF 1992



Sarah Ferrario is the Chair of the Department of Greek and Latin at Catholic University in Washington, DC, where her husband, Andrew Simpson (DMA, IUB, 1995), is also Ordinary Professor of Music (Composition). Sarah is looking forward to her upcoming sabbatical, when she will be able to continue her studies of the historian Xenophon and work on her book on praise-speech in ancient Greece. She and Andrew will also be teaching in Catholic University's program in Rome during the summers of 2022 and 2023.



Khozema Shipchandler works as

the Chief Financial Officer of Twilio. He also serves on the Boards of Quiet Plus Acquisition Corporation, Watermark, BuildOn & Lafayette Partners in Education. He lives in Lafayette, CA, but is increasingly spending more time in Truckee, CA. He and his wife Alefiya have two kids, Juzer and Aamena, one of whom they cannot believe will be driving in the fall! He'd love to be in touch with any Wells alumni in the Bay Area and beyond!

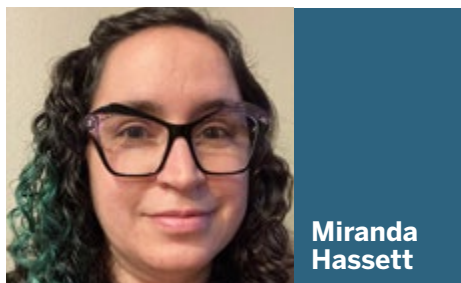
CLASS OF 1993



Seth Gillihan has been working with a mental health app called Bloom over the past couple of years, while continuing to offer teletherapy. He recently published with his 10-year-old daughter *The CBT Deck for Kids and Teens*, which features mindfulness-centered cognitive behavioral exercises adapted for young people. He's enjoying his backyard garden, including the baby bunnies that hatched in his herb bed, and looking forward to a week in the

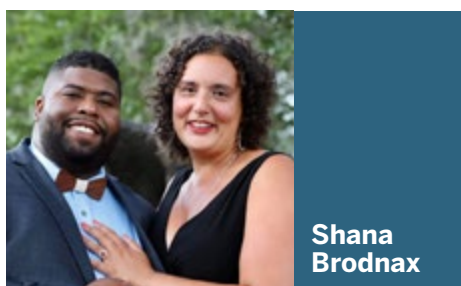
CLASS NOTES

Poconos with his family later this summer.



Miranda Hassett is in her eleventh year as the pastor of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Madison, Wisconsin. It's been a challenging year of pandemic pastoring, but there have been opportunities and discoveries as well in moving church online. Miranda shares her home with her husband, two teenagers, and a dog.

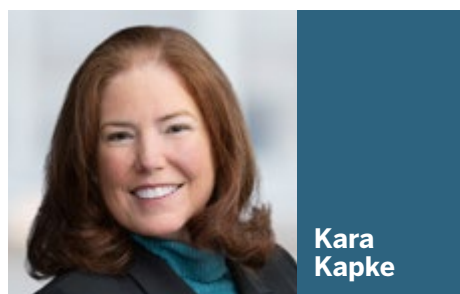
CLASS OF 1995



Shana Brodnax is running her own leadership coaching practice, 3 Birds Coaching and Consulting, and is savoring the sun in Jacksonville, Florida after 15 years in New York. She just got engaged, and is marrying Christopher Reid (pictured) this October!

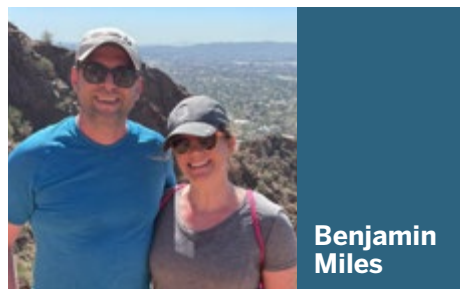
The Wells Scholars Program is sad to report that **Adam Spaetti** passed away in November 2020. He practiced internal medicine at IU Health in Bloomington from 2007 until his death. He is survived by his wife Cynthia and six children.

CLASS OF 1996



Kara Kapke is a litigation partner at Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis, where she and her husband are raising their two boys to live life to its fullest.

CLASS OF 1997



Benjamin Miles is living in Davidson, NC with his wife, Eileen (pictured), and three children. He is a local Ob/Gyn and just sent his oldest daughter off to college.



Robert Tayon continues to live in Bangkok, Thailand with his family. After a career as a marketing and product executive in the travel sector, he is taking a break to help his two children with their online education while planning his next adventure.

CLASS OF 1998



Jae Chung moved to Chicago at the start of the pandemic with his wife and two children. He recently completed a software development immersive bootcamp at Fullstack Academy and was selected as a Teaching Fellow. After working as a fitness coach for almost 10 years, he is excited about this career change. He also wishes he had listened to his mother's advice to study computer science 20 years ago.

CLASS NOTES



Lisa Schubert Nowling

Lisa Schubert Nowling is overjoyed to be the first female lead pastor of First United Methodist Church in Bloomington, where she resides with her husband, five-year-old daughter, and two pandemic pups. She would love to reconnect with other WSP alumni when they're in town for IU events.

CLASS OF 2000



Libby Baney

Libby Baney lived in Colorado for the pandemic year, spending time with family, law firm friends, and hiking. This fall, Libby and her son, Lucas (age 7), are returning to Washington, DC to resume "normal" life. A partner at Faegre Drinker LLP, Libby co-chairs the Digital Health group and leads client work on legal and public policy issues involving telemedicine, online

pharmacies, CBD/cannabis, and access to care. Libby is a regular speaker and writer on these issues and would love to connect with any Wellsies with common interests. Still a Hoosier at heart, Libby remains active in the DC IU Alumni Association and with the Wells Scholars Program, and she serves as immediate past president of the IU Maurer Law Alumni Board.



Kate Mercer-Lawson

Kate Mercer-Lawson lives in Denver and is a partner at Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP, where she specializes in toxic torts in cases around the country.

CLASS OF 2003



Dan Stanko

Dan Stanko recently joined Crosspoint Capital Partners, a new

private equity firm focused on cybersecurity and infrastructure software, as a Managing Director. He and his wife Mandira continue to live in San Francisco with their two children, Samara (girl, 4) and Jahan (boy, 1).

CLASS OF 2004

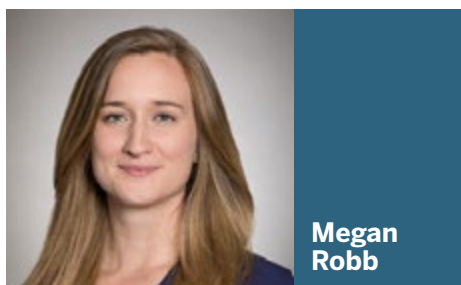


Margaret Hathaway

Margaret "Meg" Hathaway lives in Arlington, VA and works for the US Environmental Protection Agency as a Senior Regulatory Specialist in the Office of Pesticide Programs. In that role, Meg writes policy decisions on high-profile pesticides and negotiates with a wide range of stakeholders both in and outside of government. Meg holds a Master of Public Affairs specializing in policy analysis and a Master of Science in Environmental Science specializing in water resource management from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, an MA in Anthropology from University College London, and a BA in Anthropology and Folklore with a minor in Biology

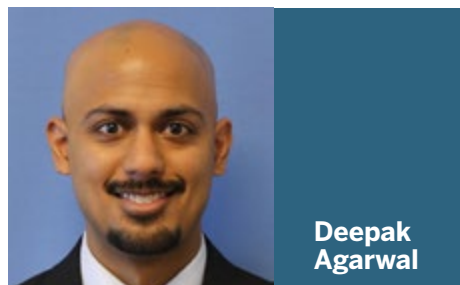
CLASS NOTES

from Indiana University. Prior to joining EPA she worked as a microbiologist in a food testing laboratory, completed estuary restoration projects in New Zealand, researched army ant behavior in Costa Rica, and drafted public reports on water quality and PCB contamination for the City of Bloomington, Indiana. Meg also enjoys playing guitar and teaching classes on mending and hand-sewing. If you're ever in the DC area, let her know if you want to meet up or go for a hike!

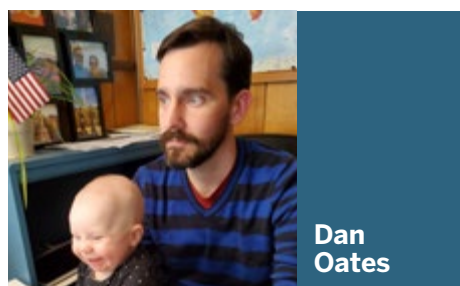


Megan Robb lives in Philadelphia with her husband and their two dogs. She works for the University of Pennsylvania, where she is an Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department. She spent the spring of 2021 in Calgary, Canada where she was the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in South Asian Islam. Her first book, *Print and the Urdu Public: Muslims, Newspapers, and Urban Life in Colonial India*, came out in October 2020 from Oxford University Press.

CLASS OF 2006



Deepak Agarwal is moving to Minneapolis, MN to join the University of Minnesota Department of Urology as an Assistant Professor, specializing in the medical and surgical management of Kidney Stones and Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). He just completed a fellowship in Endourology at Indiana University, after finishing medical school at IU and residency at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN).



Dan Oates and his wife Meg were delighted to welcome Josephine "Josie" Oates to their family in November 2020. Already vying to join the Wells Scholar class of 2039, Josie started crawling at 5 months and makes sure to keep her parents on

their toes. Dan continues to work as a Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Department of State, where he focuses on international technology policy and leads digital/tech policy negotiations in multilateral fora such as the G7, G20, and United Nations. Dan, Meg, Josie, and their dog Valentine live in College Park, Maryland. Please feel free to give them a shout if you're coming through the Washington, DC area and would like to say hello.



Miles Taylor launched a nationwide political reform effort this year focused on restoring a common sense coalition in American politics and reforming the GOP. Additionally, he is serving as a Senior Fellow at the R St Institute in Washington, DC and recently concluded a stint as a CNN contributor.

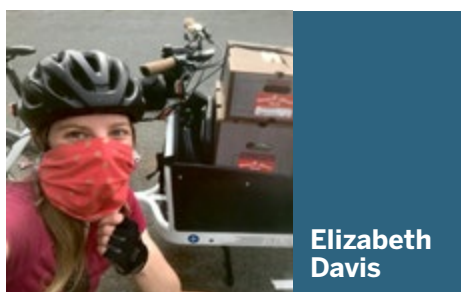
CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2007



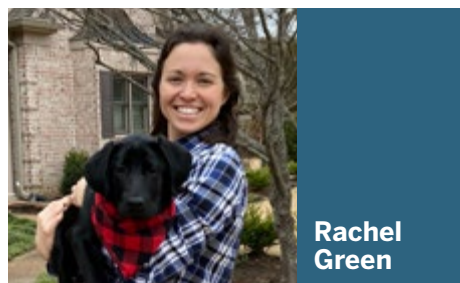
Jordan Youkilis started the cannabis-focused venture capital firm KEY Investment Partners in 2018. KEY takes a systematic approach to investment analysis and due diligence with the goal of connecting investors to private cannabis opportunities. At KEY Investment Partners, Jordan is responsible for developing strategy, leading co-investment syndication processes, writing blog posts and driving outreach for deal sourcing opportunities. Jordan lives in Denver, Colorado. In his free time, Jordan enjoys traveling, skiing, reading, and hiking.

CLASS OF 2010

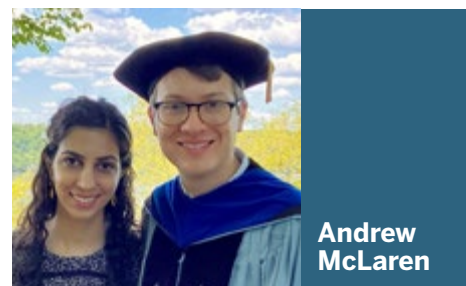


Elizabeth Davis is pursuing a PhD in geology at the University of

Washington in Seattle. In normal times, she enjoys digging in tidal mud for signs of ancient earthquakes, floods, and volcanic eruptions. During the pandemic, she has been preoccupied by organizing a produce delivery co-op that brings locally-grown food to city households and food banks on the bikes of volunteers. She has been fortified by the generosity of the community throughout the past year's critical periods.

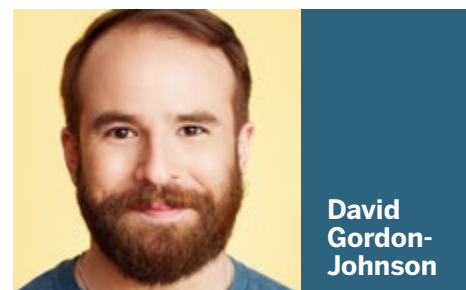


Rachel Green has enjoyed living in Bloomington for the past year while clerking for Judge Hamilton on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. While she is sad to leave, she is also excited to start her new job in Washington, DC as an Associate at Katz Marshall & Banks, LLP this fall. Another update: she got a puppy this winter, Harper B (without a period, as in Herman B).



Andrew McLaren recently completed his PhD in Religion at Columbia University. In the fall, he will join the faculty of the Colegio de Mexico as profesor-investigador in History of the Islamic World. Accompanying him to Mexico City will be his fiancée, Bita Mousavi, and their cat, Lun.

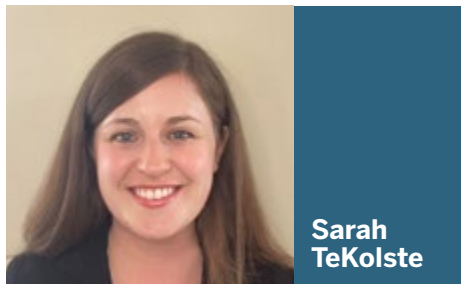
CLASS OF 2011



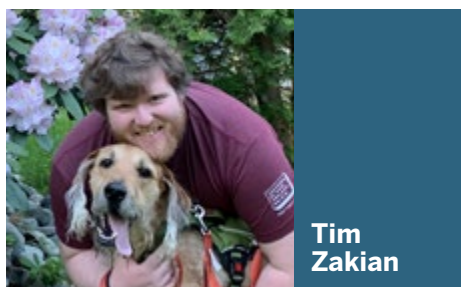
David Gordon-Johnson lives in Chicago. In the summer of 2020, he raised more than \$2,000 for various local organizations as part of the Bakers Against Racism national bake sale, and he continues to bake and make donations to different organizations. David has been featured in a number of commercials and will be filming an independent short film in June 2021. He will also be

CLASS NOTES

appearing as a guest artist with the Ocean City Pops over Labor Day weekend of 2021.



Sarah TeKolste teaches International Baccalaureate Spanish and coordinates the Service Learning Program at Shortridge High School in Indianapolis. She is the 2022 Teacher of the Year for Indianapolis Public Schools.



Tim Zakian is working as a software engineer in the Greater Seattle area after finishing his DPhil at the University of Oxford. He just got married this past December, and they recently adopted a Great Dane Doodle named Ranger.

CLASS OF 2012



Rebecca Ferber lives in Seattle, WA. This spring, she and fellow Class of 2012 Wellsie Jane Reagan went on a 5-day backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon. They later got their Covid-19 vaccines together and are excited about the future adventures (and in-person Wells reunions!) they can plan as a result.



After graduating from IU in 2017, **Hannah Fidler** moved to Chicago and pursued life as a gigging musician and active community member. Prior to the pandemic, Hannah's musical life involved vibrant musical scenes in Chicago as well as touring around the U.S.A. and abroad in the Balkans and Colombia. Hannah helped found and currently resides at an autonomous

sanctuary house for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and peer supporters called Casa Al-Fatiha. As of June 2023, Hannah will be pursuing a master's degree in counseling at Northwestern University.



Jane Reagan is based in Washington, DC but spent the past year without a lease and staying with friends and family around the country—including a Grand Canyon trip with Rebecca Ferber and a Chicago visit with Owen Hoepfner! Jane works at Uber and will be moving back to DC in the fall. Let her know if you are ever in the area!

CLASS OF 2013



Morgan Mohr is currently working in the White House as Associate

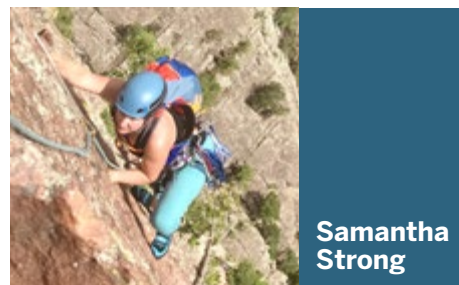
CLASS NOTES

Director for Strategic Planning in the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach.



Claire Repsholdt is currently a candidate for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). After studying for three nourishing years at Yale Divinity School, Claire is grateful to have spent an additional year in New Haven as a chaplain resident at Yale New Haven Hospital. Practicing spiritual caregiving in the era of COVID-19 challenged her to be a nimble listener and confirmed that she loves chaplaincy and that it will continue to shape her career. Now, she is on her way to complete her last requirement for ordination: parish internship. Two Baltimore congregations with distinct identities, both led by Rev. Emily Scott, have invited her to be their vicar for a year commencing this July. The first is St. Mark's Lutheran Church, a stalwart urban congregation that's been meeting, since 1960, in a dramatic Byzantine sanctuary designed by

Tiffany. Perched just north of the train station, the church has witnessed everything from the Civil War to the Spanish Flu to the AIDS crisis and is now contemplating how it will survive the 21st century. The second is Dreams + Visions, a brand new progressive Christian community, organized by Emily and imagined by creative members who are pushing the boundaries of "modern" faith. Claire is excited to be prepared for leadership by these bold communities. Though home will always be Chicago, with any luck, she'll conclude the internship with a first call somewhere out east in summer of 2022!



After spending the last few years in Colorado, **Samantha Strong** is heading back east to Washington, DC to begin a PhD program in public policy at American University. She plans to study the role of gender and social determinants of health in policy development and implementation. She and her fiancé, Dan Luciani, met at a trailhead in Northern Virginia in

2016 and are excited to return to the DC area, this time with a corgi in tow. While in Colorado, Samantha took up mountain guiding and led rock climbing courses for women and girls. Samantha also dabbled in ski mountaineering, had a run-in with a bear, and caught zero fish while fly fishing. The highlights of 2020 include adopting their corgi, Clover, completing her MPH in epidemiology, and riding her bike on endless dirt roads. Samantha and Dan are getting married in DC this August and are excited about this next chapter of their lives and to introduce their corgi to the DC-area Wellsies!



Vinayak Vedantam is living happily in Oakland, CA and finally heading into the office after his first year working from home for Facebook. Vinayak took advantage of the time at home by learning piano from fellow Wells Scholar, Luka Marinkovic, reading for fun for the first time in ages, and tracking his sleep schedule (it's still bad). For the second half of 2021, he has his eye set on a home with a

CLASS NOTES

backyard and a puppy pal. He can't wait to visit his fellow Wellsies in the near future!

CLASS OF 2014

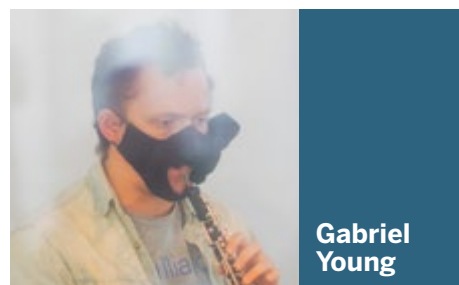


Kushal Shah is progressing towards his PhD in Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and passed his qualifying exams last fall. He is now working towards his dissertation as a member of the Precision Health Artificial Intelligence Research (PHAIR) Lab. His research focuses on developing statistical and machine learning algorithms for precision medicine, a paradigm seeking to leverage data-driven approaches to improve medical decision making, so the right treatment is given to the right patient at the right time. He enjoys the field because of its confluence of clinical and mathematical thinking, as well its ability to have a positive impact on human lives. He was also lucky enough to spend the last three months of 2020 at the Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram in Dharampur,

India, the headquarters of his Guru. This was a life-changing experience where he had the opportunity to grow spiritually and serve the Mission through daily service activities. He can't wait to go back!



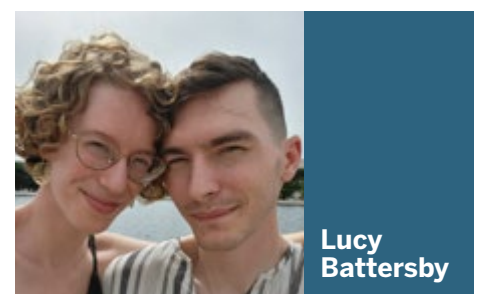
Richard Solomon spent the past winter and spring as a ski instructor in Breckenridge, Colorado. He's attending the University of Chicago next fall for graduate school. Local recommendations are welcome.



Gabriel Young lives in San Francisco, CA, where he holds the chair of Second Oboe with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. In addition, he serves as the Oboe Teaching Artist of Youth Orchestra Salinas, an El Sistema-inspired community music

program, and is a faculty member for this summer's inaugural California Central Coast Orchestra and Jazz Academy, where he will teach alongside a number of his former professors from his time at IU's Jacobs School of Music. During this past pandemic school year, Gabe served as an assistant to his IU mentor and teacher Linda Strommen, giving weekly reed-making lessons to her upperclassmen oboe students. Gabe's other recent work includes performances as guest principal oboist with the Palm Beach Symphony and Florida Grand Opera, as well as a few recording projects.

CLASS OF 2015



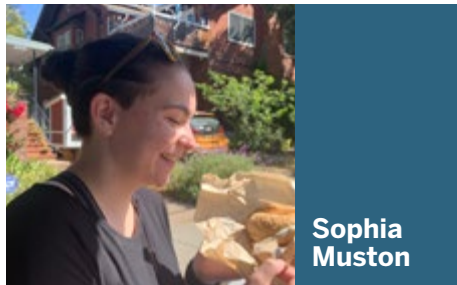
Lucy Battersby is celebrating the start of her third year in Washington DC. She works in reproductive healthcare and volunteers as a full-spectrum doula, supporting people through all pregnancy outcomes, including termination,

CLASS NOTES

loss, and birth. Lucy recently presented a session for Medical Students for Choice on how providers can offer abortion support and care for LGBTQ+ people that is trauma-informed, identity-affirming, and grounded in reproductive justice. In the next year, she is excited for long overdue Wellsie reunions in DC, the Bay Area, and Atlanta—and maybe finally adopting a cat.



Kaitlynn Milvert is in her last year at Harvard Law School. The delight of her past year has been working as a legal intern with the civil rights team at Equip for Equality, Illinois protection and advocacy organization for people with disabilities. She is also looking forward to doing research this year as a student fellow at the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics, working on a project focused on civil rights enforcement and the regulation of involuntary psychiatric treatment. In her free time, Kaitlynn has been enjoying lots of indoor gardening and long walks with her dog.



After wrapping up a year-long documentary project about an Indianapolis former industrial site, **Sophia Muston** made a career pivot and cross-country move during the pandemic. She now lives in the East Bay and takes the ferry to her job as a case manager at a San Francisco housing non-profit. In her free time, she has taken up rudimentary watercolor painting, gardening at Lake Merritt, and searching for the best West Coast bagel.

CLASS OF 2016



Hannah Huth is a second-year medical student at University Tennessee Health Science Center, where she serves on the Medical Student Executive Council and acts as President of the Pediatric Interest

Group. During her summer months, Hannah is initiating a research project at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in long-term outcomes of Craniopharyngioma brain tumor patients under Dr. Thomas Merchant. She also spends her time building a Health Literacy program to vaccinate youth in Memphis. At this time, she looks forward to pursuing a residency in Pediatrics and a fellowship in Hematology Oncology.

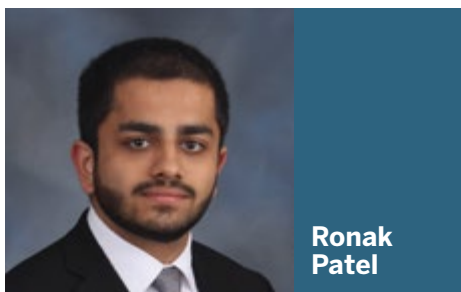


Neil Shah recently moved up to Chicago, where he is working as an Associate Consultant at Bain and Company. Since starting in January, Neil has been a part of Bain's Private Equity Group, helping conduct due diligences on a variety of investment targets on behalf of PE funds. In Chicago, Neil has been enjoying the summer weather, playing tennis and beach volleyball, and exploring around the city. Prior to starting at Bain, Neil and his brother spent three months at Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram in Dharmapur, India, the headquarters of his Guru's spiritual

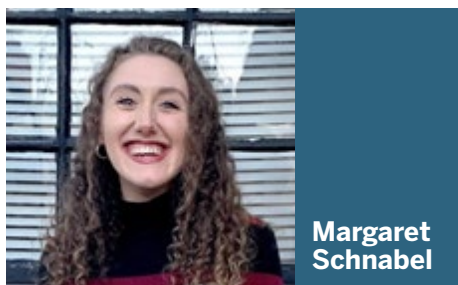
CLASS NOTES

mission. Neil also used the lockdown to further his education, completing a MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy through MIT's online program. This program consisted of five courses, covering topics such as the challenges of global poverty, advanced development economics, data analysis for social scientists, and more.

CLASS OF 2017



Ronak Patel graduated in May from the Kelley School of Business with majors in finance and operations management. This summer he will be starting at McKinsey & Company in their Chicago office as a Business Analyst. He looks forward to living in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago and would love to connect with Wells alum in the area!

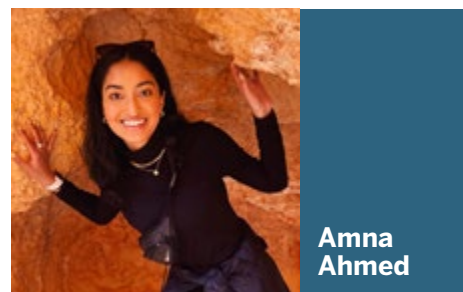


After graduating from IU this spring with degrees in English and Cognitive Science, **Margaret Schnabel** will pursue a master's degree in World Literature at the University of Oxford. This year, she was honored to receive the IU Elvis J. Stahr Outstanding Senior Award, the English Honors Thesis award for her research on surrealism in contemporary minority poetry, the *IUJUR* Research Slam faculty choice award, and the Cognitive Science Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award. She plans to savor her final few months in Bloomington by working as an Undergraduate Research Fellow for the IU Arts and Humanities Council and keeping up her role as Discussions Coordinator for Soupbone Humanities Collective.



Tyler Zhang just graduated from IU this past May with two degrees in Mathematics and Intelligent Systems Engineering. This summer, he is staying in Bothell, WA to do an internship as an embedded software engineer at Tethers Unlimited, a small aerospace company that performs research and development of technology for space. In the fall, he is excited to start a two-year MS program in computer engineering at UC Irvine.

CLASS OF 2018



Amna Ahmed is a rising senior Wells Scholar majoring in International Studies, Political Science, and Economics, with minors in Urdu language and Human-Centered Computing. This summer, Amna is

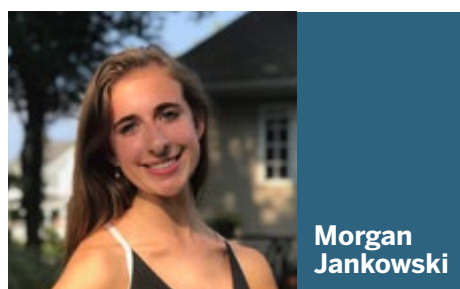
CLASS NOTES

doing research for Professor Bauerle Danzman and Professor Winecoff on market concentration, Transnational corporate networks, and politically-connected firms. She will also intern for KPMG in the State and Local Solutions Advisory branch of the Chicago office. She looks forward to joining the Board of Aeons and figuring out her post-graduate life this coming fall.



Nina Castro-Sauer is a rising senior at IU majoring in International Studies with a concentration in Global Health and the Environment. She is also minoring in Portuguese and has a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Since September of 2020, Nina has served as a research assistant for the Amazonian Governance to Enable Transformations to Sustainability Project, a research consortium analyzing the impact of individual and collective projects throughout the Amazon Basin on land-use practices and environmental conservation.

This summer, Nina is also interning at the Climate Museum, the first museum in the United States dedicated to the climate crisis. She's excited to learn more about how the museum, located in New York City, is actively promoting community engagement with environmental issues to develop progressive and just solutions. Nina is certain this position will prepare and excite her (further) for the 26th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), which she will be attending later this year in Glasgow, Scotland, assuming it happens in person--fingers crossed! Above all, Nina is excited to get back on campus and see everyone this Fall!



Morgan Jankowski is a rising senior studying ballet, arts and non-profit management, and business/marketing. She spent this past semester as an intern (virtually) for American Ballet Theatre in New York City and worked with their Children's Division on virtual classes and engagement initiatives for students.

This summer, with support from the Wells Scholars Program, she will be training for five weeks at Boca Ballet Theatre under the direction of ballet company artistic directors from around the United States. She is very excited about her senior year at IU and looks forward to a return to live performances at the Musical Arts Center!



Kali Konstantinopoulos is a rising senior studying Intelligent Systems Engineering and Mathematics. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed an educational software app to show how the impact of a COVID vaccine can be mathematically predicted. She is proud to have presented this app during the 2021 Statewide Summit on Women & Technology, organized by IU's Center of Excellence for Women & Technology (CEW&T). This summer, Kali will be participating in a Research Experience for Undergraduates through Harvard

CLASS NOTES

Medical School, working on computational modeling of zebrafish embryo development. During her senior year, she is looking forward to continuing her cancer modeling research with Dr. Macklin in the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering. She will also be serving as President of the 100th Board of Aeon and Lead Outreach Intern for CEW&T.



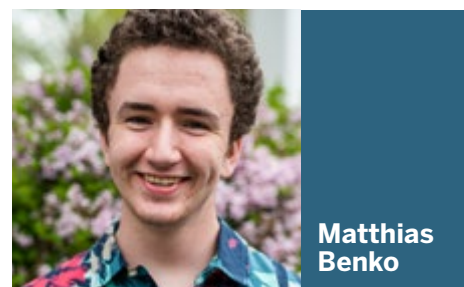
Walker Smith is a rising senior pursuing a dual degree in chemistry and music composition. He has already begun taking graduate organic chemistry courses and has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the professors and other graduate students. Walker has continued his organic synthesis research in the lab of Dr. Kevin Brown at IU, where his research accomplishments have been recognized by several national awards, including a Goldwater scholarship and a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the American Chemical Society. Walker's research this summer will

culminate in a presentation at Pfizer headquarters in September as part of the ACS Fellowship program. Walker has also had a fruitful year in his musical pursuits. As one of ten IU composers selected to participate in the inaugural 48 Hours composition project, he wrote a piece for the New York-based Wet Ink Ensemble in only 48 hours. Walker has also enjoyed delving deeper into electroacoustic music composition this past year. This summer he will be attending SPLICE, a selective one-week institute for electronic music composition and sound synthesis. Aside from his chemistry research and music composition, Walker spent last year exploring Indiana state parks through hiking and mountain biking.

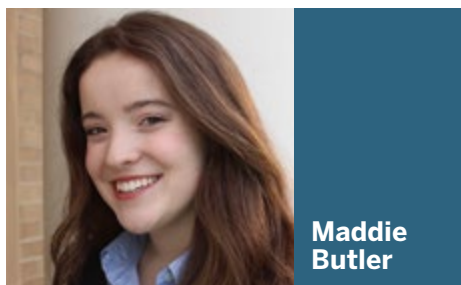


Clate Winters is living in Bloomington and preparing to study abroad his senior year!

CLASS OF 2019

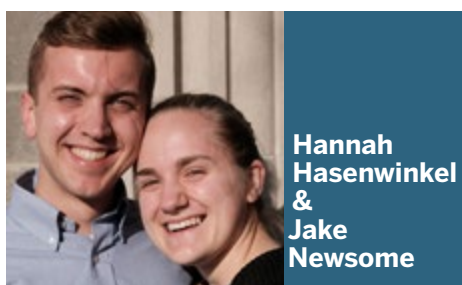


Although the pandemic put a wrench into everyone's 2020 plans, **Matthias Benko** was still able to get IU's first ornithology club, Bloomington Birders, up and running this past year! Since birding is a fully outdoor activity, he led over 10 Covid-safe bird walks around Monroe County. Bloomington Birders is officially recognized as an Audubon on-campus chapter, the first at a Big 10 school. Matthias and his fellow student leaders hope to grow the club's environmental advocacy initiatives in the next year. This summer, he will be interning with Indiana Nature LLC as an Indiana Climate Fellow to compile and analyze Indiana's county and municipal vegetation laws. By the end of the summer, he hopes to generate policy recommendations that will foster a sustainable future in Indiana.



Maddie Butler

Maddie Butler is a rising junior studying International Law and Institutions, Arabic, and French. Throughout the past year, Maddie was grateful for new opportunities to become involved with IU: writing for the *Indiana Daily Student*, organizing a Model United Nations conference for high school students, and working with IU Student Government. Maddie also had the opportunity to work as an undergraduate research assistant to Assistant Dean of the Hamilton Lugar School, and friend of the Wells Scholars Program, Shruti Rana. She is currently spending the summer interning with the Immigrants' and Language Rights Center of Indiana Legal Services in Indianapolis. This opportunity allows her to work directly with clients, practice her French and Arabic skills, and learn about the US immigration system as she aspires to a future career in immigration law.



Hannah Hasenwinkel & Jake Newsome

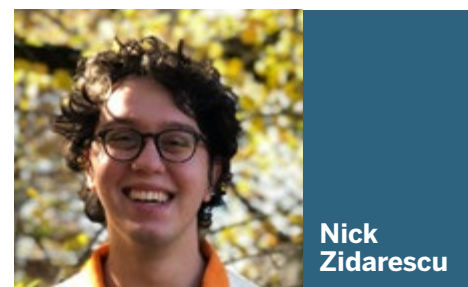
Hannah Hasenwinkel and Jake Newsome are excited to announce their engagement. Jake studies Non-Profit Management and Arts Administration and Hannah studies Percussion Performance and Informatics. Both are incredibly grateful to WSP not only for their scholarships but also for bringing them together!



Elvin Irihamye

Elvin Irihamye is a rising Junior from the Seattle-Washington area. He is currently pursuing a Neuroscience major. Elvin has pursued his interest in brain research throughout his time at Indiana University where his research on potential therapeutics for auditory-related chemotherapy side effects was published in *Neurotoxicity Research* (2020), *Cells* (2021) and

Nature-Scientific Reports (2021). In addition, he has continued his passion for advocacy through his involvement in IU student government and his leadership with Create Circles, a 501(c)3 non-profit connecting college students with older adults through virtual visits. He plans to spend part of the the upcoming school year expanding his non-profit, The Eckford Program, a mentorship and recruiting platform creating social capital and industry connections for minority students. Elvin hopes to one day become a surgeon and work to promote healthcare digital transformation initiatives.



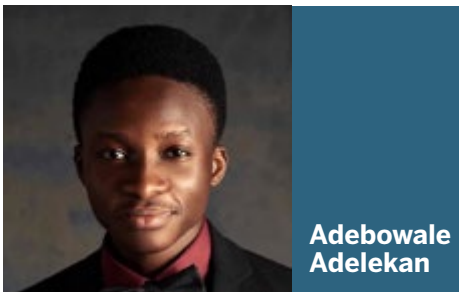
Nick Zidarescu

Nick Zidarescu is a double major in Psychology and the Individualized Major Program. His individualized major is Narrative Sociology of Television, which looks at how TV shows portray specific time periods, groups of people, and cultures. In other media-related pursuits, Nick co-founded a student organization called Love Letters to Media this past

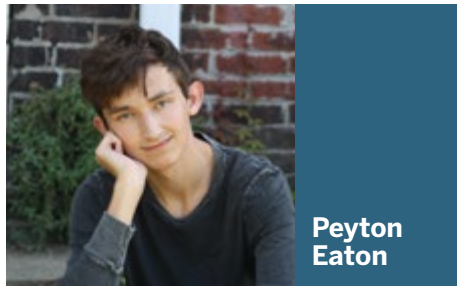
CLASS NOTES

semester, which creates content made to express appreciation and love for all types of media. Nick also regularly volunteers at Shalom, a local homeless shelter in Bloomington. This summer, he will be a counselor at the Antiochian Village, the summer camp he has gone to since he was 9. He also runs a music page on Instagram with fellow Wells Scholar Noah Moore.

CLASS OF 2020



Adebowale Adelekan has completed a cybersecurity course offered by CodePath (an organization committed to providing free tech courses to college students) and is now training to become a CodePath Tech Fellow, which would allow him to teach those free cybersecurity courses at Indiana University Bloomington.



Peyton Eaton is a rising sophomore, and he is spending his summer in his hometown of Montgomery, Indiana. During his first year at IU, Peyton became heavily involved with Collins Living Learning Center and served as its Vice President. At Collins, Peyton became a part of the Board of Educational Programming. He also served in IU Student Body Congress as a representative for Central Housing. He plans to continue his involvement and will serve again as Collins' Vice President next school year.



Joelle Jackson had a great first year at IU and has loved being a part of WSP. This past year, she declared dual majors in Anthropology and Folklore & Ethnomusicology and will be pursuing a minor in Theatre. In the

spring, she served as a Communications Intern for a statewide political campaign in Virginia. She was also a staff member of the *IU Journal of Undergraduate Research* and the *Indiana Daily Student*. In April, she presented her research project, "Zoombombing: Interviews with Student Victims on the Real and Recent Phenomenon," in the 2021 Hutton Honors College Symposium. This summer, she is serving as a Media Intern for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and as a TA Intern for IU Intensive Freshman Seminars. During the pandemic, Joelle took up punch needle embroidery and worked as a gardener.



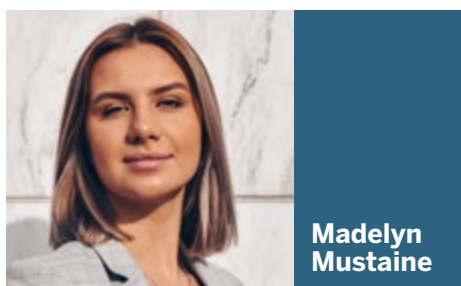
Maia Law is a rising sophomore and is double majoring in violin performance and psychology. This summer, she looks forward to attending the Round Top Music Festival in Texas, which will be her first live performance experience with an orchestra in over a year. In the fall, Maia is excited to continue

CLASS NOTES

participating in organizations like Camp Kesem IU and the Environmental Management and Sustainability Development Association. She will also begin new positions as the Concert Production Manager for Classical Connections and the Event Coordinator for the Filipino-American Association.

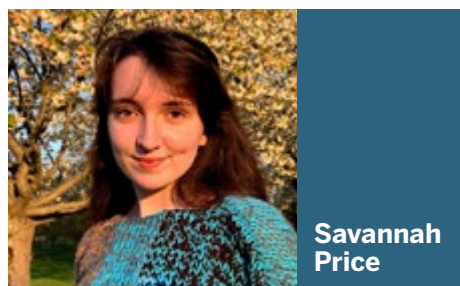


Agness Lungu is living in Indianapolis with another Wells Scholar from her class, Zoe Bardon. She is taking a summer class as well as working on research in cloud computing with a research professor from Luddy. She spends her free time exploring Indianapolis and spending time with Zoe and her family.



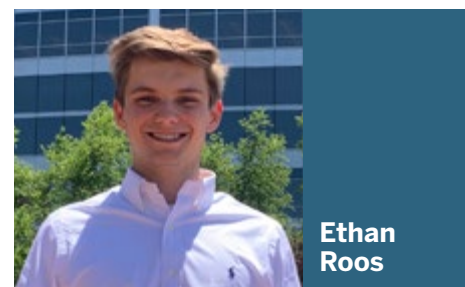
Madelyn "Maddie" Mustaine enjoyed her first year in Bloomington

and spent lots of time exploring IU's beautiful campus, trying food on 4th Street, and hiking by Griffy Lake. Aside from her classes in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Maddie was involved in the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, 180 Degree Consulting, and the CIP Autism Mentoring Program. She is spending the summer back home in Michigan where she is interning for Make-A-Wish. Maddie is excited to meet the bright IU students and staff around campus next year, and she cannot wait to see what the next three years hold!



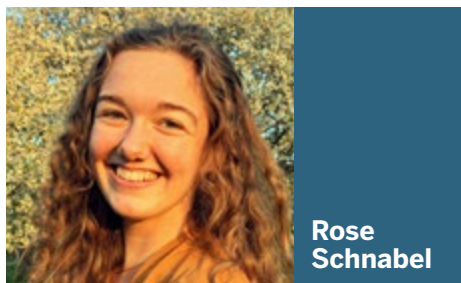
Savannah Price is a rising sophomore. She will spend her summer creating blankets and sweaters out of community-donated yarn and crocheted squares for underprivileged community members in her hometown. Her dozen-or-so cats will assist her in growing her fiber arts Instagram (@savannah.stitches) by watching Netflix with her

while she works on commissioned items. This fall, Savannah will serve as Vice President of the History Undergraduate Student Association and live with three of her fellow Wells Scholars.



Ethan Roos is a rising sophomore from Santa Claus, Indiana. This summer he has been working at Old National Bank as a Core Banking Architecture intern. Ethan intends to orient his studies towards a career in business though he has yet to officially decide just what that means for him. He became involved with IU student government as a member of the First-Year Internship Program where he served as an intern to the student body President and Vice-President. He has enjoyed time back home working on the family farm, meeting his family's new dog Benny, and training with the intent to compete in his first triathlon. He cannot wait to get back on campus and hopefully experience a normal year with his Wells cohort.

CLASS NOTES

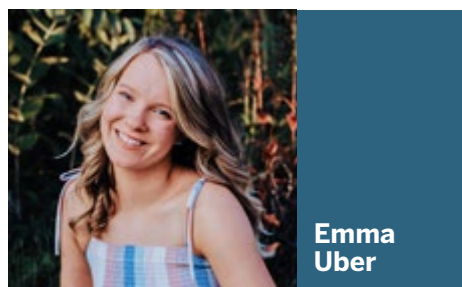


After subjecting her roommate to 16 weeks of choppy translation, **Rose Schnabel** recently became a certified medical interpreter in English/Spanish. She hopes to use her skills in a clinic in Bloomington in the fall. In the meantime, Rose is interning in the Medicines Innovation Hub at Eli Lilly and continuing work on birth control advocacy. She'll speak at the Virtual National Reproductive Health Conference in August about young people's need for contraceptive access.



Cooper Sykes lives in Cary, North Carolina and will be continuing his studies at IU this upcoming fall after a great first year. This summer, Cooper will be working remotely as a volunteer at the United States

Environmental Protection Agency in the geospatial sciences. Cooper is excited to continue his time with the WSP next year and enjoy a bit more normal campus, or perhaps at least a basketball game!



Emma Uber is looking forward to her sophomore year. As a journalism major, Emma takes advantage of the many extracurricular journalistic opportunities available at IU, such as the *Indiana Daily Student* newspaper and the Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism. During her freshman year Emma reported on local crime and IU Student Government for the *IDS*. Over the summer she is serving as the *IDS* Arts Desk Editor and plans to continue working at the *IDS* in the fall. Additionally, Emma worked as an investigative reporting intern at the Arnolt Center throughout her freshman year. Emma felt honored to be appointed as an ad hoc member of the Arnolt Center Board at the end of her freshman year. Emma is also pursuing a BA in international studies

and a minor in Spanish. Emma is also involved in Indiana University Dance Marathon as a member of the Hospital Relations Committee. Riley Hospital for Children is a cause very near and dear to Emma's heart and she loves to give back to the hospital through IUDM.



Garrett Williams (pictured with friends, at bottom right) is a rising sophomore double-majoring in anthropology and history. For the summer, Garrett has returned to his hometown of Loogootee, IN, where he has volunteered his time as the stage manager of a community production of the musical, *The Wizard of Oz*. As Garrett prepares for the fall semester, he would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Wells Scholars Program for creating so many wonderful opportunities.

PARTNER WITH THE WELLS SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The Herman B Wells Giving Society acknowledges the unbelievable opportunities alums received as Scholars and recognizes the role one can play in facilitating these opportunities for current and future Scholars.

The Society honors the loyal commitment and spirit of philanthropy of our alumni contributing at or above \$1,000 in a calendar year, and our young alums (WSP graduates in the past five years) at or above \$500 in a calendar year. One-time donations, monthly recurring gifts, pledge contributions, and employee matching gifts are all recognized. HBW Giving Society members are celebrated annually on the WSP website and in the newsletter.

We are grateful to the following Wells Scholar alums that contributed a leadership gift to the Program and joined the HBW Society in 2020:

- **Stephen Browne, 2014**
- **Rachel Chrastil, 1995**
- **Marion Forsyth Werkheiser, 1997**
- **Tim Lemper, 1991**
- **Grant Manon, 2011**
- **John McHugh, 2014**
- **Matthew McQueen, 1990**
- **Nate Meyers, 2014**
- **Marc Pelath, 1991**
- **Tyler Poniatowski, 2000**
- **Kathleen Plinske, Ed.D., 1997**
- **Khozema Shipchandler, 1992**
- **Dan Stanko, 2003**
- **Sarah TeKolste, 2011**
- **Karl Torke, 1992**
- **Grant Williams, 2009**
- **Anne Wymore, 1994**
- **Anonymous (3)**



The Wells Scholars Program has participated in IU Day since 2018, encouraging a significant increase in alumni and student giving. In April 2021, participants donated more than

\$30,000 to current program needs that directly benefit Scholars. We were thrilled to see more than 100 of our alums and current Scholars connect with each other in our first Class meet-up on Zoom. We look forward to connecting in person in the years to come!

The Wells Scholars Class Campaign tracks student and alumni giving participation and continues throughout the calendar year. Nearly 40% of our community regularly gives back through generous donations to the Program.

Ways to Give

Thank you for your partnership with the Program! There are a variety of ways to support WSP. At myiu.org, you can make a one-time gift, set up recurring gifts, or download the form to mail a gift. To contribute to a Program fund online, type the fund name into the write in area and select the fund of your choice.

Please contact Director of Development Kristin Varella directly to learn more about about ways to support the program.

☎ 812-855-9065

✉ krjnorri@indiana.edu

ANNUAL GIFTS

Annual gifts benefitting the Wells Scholars Program may be directed to:

Wells Scholars Unrestricted
I380009353

Wells Scholars Program Student
Scholarships I380009352

Study Abroad Stipends in the
Herman B Wells Scholars Program
I380009354

ENDOWED GIFTS

Each Scholar is funded by the generosity of individuals and carries one of 30+ named scholarship awards. Endowed gifts benefit our Program immensely and in perpetuity, and:

Provide a deeper connection with WSP and our donors' areas of interest through update letters from students and annual fund reports.

Ensure the Program's continued ability to recruit the best and brightest students to IU.

Support program expenses through the Unrestricted Endowment, upon which the Program currently relies.

The Indiana University Foundation solicits tax-deductible private contributions for the benefit of Indiana University and is registered to solicit charitable contributions in all states requiring registration. For our full disclosure statement, see go.iu.edu/89n.

SNAPSHOT OF A PANDEMIC YEAR: SUMMER 2020 - SPRING 2021

International Experiences and Summer Study

Most study abroad programs were cancelled due to the pandemic, and many of the other traditional summer activities our students pursue like internships, volunteering, or creative activities, were postponed or turned virtual. Understandably, we had an unprecedented number of Scholars take advantage of our generous summer tuition funding instead. This increase nearly doubled the cost the Program traditionally pays for summer coursework.

247%

increase in number of
Scholars taking summer
classes from 2019 to 2020

Events and Courses

In Spring 2020, the Wells Scholars Program hosted seven events before campus shut down. Pre-pandemic, we offered between seven and 10 in-person events per semester, and we look forward to hosting safe, in-person events again in Fall 2021!

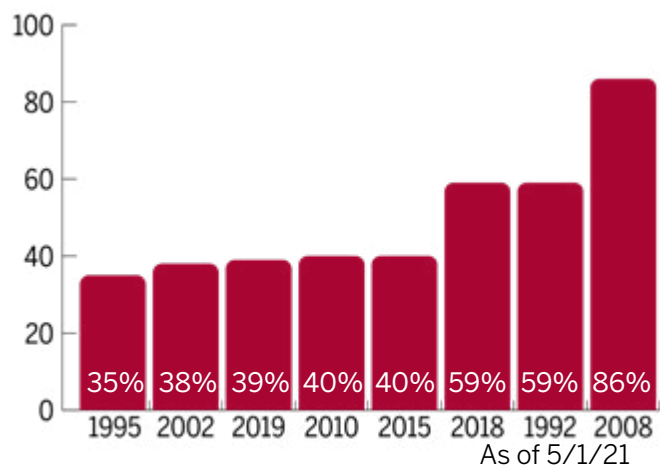
Harlos House closed for the year and all events and classes were hosted virtually, including both sections of Freshman Seminar (Christoph Irmscher's "Environmental Ethics, Evasions" and Austen Parrish's "International Law in a Changing World" and the spring Senior Seminar ("Crisis, Resilience, and the Future of International Law & Global Cooperation", taught by Shruti Rana).

1600%

increase in virtual events hosted
during the 2020-21 academic year
compared to 2019-2020

2021 Wells Scholars Class Campaign Leaderboard

Philanthropic support from the WSP community has remained steady in recent years: 36% of alums and 51% of Scholars have participated in the class campaign through a charitable gift to the Program.



439

Average number of donors
over the past four years

5

Equivalent total award
packages covered by annual
philanthropic support

\$46,307,835

Total Endowment as of
June 30, 2021



Indiana University Bloomington Wells Scholars Program

Harlos House
1331 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Learn more at
wellsscholars.indiana.edu