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Ella Kingery, WSP '22

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A WORD OF WELCOME FROM DEAN SPANG

Working with the Wells Scholars Program and with so many individual Scholars has been one of the greatest highlights of my time at Indiana University. So I am thrilled, albeit still a little surprised, to find myself now part of the Program's formal reporting structure. The Program truly does represent the very best of this campus, and it is so fortunate to have Christoph as its Director and all of you as its alumni/ae. I look forward to long and happy collaborations. And to the new Scholars joining us in a few weeks: Welcome to Bloomington!

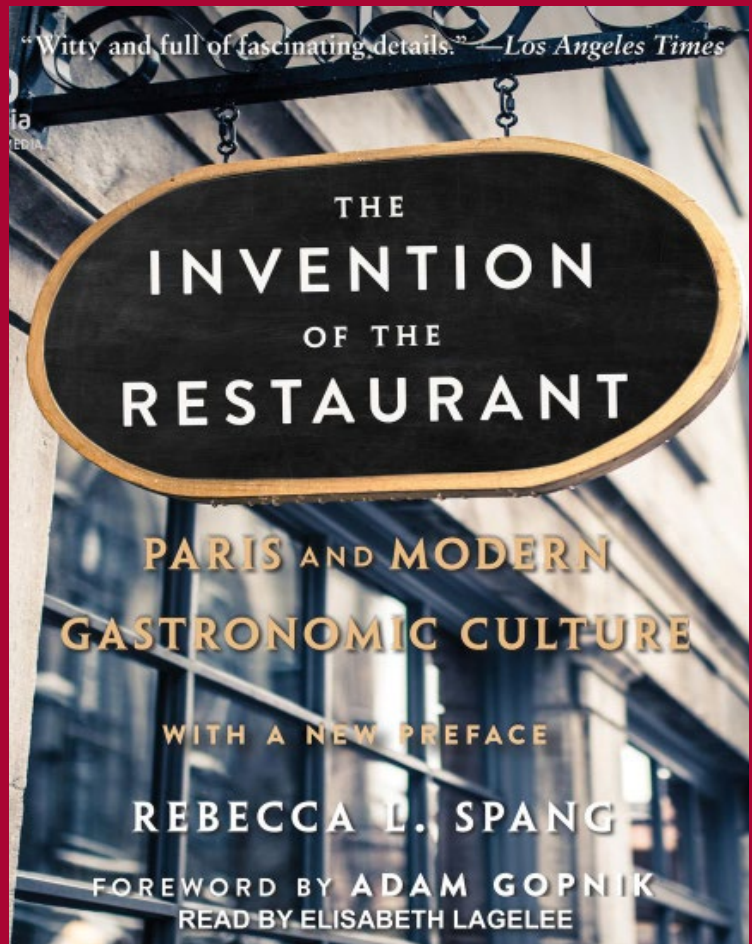
Rebecca L. Spang

Rebecca Spang,

Distinguished Professor of History

Interim Dean, Hutton Honors College

Rebecca Spang, a 2022-23 Guggenheim Fellow, is an award-winning historian drawn to, in her own words, "of that which appears to have no history." She is widely known for her books *The Invention of the Restaurant* (published in a second edition, with a foreword by the New Yorker's Adam Gopnik) and *Stuff and Money in the Time of the French Revolution*, both published by Harvard University Press. From 2016 to 2022, she directed the Liberal Arts and Management Program at IU.



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Noah Bendix-Balgley (WSP '01) meeting with WELLS Freshmen outside the Philharmonie in Berlin, Germany

Dear Friends,

My personal highlight this year was our visit, during our Freshman International trip to Berlin, to the Berlin Philharmonic. It was a gorgeous evening, of the kind I wistfully associate with the summers of my childhood in Germany when the light lingers and the sky seems almost transparent. We were joined by the Director of the Indiana University Europe Gateway, Dr. Katrin Völkner, and the Gateway's Associate Director, Annabel Türk. After we had gathered outside the "Philharmonie," its boldly expressionist architecture still as impressive as it must have been back in the 1960s, we were joined by our alumnus Noah Bendix-Balgley, since 2015 the first concertmaster (essentially, the first leader) of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Noah looked like he'd just ambled down the street. Casually dressed, he didn't seem nervous at all, as if he wouldn't have to lead, in just over an hour, one of the world's greatest orchestras through a two-hour program before an audience of over 2,000. Calmly he took us through the evening. Titled "An American Evening," the concert began with a new piece by the Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz, followed by the second piano concerto by Alberto Ginastera (Argentina), culminating in Charles Ives' second symphony. The irony wasn't lost on the Scholars—we'd come all the way to Berlin to hear classical music from South and North America. But this was another reminder of how small the world really is, a fact underlined by Noah's presence here.

Noah patiently explained to the Scholars what they could expect—the stomping rhythms of Ortiz's "Téenek" evoking the indigenous cultures of her country, the modernist complexities of Ginastera's concerto, the self-conscious use of American folk tunes in Ives's symphony. When students asked Noah about his role in the orchestra, he was unfailingly modest, insisting that he was merely a liaison between the conductor and

the orchestra, using gestures and body language (sometimes even swinging his instrument) to make sure the orchestra remained a seamless whole. For us, there was a direct line that evening between Noah's evident kindness to us and the warm, rich tone several of us noticed when we heard him play a little later in the most beautiful concert hall we had ever visited.

The combination of competence and humility we saw in Noah embodies the values that the Wells Program seeks to instill in the Scholars we welcome every year to Bloomington—our hope that, wherever our Scholars might find themselves in life, they will always feel the need to give back, to younger Scholars, as Noah certainly did that night, to the community and the world. Reading the class notes for this year, I was heartened to see how many and varied forms this giving back takes, whether our alums give their time as doctors, teach at-risk youth at home, or conduct English classes abroad, play jam sessions at a local restaurant, or organize earthquake-preparedness bike races. What unites all these forms of commitment is a feeling well expressed in the essay we also include in this issue by rising senior Stella Behforouz, in

which she reports about her participation in the Camino di Santiago: the realization that we are part of something so much larger than ourselves.

I hope you enjoy the compilations from the journals Scholars kept during their Berlin trips this year and Stella's essay as well as the always uplifting notes sent by our alums and Scholars. And I also hope you like the Berlin-inspired art by rising Sophomore Ella Kingery, featured on the cover of this issue as well as in the article about her class's experiences in Berlin.

One important housekeeping detail—as of July 1, the Wells Scholars Program has officially joined the Hutton Honors College, though some of our daily business will continue to be done with the Office of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education (OVPUE). We are so grateful to our friends at OVPUE for a decade of unstinting support and would especially like to thank Vice Provost Dennis Groth, Associate Vice Provost Kurt Zorn, and Tracey Wagner, Director of Finance and Human Resources, and send our best wishes to Tracey and Kurt for the next phase of their lives in what we know will not, in practice, be “retirement.” And we look forward to working with the new interim Dean of the Hutton Honors College, Rebecca Spang, a

longtime friend of (and reviewer for) the Wells Scholars Program.

Thank you, Scholars, parents of Scholars, alums, friends of the program, and donors of the program for all you do to help us carry on.

Warmly,
Christoph

WELLS SOPHOMORES IN BERLIN, MARCH 2023

Delayed by the pandemic, like so many events in our lives these past few years, the Wells Scholars Class of 2021 didn't get to go on their Freshman International trip until they were Sophomores. When, on March 10, 2023, we sat back in our seats on an American Airlines flight from JFK bound for Berlin-Brandenburg, the German capital's spiffy, squeaky-clean new airport, some of the Scholars felt the need to pinch themselves. The days we spent in Berlin—almost our entire Spring Break—flew by fast. Our very first full day, a four-hour walking tour, guided by Ryan of Berlin Perspectives, at first seemed to do little to lift the confusion most of the jet-lagged Scholars felt. But slowly the city began to grow on them—a story told repeatedly in the journals the Scholars kept during the trip, from which this article is compiled.

Berlin is a city saturated with history, but not the way a museum is, as Reagan Walhof observed: "Walking through the city and seeing locals living their lives in such a historically dense area just shows that the city isn't simply a historical relic." Keegan Priest felt that "walking really allows you to notice not only the architecture and the purely visual aspects of the city, but also all the smells, sounds, and noises, that let you fully experience what the city is like." In Berlin, different eras of history are intimately connected—so much so that you realize why you can't, writes Keegan, "teach history in chunks the way we do in the United States." Berlin is a living example of how "every action, every event, every decision is preceded by hundreds if not thousands of years of cultural, economic, and artistic context."



Wells Sophomores at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, March 2023

The Wells Freshmen were impressed by the efforts Germans have made to remember and honor, respectfully, the victims of the past. The trip was a life-changing experience for many of the Scholars. To quote Keeghan again: "Our country needs to do a better job of admitting our failures. It is more engaging to learn history and hear the stories when we can actually see the spots they happened [and see] the physical remains or the buildings where decisions were made, treaties were signed, and people's lives were changed forever."

Maria Amanda Irias also enjoyed how the past seemed to live on everywhere in Berlin: "It was impressive and mind-blowing to look at well-known attractions like Checkpoint Charlie, but what really touched me was what I couldn't see. Every step I took in that tour I could only think about the history of the tiles I was



Anastasia, Belle, and Ana posing on top of the Berlin Reichstag in March 2023

stepping on. In my head I would piece together the broken pieces of the wall and picture what it used to be and represent. To think that people on different sides of the wall lived completely different lives in terms of their freedoms is unimaginable. No more than a couple of hundred meters defined who was oppressed and who wasn't."

Likewise, Belle Chatpunnarangsee found memories, both good and bad, engraved in the very walls of Berlin or into the ground, like the famous stumbling stones, bronze-covered blocks sunk into the ground inscribed with the names of victims of the Holocaust who had lived there. Inadvertently, she found herself comparing Berlin with her native Bangkok. "In many ways Berlin was Bangkok's sister, reminding me of the brilliant and warm days I spent back home last summer. They share many traits—the busy roads, fast-paced pedestrians, and the convenient public trains that run straight through the heart of the city. However, the two cities are also quite different. Berlin tends to be more multilingual, as French, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese are languages often heard in the streets. Also, the colors are dissimilar. Bangkok boasts sleek and tall skyscrapers behind bright blue, green, and orange street vendor carts that populate the city like flies around a slab of meat. In Berlin, the colors

are paler and carry pastel-like tones. They blend seamlessly with the calm blue sky."

Anastasia Spahr especially appreciated seeing the graves of the composer-siblings Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn on the Dreifaltigkeitsfriedhof near the IU Gateway, where we met daily for lectures and discussion. She was intrigued by the graffiti on the houses, which she saw as evidence of a modern consciousness inscribing itself on the past, as a way of reclaiming older buildings built by people who didn't own them and probably weren't adequately compensated for their labor. Leyla Fern King wrote that there was "something uniquely strange about walking around a place that isn't yours and only hearing a language that isn't yours." But she decided that that was the beauty inherent in traveling: "For a brief period, you get to step into the shoes of someone else and play pretend, saying 'Danke' to a waiter, laughing when someone assumes we know German." At the same time, Berlin was so much more diverse than she originally thought: "Each stutter, each tumble, each falter brings me one step closer to a Berlin that is mine, a Berlin that belongs to many with my name somewhere on the list," a Berlin where people spoke Arabic or Spanish on the train, where people she saw on the street had a similar skin color to hers.

Scholars were particularly intrigued, by our excursion to Potsdam, a city about an hour south of Berlin, where Frederick the Great built his summer palace, Sanssouci, to which he soon added other palaces. Scholars were both entranced and repulsed by the Prussian King's need for opulence. Meghan Rafoth liked the King's music room (Frederick the Great was an accomplished musician who wrote more than two hundred compositions for the flute): "The ceiling is what I loved most about it. It had gold designs all around that looked like leaves and vines, and in the center of the ceiling where the chandelier hung down there was a giant golden spiderweb." Belle was wondering if Frederick himself paid attention to the designs he commissioned. Noticing how the King's flute and the pianoforte were located under the chandelier, she asked herself "if the performers or the monarch himself had observed the way the clear chandelier reflects the piano keys being top-danced upon by nimble fingers." She imagined a picturesque scene, the sounds of music accompanied "by the clinking of teacups and the occasional light chuckle." At the same time, she was also haunted by thoughts of exploitation: "Who built these palaces? And whose life, environment, and homes were impacted by the extravagance of Frederick the Great's countryside palaces?"



Wells Scholar Keegan Priest listening to his audio guide at Sanssouci Palace, Potsdam Potsdam, March 2023

For Meghan, a close second was the King's jungle-themed guest room: "The walls were yellow, adorned with green vines and flowers and animals such as monkeys and parrots, even a little red squirrel, which reminded me of the squirrels at IU." Nicky Goh was a fan of that same room: "I was amazed by the figures of plants, fruit, and animals carved into wood. The large variety of colors also made it fun and pleasing to the eyes." At the King's New Palace, the "Grotto Room" took Meghan's breath away: "It featured seashells all over the wall, and images of giant sea monsters. It was so beautiful and made me feel as if I was actually underwater." Ana Lim commented on the obsessiveness she saw manifested in Frederick II's architectural project (she'd rather not refer to him as "Frederick the Great"): "Though he conquered people, that seemed not enough as he sought even to conquer nature as well by desiring not to let plants grow wild, but instead insisting on the cultivation of several

non-naturally occurring plants in his garden." All that marble, gold, and beautiful art were magnificent, to be sure, "yet they left me feeling distinctly underrepresented, realizing that I didn't belong." Finally, Evan Jackson couldn't help but notice the evidence of craftsmanship everywhere: "There were stunning crystal chandeliers in almost every room, gold—patterned ceilings, frames that were more ornate than the paintings they held. The porcelains, clocks, desks, and chairs were also remarkable." Reflecting on the King's loneliness—we saw also the chair in which he died—it seemed difficult to understand "how anyone would want that much space, especially Frederick, who seemed to keep to himself mostly." Anatasia Spahr was bothered by the false consciousness she found displayed by the museum curators. Audio guides made available to our group didn't address the harm Frederick's extravagant pursuits did to his people or how his homosexuality impacted his life.

In Berlin, reactions to the Holocaust Museum and Peter Eisenman's Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe were more positive. Ana struggled with her emotions when visiting the memorial, located right between the Reichstag and the site of Adolf Hitler's Chancellery: "Watching walls of gray rise and fall around me, pacing on uneven ground, and noticing how my friends and peers disappeared, my initial feeling of being unsettled grew into a choking and claustrophobic sense of fear. The different and dipping angles seem almost as if they were falling, and I recognized these architectural choices were deliberate, aiming to evoke similar feelings to those Jews who were being persecuted. This left me shaken, but acutely aware of my privilege in being able to walk away from these feelings and leave them behind. Yet, even as I walked away, the fact that each block was unique stuck with me—a reminder of the individual lives of each of the people who were murdered." Reagan observed: "We all learn about history in school, but seeing the places and monuments connected with it is so different. The Memorial built close to where the Wall dividing Berlin once was did remind me how connected everything is. Learning history in a classroom can give the false impression that history happens in a vacuum." For Evan, the Holocaust Memorial was a reminder of the

amazing human ability “to translate pain and sorrow to art.” The Memorial’s “scale, elegance, and elusiveness combine to make it a one-of-a-kind experience. Its openness forces you to derive meaning yourself, to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust.” As he reflected on the Memorial’s impact on him, Evan recognized that what stood out most to him was not the stones but “the moss growing in the cracks between the tiles on the ground, the cracks and pockmarks on their rough surfaces, the stains from rain coming down the side. They served as a simultaneously somber and beautiful reminder that life persists.”



At the Holocaust Memorial, Berlin, March 2023

At the Jewish Museum, designed by the American architect Daniel Libeskind, Scholars appreciated the innovative design that kept visitors walking on slanted, precarious ground, an allusion to the Jewish experience of diaspora and persecution. Nicky had a powerful response to the installation “Fallen Leaves,” by the Israeli sculptor Menashe Kadishman, a river of metal faces

vanishing into a dark tunnel: “Their expressions varied greatly, from a terrified scream to a placid face content with fate. It was also interesting to me that the echo and invisible floor gave the impression of a never-ending sea of faces.”

Not everyone felt ready for the experience of visiting Sachsenhausen, a Nazi concentration camp. Jordan Pace, who had learned earlier in the week that the world’s first gender reassignment surgeries were performed in 1920s Berlin, a haven for gender-nonconforming people, was distraught by the evidence of the sheer damage the Nazis did.

“Although I left the camp feeling very drained, I’m so glad I got the chance to go because nothing can really show you the full extent of the horrors of these camps as really being there...I never felt such a strong emotion as I did while visiting Sachsenhausen.” Meghan said that she felt the visit reaffirmed “the importance of facing evil and suffering head on, acknowledging it, and then resolving to live well in spite of it.” Writing about the visit in his journal, Aaron Lipsky noticed that he was “still struggling to grasp what had happened inside these gates, on the very soil I was standing on.” To Belle, the most chilling thought was this: “We had the privilege of leaving this camp, and the prisoners did not.”

Upon leaving Berlin, many Scholars in

the group vowed to return. In Keegan’s words: “We live our lives at IU so confined in our cultural and environmental bubble that it can oftentimes be hard to remember how rich, complicated, and beautiful humans are. There are so many places and cultures I will never get to explore, but every time I get to have an experience like this, I’m reminded how grateful I am to be alive and to sample the intricacies of this thing we call Earth.” The trip reignited Reagan’s passion for learning languages, prompting her to consider a gap year, or even two, “which would give [me] some important perspective before entering the medical field where I could be working with people from all different backgrounds.” Reagan also thought that “the theme of the trip was interesting. Memories are so personal, but remembering history can oftentimes be something that requires public consensus or participation. How do we remember history in a way that is still respectful of individual memories?” On a different note, Leyla concluded that “Wells Scholars are kind of fun.” The trip gave her “a sense of camaraderie I did not previously have with my other scholars.” More mundanely, the trip also taught her something about herself, namely that she wasn’t as good at waking up in the mornings as she thought she was.

WELLS FRESHMEN IN BERLIN, MAY 2023

During their stay in Berlin, from May 9 to May 17, members of the Freshman class all noticed the role nature seemed to play in the city. Many of the trees seemed old and huge, wrote Sarah Rodenbeck, who also pointed out that trees are “great equalizers,” offering shade during the hot days of early summer to anyone who needed it, “showing that no matter who we are or where we come from, we all find some relief under a tree.” Jake Stevenson loved the walkability of the city, the obvious priority given to pedestrians and cyclists, “making it easy to navigate the streets” without having to rely on cars. So many parks, gardens, and green corridors throughout Berlin provide opportunities for recreational activities and, in Jake’s words, “respite from the bustling cityscape.”

At first, the parks seemed a little unkempt to Sam Thant, an international Scholar from Myanmar. In the one just outside the hotel where we stayed, the grass was high and in evident need of mowing, many of the paths weren’t paved, not to mention those that had been “naturally created by people taking shortcuts.” But with Sam, that gradual sense of unfamiliarity gave way to the pleasant feeling elicited by seeing the natural environment integrated so seamlessly into the daily lives of Berliners.

Mariana, an international Scholar from Brazil, liked the sustainability efforts she saw everywhere, the wooden cutlery for takeouts, the abundance of solar panels on the roofs of buildings, the paper bags (which one had to purchase) in grocery stores, and the sheer number of people riding their bikes. Not coincidentally, Mariana is a

passionate walker, too: “I’ve always loved walking through cities I travel to; it lets me experience the city more slowly, as well as letting me choose whatever path I want to take, and get into whatever tiny shops I want.”

Courage Barda, a composer, likewise felt happy in Berlin and attributed this to his ability to go and relax (or work!) in a park whenever he felt like it:

“There are so many cafés, each one different from the others, so many parks, one of which I visit to compose after my lunch.”



Ella Kingery, In Max Liebermann’s Garden
(from Ella’s Field Notebook)



Wells Freshmen at the Brandenburg Gate, May 2023

The fusion of nature and culture became evident for many of the Scholars during our visit to the villa formerly owned by the German impressionist painter Max Liebermann in the posh suburb of Belin-Wannsee, now lovingly restored by volunteers to its former beauty. Sam was happy to see how the paintings displayed in the house reflected the blooming flowers and the shimmering lake outside. Given

how peaceful Liebermann's garden felt, Annabel Prokopy found it hard "to comprehend that less than 100 years ago, Nazi officials met just down the street to strategize mass murder." Indeed, the infamous "House of the Wannsee Conference," which we had visited earlier in the day, is just a block away and, incongruously, boasts a similarly beautiful view of the lake. Here, on January 20, 1942, the Nazis called a meeting of senior officials to ensure their cooperation in the implementation of the Holocaust.

The constant presence of the past in Berlin was a theme that stood out to all members of the class. Yahya Amjad went to a museum to travel back to ancient Greece, immersing himself in the painstaking, panoramic representation of the city of Pergamon in (of course) the Pergamon Museum. But then there are the many public memorials, too, monuments to past trauma, which, to journalism major Mia Hilkwitz, served as a strong warning to be unflinching in her reporting on current injustices.



Ella Kingery, Coffee in Berlin
(from Ella's field notebook)

But Scholars also took the time to sample present-day Berlin, the markets, thrift stores, and especially the plentiful coffee shops. Ella Kingery, whose wonderful sketches illustrate this article, was delighted to drink coffee that, unlike that offered in IU dining halls, needed no powerful additives to "mask the taste." The subway appealed to everyone, too, but perhaps no one liked it more than Deo Akiode, who confessed that she just loved her daily commute to the IU Gateway, where our lectures took place—what a wonderful opportunity to observe people! Laila Morris, perhaps remembering her hometown of Chicago, was amazed to be on trains that "don't rattle back and forth."

What stood out to Kyle Eubank in his daily walks was the sense of mutual trust shaping public life, as indicated by the "bookstores with vast displays sitting on sidewalk tables and coffee shops only taking payment after you have finished your drink." Kyle enjoyed learning about Berlin having been a destination for sexual experimentation back in the 1920s, before the Nazis destroyed that culture, but he couldn't banish thoughts about the current laws in several states targeting LGBTQ+ people. Kyle enjoyed seeing "happy gay couples safely walking together," a reminder that while there is a sense of "allyship" present in Bloomington, there

isn't a similar sense of inclusion: "What we need is not only support for, but also representation of, LGBTQ+ people." He found people in Berlin to be overwhelmingly kind: "Even as I sometimes struggled to communicate with waiters or cashiers, nobody ever grew impatient with me." Vitor Braga, an international Scholar from Brazil, also felt a very personal sense of productive "enthralment," an "experience of uncertainty I never felt before," emanating from the diverse communities visible in Berlin, the people from all corners of the universe that throng its streets.



Kyle enjoying his ice cream in Berlin-Kreuzberg

Sophia Nguyen, a trumpet player, experienced a more concrete kind of uncertainty when she first arrived. Puzzled that there were no paper towels in public bathrooms, she struggled with the weird contraption she found in their place, a cloth towel on an endless loop, “stretched between two rotating cylinders.” But such befuddlement was gone when she relaxed into her seat at the symphony hall in Berlin, where we had the privilege of listening to one of the world’s greatest orchestras led by Wells Scholars Program alumnus, Noah Bendixen-Balgley, the first concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic. Noah met with us before the concert, and Sophia was delighted to listen to him later, during the performance, coax the richest sounds imaginable from what seemed like little more than a “varnished wooden box.” Of course, she also liked the trumpets which, as part of a large orchestra’s soundscape, sounded just “wicked cool.”

Ella Kingery found Berlin to be a city of contrasts, inscribed into the very cobblestones she walked on every day, alongside new flowers and budding trees coming back for the spring. She relished the sounds of Berlin, a city of so many contrasts (old and new, happy and sad, loud and quiet). At night, she would keep the window of her hotel room open to sample these contrasts: “I heard

many things. Sometimes I would hear people talking or babies crying or dogs barking. Sometimes I heard cars driven by, blasting the favorite songs of the owners. Sometimes I would hear a laugh or yell from the club across the street. Sometimes I would hear an angry honk (likely at the quickly changing light or unconcerned pedestrians that keep walking (this was sometimes me!). All these sounds were so comforting to me. I slept well knowing that in the quiet night, people still laugh and cry and yell and honk their horns. Quiet and loud.”

HIKING THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

By Stella Behforouz

I was skeptical when I first met Amanda Roshan-Rawaan, the study abroad advisor who works with most Wells Scholars. Studying Media Science with minors in International Studies, Spanish, and Human-Centered Computing, I didn't know the feasibility of going overseas with wide-ranging academic requirements, but when she told me about a smaller program in Sevilla, Spain, that offered courses I needed, I knew that I had to take advantage of this opportunity.



Top: A field of flowers on the Camino de Santiago.
Bottom: Stella's self-portrait on the trail.

I ended my time in Spain hiking the first week of the Camino de Santiago, starting in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port,

France. (The "Camino," as it is known for short, is the traditional pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain). While I am an adventurer at heart, this solo undertaking was largely due to an expanded sense of confidence in myself and in the Spanish language that I achieved by studying in Seville. It was a perfect way to end my trip—another growing experience with time dedicated to reflection. I had a backpack stocked with only the necessities and walked for hours. As you can imagine, these hours were filled with a lot of thinking about my experience overseas. So, I would like to share a few of my conclusions.

Before I traveled to Spain, many people had told me that Seville was the most beautiful city in Spain. I can confidently say that I agree with this assessment. Yes, the city was beautiful because of its rich history, magnificent architecture, and true Andalusian culture. To me, however, Sevilla was breathtaking for what the city taught me, the challenges it posed, and the people it allowed me to meet. The hard-learned lessons and genuine connections I made are now a part of me. While Seville

possesses many typically beautiful characteristics such as ever-flowering trees, a picturesque "Gran Vía," and the outstanding Cathedral, ultimately, the city was beautiful to me because my understanding of the world and its people grew alongside an understanding of myself in both a cultural context and independently. I am



Seville, as seen from the top of the Cathedral

beyond grateful to the Wells Program for giving me this opportunity. However cliché this might sound, it was truly life changing.

In one of my classes called Intercultural Communication and Leadership, we talked at length about the way in which our view of the world is shaped by our own cultural values.

While this may seem obvious, it was amazing to have a course dedicated to deliberately dissecting some of our experiences living in Spain in an analytical and cross-cultural manner.

Because of this class, I believe I achieved a much better understanding of not only the Spanish culture but also how to be a cross-cultural communicator. I noticed myself utilizing the skills and mindset that we practiced in class in my everyday interactions. As part of an extracurricular program, I participated in a language exchange in which I was paired with a Spanish student attending the University of Sevilla. Over the course of the semester, we met for thirty hours to practice our respective languages, learn about each other, and explore the city together. Of course, we had some misunderstandings as my partner was learning English and I was learning Spanish; however, as time progressed, frustration no longer was my initial response to some of our interactions. While it was largely due to an increased ability in the language, I do believe that my increased level of cultural awareness and cross-cultural dialogue was responsible for this change.

I could not share my experience abroad without describing the most memorable day, the first day of Semana Santa, or Holy Week. Semana Santa had been a topic of conversation in most homestays and in my classes, as well as in my conversations with friendly Sevillanos excited to share a part of their culture. It was said that during this week,

there would be crowds of people and daily processions, so I thought that I was prepared for the upcoming week. However, when I stood in front of a “paso,” a religious float carried by 50 men, with hundreds of candles lit, in a crowd of around three thousand people, in complete silence, that’s when I knew I was experiencing something extraordinary. Beside me was my favorite market where I bought fresh fruits and vegetables; behind me was Seville’s most modern (thus, controversial) piece of architecture. And in front of me, there were thousands of traditionally dressed people carrying crosses, candles, and burning incense began walking as a drum beat and horns commenced. While emotional reactions are quite normal during this week, I did not expect the tears that were forming in my eyes while I watched. The hush that fell over thousands of us as the procession grew closer, the respect that each person showed for the experience of others, and the obvious spiritual

significance of Semana Santa had for so many Spanish people who attended was astonishing. From Sunday to Sunday, people dressed in their finest clothes, wandered into the winding cobblestone streets of El Centro, and dedicated their time to something larger than themselves, whether that was participating in a procession themselves or watching a loved one do the same. I feel so lucky to have had this experience!

My hope is to continue using my Spanish in a future professional environment while also continuing to experience the world and broaden my horizons. I am not exactly sure yet what exactly this will look like, but I am excited beyond measure. As I strive to be a conscientious world citizen, I believe it is my duty to seek all the insights that the world and its people have to offer. With many thanks to the Wells Program, I have the resources and the academic support to do so.



Adorned with candles, crosses, and flowers, the “pasos” or religious floats during Semana Santa or Holy Week are some of the most ornate in all of Spain. Seville is known for its week-long celebration that leads up to Easter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOPHIA MUSTON AND VINAYAK VEDANTAM

We like to celebrate our students and alumni, for their achievements, for who they are, and for who they are going to be. But we don't often get an opportunity to celebrate two of them at the same time. That occasion came when Sophia (WSP 2015) and Vinayak (WSP 2013) returned to Bloomington to tie the knot. Many Wells scholars from both classes (and Christoph!) came from near and far to take part in the ceremony. There were two, in fact—a traditional Indian wedding on Friday evening and a Western ceremony the next day. Vinayak and Sophia told us that for them the event was also an incentive to reflect fondly on the night in October 2015 when the Wells Scholars Program gave them tickets to a showing of Jack Heggie's opera *Dead Man Walking*. As they say, the rest is history. Sophia and Vinayak now reside in Berkeley with their pit-bull mix, Clarence.



Photo Credits:
Anna Clark (top);
Lauren Bernofsky (bottom)

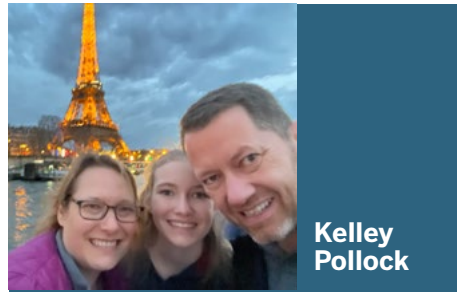


CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1990



During the pandemic, **Chris Mackey** founded Skillsline The Human Skills Company, with the mission of providing a foundation of the durable human skills demanded by today's employers and critical to thriving at work, in school, and in life. Chris is back in Indiana working with K12 schools under the Indiana Department of Education's Employability Skills Innovation and Implementation Grant. According to Chris, "it's an exciting time for the company as the currency of human skills is steadily increasing with employers, and automation and artificial intelligence play a greater role in replacing routinized work. We feel bullish about the future of us humans!" Chris continues to enjoy hiking, camping, aquariums, and reading—and doing all these fun things with his family!



Kelley Pollock (Duke) lives in Oak Park, Illinois, and is the new Director of the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program there providing almost 800 families with grocery gift cards and holiday gifts. She is also a freelance reporter for the local newspaper. Kelly lives with her husband and two children.

CLASS OF 1991



In December 2022, **Marc Pelath** finished the writing and recording of his second album, "Amor Fati," and then spent a week in Italy at Ritmo & Blu studio while it was mixed. This album of evocative, emotional, instrumental "post-prog" revolves around themes of fate and eternal recurrence and features eight contributing guest musicians from the US, UK, Austria, and Denmark, all

much better musicians than Marc, and some at the top of their craft. Still, he's the one who composed it. "Amor Fati" was released in April 2023.

CLASS OF 1992



Jennifer Botkin (Roach) lives in Zionsville, Indiana, and works as a pediatrician in Avon, Indiana. She is extremely excited to live vicariously through her Freshman son, Ben, who will be joining IU this fall.



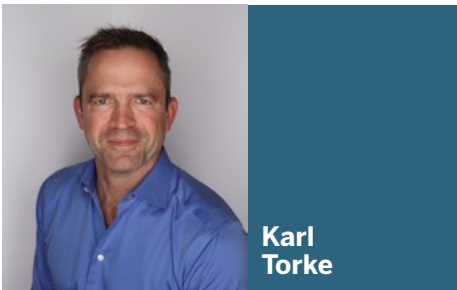
Mark Schneider is a senior litigation partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago, where his practice focuses on defending companies in government investigations. He is married to Eleanor, has three young daughters, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Lumen Christi Institute.

CLASS NOTES



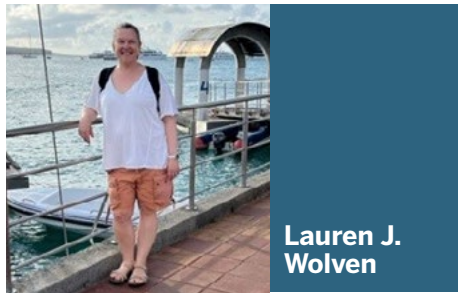
Khozema Shipchandler

Khozema Shipchandler still lives in Lafayette, California, with his family (and now, dad). He is the President of Communications at Twilio and recently joined the board of Smart-sheet. He was lucky to make a college visit with his son to Bloomington in the spring and meet with several Wells students. Now he can't wait to go back!



Karl Torke

Karl Torke lives in Berkeley with his wife Rochelle (originally from Marion and a fellow IU alum) and sons Jonas and Abram. He continues his work with the law company Elevate. While still loving California with all its beauty and chaos, he returns regularly to Indianapolis and Bloomington. He wishes the best to the Wells Scholars Program family, with a special shout-out to the class of 1992



Lauren J. Wolven

Lauren J. Wolven (Barnett) lives in Oak Park and is a Trusts and Estates attorney in Chicago. She and Brad (IU '95) have a rising senior in high school and a rising junior at IU. The family recently went to the Galápagos, which was the adventure of a lifetime!

CLASS OF 1994



Will Stephens

Will Stephens is still working as a lawyer for the District of Columbia government, but he finally relaunched the Sunday dinner-hour jazz jam session he used to run for over 10 years before Covid—now in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood at a historic mom-and-pop restaurant and bar called "Haydee's." If any Scholars or alums are in DC, please come by on a Sunday evening and say hello!

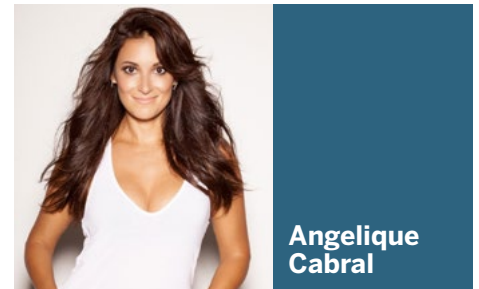
CLASS OF 1995



Kate Schroder

Kate Schroder lives in Cincinnati, OH with her husband, John Juech, and two children, Josie (10) and (8). She serves as President and CEO of Interact for Health, a health foundation serving the 20-county Greater Cincinnati region.

CLASS OF 1997



Angelique Cabral

Angelique Cabral recently starred in Hulu's comedy series "Maggie" as well as the hit ABC show "Big Sky." She currently appears in the critically acclaimed Amazon rotoscoped series "Undone" and has recurring roles in Amazon's "With Love" and "Big Shot" for Disney+. Other recent credits include Netflix's "Grace and Frankie" (alongside Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin), the CBS hit comedy "Life in Pieces," the portrayal of

CLASS NOTES

Carrie in the film “All About Nina,” and the role of Maddie in the 2017 movie “Fat Camp.” On television, she starred as the female lead in the comedy series “Enlisted” and had a recurring role in “Don’t Trust the B in Apartment 23.” Additional television credits include “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Fresh Off the Boat,” “Transparent,” “The Odd Couple,” “NCIS: Los Angeles,” “Two and a Half Men,” “Criminal Minds,” “Chicago P.D.,” “Backstrom,” “State of Affairs,” and “Bad Judge.” Her feature film credits include “Friends with Benefits” and a role in the independent feature “The Perfect Family.” Among her stage credits are the Off-Broadway shows “Tape,” “Jesse Garon Lives,” and “Rubirosa.” She has worked in public schools, teaching at-risk youth how to express themselves, and is a certified Kundalini yoga teacher.

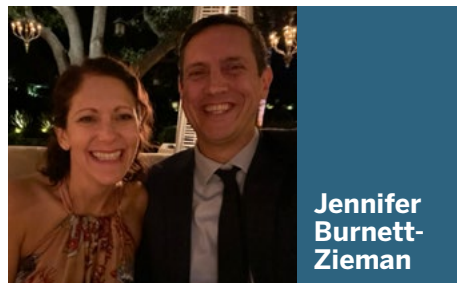


Shannon Foo

Shannon Foo (Sullivan) lives in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, Jimmy. They welcomed their third child this spring—a daughter, Evelyn. Together with her big sister, Sabrina, and big brother, Holden, Evelyn completes their family of five. Shannon serves on the Board of Directors of Sabrina’s Mandarin immersion school, the International Friends School, in Bellevue, Washington.

(PROPEL Health). In her free time, she enjoys exploring DC with her husband, daughter, and 100-plus-pound rescue pup. After leading a malaria prevention program in Malawi for three and half years, Jen Jennifer Burnett-Zieman and her family have returned to Washington, DC. Jen is currently a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Director at Palladium, where she supports the USAID project “Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers” (PROPEL Health). In her free time, she enjoys exploring DC with her husband, daughter, and 100-plus-pound rescue pup.

CLASS OF 1998



Jennifer Burnett-Zieman

After leading a malaria prevention program in Malawi for three and half years, **Jen Jennifer Burnett-Zieman** and her family have returned to Washington, DC. Jen is currently a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Director at Palladium, where she supports the USAID project “Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers”



Brad Patterson

Alongside his family, **Brad Patterson** moved to Brittany, France in 2022. He’s taken a step back from the company he started fifteen years ago (Maple Leaf Strings) and has become a life coach. He also leads retreats and teaches breathwork. At 43, Brad is still defining what he wants to do when he grows up, hoping he never does.

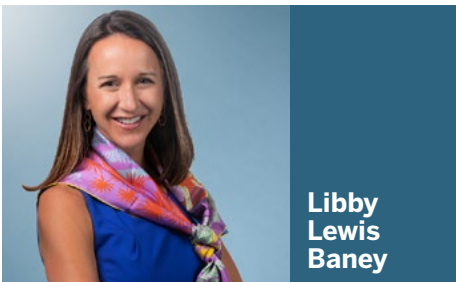
CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1999



Kimberly Renee Knowles is moving with her husband and eight-year-old daughter to the Chicago Western Suburbs (specifically Lisle, Illinois) to be closer to family. After fifteen years of retaining undergraduates at the University of San Francisco, she is now transitioning to retaining B2B clients as Customer Success Manager. Reach out via LinkedIn to connect or re-connect with her for a virtual coffee chat or an in-person get-together if you are in or will be in the Chicago area this summer and beyond. Kimberly also hopes to make a trip down to Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Louisville soon.

CLASS OF 2000



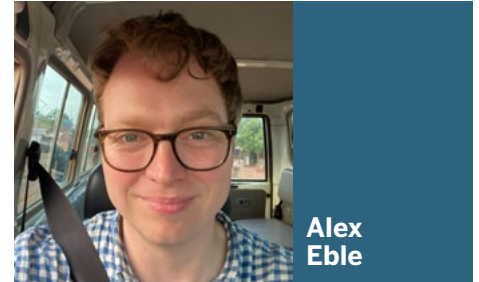
The best parts of **Libby Lewis Baney's** life continue to be her son, Lucas (age 9), meaningful work, and

a supportive community of friends and family. Recent highlights include whizzing by traffic on her bike, singing as she is commuting to Faegre Drinker's Washington D.C. office; being appointed to the firm's Management Board; saying yes to all sorts of travel adventures with loved ones. During working hours, Libby solves regulatory problems for pharmacies, pharmaceutical supply chains, and digital health clients.



After graduating in 2004, **Kunal Desai** completed an MB at IU Bloomington. He then worked in the pharmaceutical industry for eight years before going on to medical school at the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2014. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic in 2018 and is now finishing a hematology/oncology fellowship at the University of Chicago. He lives in suburban Chicago with his wife and 2 children (ages 3 and 5).

CLASS OF 2001



Alex Eble lives in New York, where he was just awarded tenure at Columbia University, advancing to the rank of Associate Professor of Economics and Education. His website can be found at <http://www.alexeble.com/>.

CLASS OF 2002



Jason Bell lives in London (UK) and works in agricultural technology. He serves as VP of Customer Success for Hectare Agritech. Jason completed an MBA at Oxford five years after finishing in Bloomington in 2006. Jason is married with two daughters.

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2003



Ryan Funk lives in Indianapolis with his wife (Pilar) and their two children (Rori, 9; Sammy, 6). Ryan is a labor lawyer at Faegre Drinker, where he was promoted to partner in 2022. He is involved in the Indiana State Bar Association and Indiana Landmarks, a historic preservation nonprofit. The Funks love coming back to Bloomington to camp on Lake Monroe and enjoy meals on 4th Street.



Mark Johnson is the lead pastor of Christ Community Church in Sioux Center, Iowa. He and his wife (Roxanne) have three lovely daughters: Kyla (10), Eden (8), and Selah (3). After serving in collegiate ministry for fifteen years at IU, Mark transitioned into the pastorate in July 2022 and is loving the new challenges it brings.



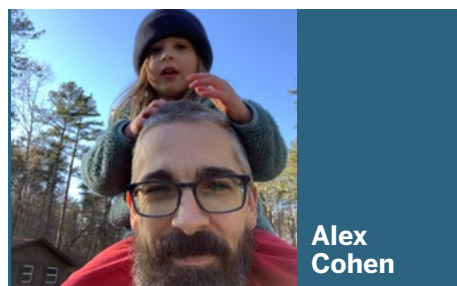
Dan Stanko lives in San Francisco, California, with his wife (Mandira), daughter (Samara, 6), and son (Jahan, 3). He continues to work for Crosspoint Capital, a cybersecurity and infrastructure software-focused private equity firm.

CLASS OF 2004



Simi Dhillon lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and works in Technology Sales at Google.

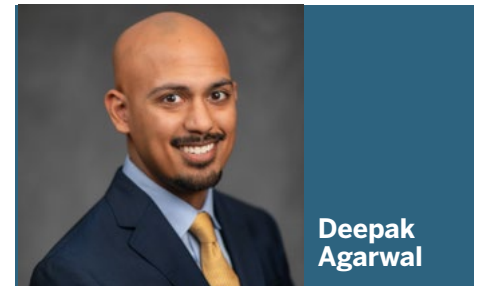
CLASS OF 2005



Alex Cohen works for GiveWell, a funder of organizations working in global health and development. He currently lives in Cincinnati with his

wife, Jess, and two children, Gene (7) and Joanna (4).

CLASS OF 2006



Deepak Agarwal lives in Minneapolis and is an Assistant Professor of Urology at the University of Minnesota. He recently received an internal grant to study the ergonomics of urologic endoscopy.

CLASS OF 2007



Matthew Burkhardt lives in Whites-town, Indiana, with his wife and two young sons. He is a partner at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Indianapolis. He focuses his practice on trade secrets litigation and counseling and on other corporate disputes.

CLASS NOTES

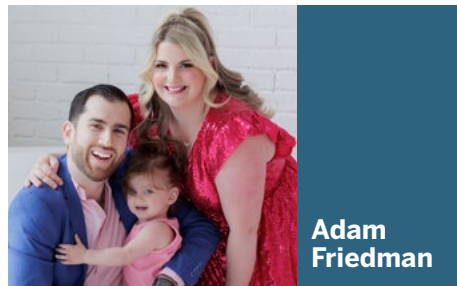
CLASS OF 2007



Hannah Kennedy

Hannah Kennedy is the Director of Communications for the award-winning Chicago Shakespeare Theater. In this senior leadership role, she is responsible for developing messaging around the Theater's productions and programs and implementing public relations plans to elevate the organization's profile locally, nationally, and internationally. Chicago Shakespeare produced the North American premiere of the hit musical "SIX," which became the first new show to reopen in October 2021. Hannah was on-hand for all the "purple carpet" opening festivities and celebrated the production's two Tony Award wins in New York City in June 2022. She recently led the communications efforts around the world premiere musical "The Notebook." Hannah lives in Chicago's North Center / Lincoln Square neighborhood with her husband Aaron and rescue pup Layla.

CLASS OF 2009



Adam Friedman

Adam Friedman lives in Chicago with his wife, Amanda (a fellow Hoosier, class of '14), one-year-old daughter Shay, and their dog Kirkwood. Adam is a Vice President at Linden Capital Partners, a private equity firm investing in healthcare companies. Amanda runs her own wedding planning business called Amanda Paige Events. In his free time, Adam has mastered the air fryer and time trials in Mario Kart 8.

CLASS OF 2010



Elizabeth Davis

Elizabeth Davis lives in Seattle and expects to finish her Ph.D. in geology this winter. Her research focuses on interpreting the record of Washington's past earthquakes from mud and sand at beaches and deltas. This year she was honored with a teaching award for her role in co-developing a new undergraduate field camp. She also works in

cultural preservation with the Duwamish Tribe and leads and participates in earthquake preparedness bike races in Seattle and Portland.

CLASS OF 2011



Jonathan Hawkins-Pierot

Jonathan Hawkins-Pierot lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Agathe. Jonathan is an economist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In the past year, he has started a vegetable garden (radishes did well, but the peas died early. Fingers crossed for the melons...) and picked up baking sourdough, several years behind the trend. Come say hi if you're in town!

CLASS OF 2013



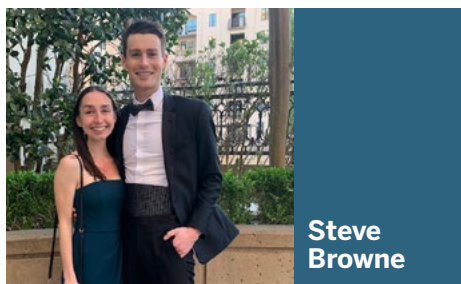
Vinayak Vedantam

Vinayak Vedantam will soon be entering his 7th year of living in the Bay Area. He lives in Berkeley, California with his amazing spouse and

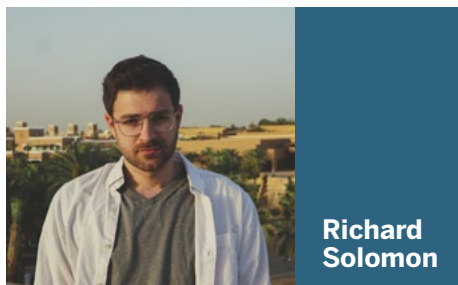
CLASS NOTES

fellow Wells alum, Sophia Muston, and dog Clarence. Vinayak was recently promoted and is now leading a product team at Meta focused on fighting scams and deceptive advertising. Given his increasingly limited free time, Vinayak has narrowed his list of hobbies down to music (primarily guitar but also piano and flute), rock climbing, video games, obsessing over cars, and making top-notch chai. Vinayak has been in the Bay Area long enough to know the cool hiking spots and restaurants, so if you're in Bay Area, give him a call!

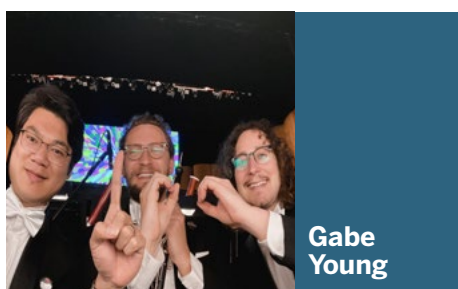
CLASS OF 2014



Steve Browne lives in Chicago and works for Ruggable, a home goods company. He is leaving the workforce in the fall to attend the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He is excited to become a student again and has been reminiscing on his incredible time at IU as a result. Outside of work, he enjoys distance running, crosswords, and traveling with his girlfriend, Chloe.



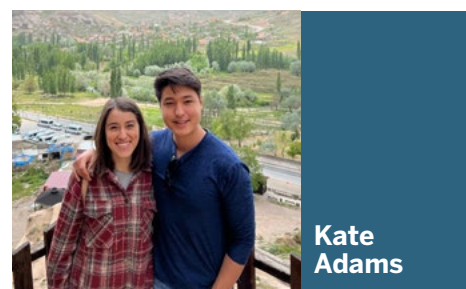
Richard Solomon graduated from the University of Chicago last summer and has been working as vice consul at U.S. Embassy Riyadh in Saudi Arabia for the past year. He will begin a doctoral program in political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall. All recommendations are welcome! He misses Wells Scholars friends dearly and was honored to share brunch with Shawn Gompa and Jonathan Hawkins-Pierot before departing for the Middle East. He has also recently enjoyed Christoph Irmscher's biographies of Max Eastman and Louis Agassiz.



Gabe Young continues to live in San Francisco, where he is the Associate Principal Oboist of the San Francisco Opera. The company celebrated its Centennial this year with a glorious season full of operatic delights,

including Richard Strauss' mammoth opera. This past year he joined the faculty at the University of California Santa Cruz, where he teaches oboe and chamber music. Gabe is pictured at the center), with colleagues Mingjia Liu (left) and Ben Brogadir.

CLASS OF 2015



After spending the past four years working in Chicago for the consulting firm Bain & Co (excluding a six-month stint at clean energy company BioLite in Nairobi, Kenya), **Kate Adams** is relocating to the Bay Area with her fiancé Dante to pursue an MBA at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. She is excited to take advantage of all Palo Alto has to offer, including hiking, winter sunshine, and proximity to fellow Wellsies! She'd love to catch up if you're in the area!

CLASS NOTES



**Rhi
Battersby**

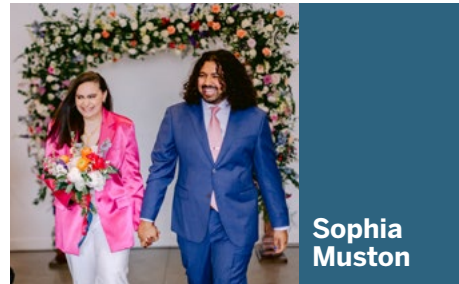
Rhi Battersby lives in Washington, DC, and works in reproductive health and abortion access. Highlights of the last year include volunteering on a community farm, learning embroidery, and marrying her partner Johnny in a small ceremony with Wellsies Sophia, Vinayak, and Luka in attendance.



**Annaka
Grismer**

Annaka Grismer graduated from Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a Master of Arts in Arts Administration in 2022. While earning that degree, she served as the Artistic Director of Bloomington Chamber Opera, a nonprofit which she co-founded in 2019. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as Digital Communications Assistant for the Jacobs School of Music. Annaka now works as Program Coordinator for the Richmond Scholars Program at the

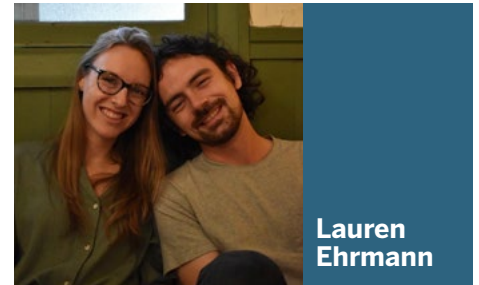
University of Richmond. She lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her wife-to-be Cal and their two mischievous cats, Minnie and Clover.



**Sophia
Muston**

Sophia Muston is pursuing her MSW in Berkeley, CA. Last year, she worked for Oasis Legal Services, providing case management support to LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers. After her wedding to Vinayak Vedantam (WSP 2013), Sophia spent part of her summer in Oaxaca polishing her technical Spanish and taking classes on psychology, sociology, and traditional healing methods. This year, she'll practice narrative therapy and work toward her school social work credentials in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She is on a quest to perfect her bagel-baking technique and Wingspan-playing skills.

CLASS OF 2016



**Lauren
Ehrmann**

Lauren Ehrmann is teaching English in Hualien, Taiwan, where she is living with fellow Wells Scholar Coleton Hast. The two were happy to have the opportunity to host and show off Taiwan to Wellsies Thalia Taylor (who took the photo) and Damon Pham this winter! In the fall, Lauren is excited to begin her Ph.D. in Islamic Art History at Harvard. In the meantime, she plans to spend the summer reading all the novels she won't have time for during her Ph.D., going on mountain hikes, and eating her way through Taiwan's night markets.



**Coleton
Hast**

Coleton Hast is currently living in Hualien City, Taiwan finishing his MA thesis at National Dong Hwa University's College of Indigenous Studies. His current research and community work is focused on grassroots digital

CLASS NOTES

language revitalization for a Taiwanese Indigenous language, 'Amis. He is also volunteering for a Boston-based non-profit called 7000 Languages which provides free e-learning software for endangered languages. Outside of his academic work, Coleton has been utilizing his so-so Chinese to explore Taiwan's beautiful mountains and night markets with his fellow Class of 2016 Wells Scholar and occasional roommate, Lauren Ehrmann. Coleton is also thrilled to announce that he has made friends with the turtle that lives outside his apartment. He will be returning to the US in September with Lauren (but sadly, not the turtle) to live in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Hannah Huth is excited to be spending this year in Washington, DC as an MRSP research fellow at the National Institute of Health (NIH). She will pursue cutting-edge research in interventional oncology and medical devices under the direction of principal investigator Dr. Bradford Wood. Over her first three years of medical

school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Hannah has fallen in love with the study and practice of pediatric oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and eagerly anticipates a future as a pediatric solid tumor oncologist. In her free time, Hannah loves to stay on top of the new restaurant and bar scene, travel, cycle, and paint. She would be more than happy to talk with any scholars in the DC area or anyone interested in medicine or research!



Lauren Meadows lives in Washington, DC. She works as a Project Associate in the Office of the CEO of the States United Democracy Center, a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to free, fair, and secure elections.



Damon Pham lives in Ho Chi Minh, looking forward to one more year here. He'd love to show Wellsies and friends around, so drop an email if you find yourself visiting! Lately, Damon's neuroimaging research was published in the journal *NeuroImage*. His practice has been shared in such venues as the Frye Art Museum in Seattle, *Digital America*, and *Overheard Literary Magazine*. He had a wonderful time at the AI Anarchies Autumn School in Berlin last year. This coming October, Damon, using the name "Epecially," expects to share a music album.

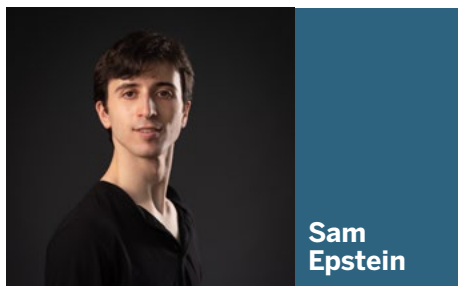
CLASS NOTES



Neil
Shah

Over the last year, **Neil Shah** continued working at Bain and Company, where he was promoted early to the Consultant position. After completing a seven-month procurement-focused project with an agriculture client, he began an externship in India, helping grow Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care, a global nonprofit. Throughout his eight months in India, he has resided at the Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram, engaging in his spiritual journey with his spiritual Guru (Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji) while also driving global strategy for the nonprofit. He also became a certified yoga teacher. Upon returning to the States in the fall, Neil will shift to UC Berkeley, where he will pursue his MBA at the Haas School of Business. His goal is to further study the foundations of non-profit strategy and management.

CLASS OF 2017



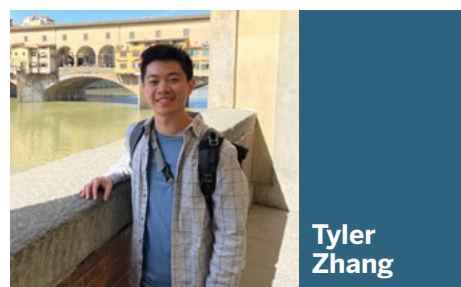
Sam
Epstein

After graduating in 2021, **Sam Epstein** joined Cincinnati Ballet Second Company, performing works by Jennifer Archibald, Gerald Arpino, Jodie Gates, Victoria Morgan, Amy Seiwert, and Septime Webre. He was also a Teaching Artist for Cincinnati Ballet's CB Moves adapted dance program in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, teaching dance classes for children with specific needs. This past year, he was commissioned to choreograph *Setting Suns*, an original abstract ballet for Chattanooga Ballet, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, an opera receiving its world premiere at the Jacobs School of Music. And most recently, he was grateful to have been invited to perform as a guest artist in *Confetti* as part of Gerald Arpino's Centennial Celebration at Diablo Ballet's 29th Anniversary Gala. Having just completed Cincinnati Ballet's 2022-2023 season, Sam is excited to share that he will be joining Grand Rapids Ballet as a company dancer for the 2023-2024 season.



Ping
Showalter

After graduating from IU, **Ping Showalter** earned a master's degree in Restorative Justice from the Vermont Law School and worked in court diversion services for vulnerable young adults. Currently, Ping lives in Perú and continues preventative and youth-based work as a Peace Corps volunteer. She supports the local school and local government, organizing positive development strategies and programs. In her free time, Ping enjoys eating fruit from the farm she lives on, playing soccer, going on hikes, and aggressively reviewing books on Goodreads.



Tyler
Zhang

This past March, **Tyler Zhang** graduated with a master's degree in computer engineering from UC Irvine. He wrote a thesis on leveraging connected vehicle infrastructure and machine learning to help reduce

CLASS NOTES

highway congestion. After graduating, Tyler took a month off to travel and spend time with friends and family. He now lives in San Diego working as a firmware engineer at Apple.

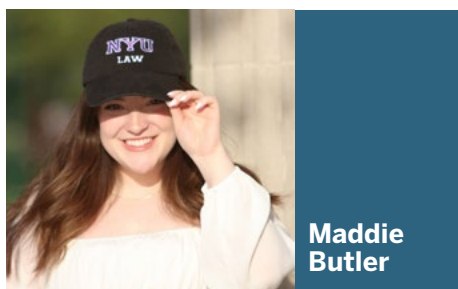
CLASS OF 2018



Walker Smith graduated from IU in December 2022 with degrees in chemistry and music composition. Walker has spent the past few years developing and touring his “Sound of Molecules” show, an immersive science/music performance for all ages that asks and answers the question, “What do molecules sound like?” He premiered this show at Bloomington’s WonderLab Museum in September 2022 and since then has shared it with thousands of students at museums, schools, and conferences across the country and the world. Walker received a 2023-24 Fulbright Scholarship to the Netherlands to continue his “musical chemistry” research at the Institute of Sonology, a renowned computer music center in The Royal Conservatoire of The Hague. He has also

accepted a Ph.D. position in Computer Music at Stanford University, starting Fall 2024. Walker is excited to continue developing performances that share the beauty of combining science and music with curious minds of all ages.

CLASS OF 2019



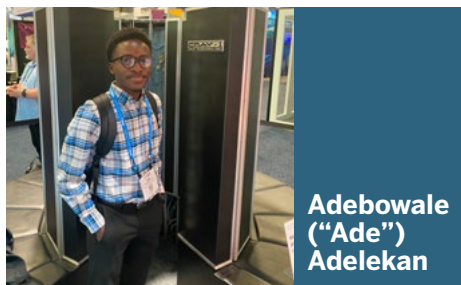
Maddie Butler is profoundly grateful for her time at IU, particularly for the friendship of her Wells cohort and the mentorship of Christoph. She graduated in the Spring of 2023 with a B.A. in International Law and Institutions, a B.A. in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, and a minor in French. She is elated to attend NYU School of Law in the Fall of 2023, where she will study issues at the intersection of human rights, freedom from gender-based violence, and immigrant justice. She would appreciate connecting with any Wells alumni with similar areas of interest or any experience living in NYC!



Sage Hamm graduated this spring with degrees in Japanese, piano performance, and molecular life sciences, receiving the Gines Scholarship for his achievement in an East Asian language and a pre-professional field. Starting in September, Sage will be spending ten months in Tokyo, Japan, on a Fulbright scholarship. As a Fulbright Fellow, he will be conducting research on Japanese identity in post-WWII education and music. Although Sage will miss the idyllic Hoosier community, he has enjoyed for the past four years, he is excited to live in a metropolis like Tokyo. Before moving, Sage will be spending this summer as head counselor for the IU Piano Academy. He also is serving his last year as the Director of the Seminar Division for Komatsu Summer School, where Japanese high school students participate in a liberal-arts style summer camp.

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2020

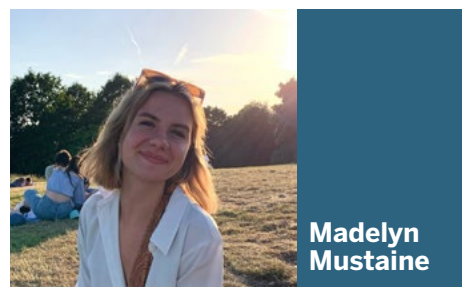


Adebowale ("Ade") Adelekan is pursuing research with Professor Haixu Tang over the summer, using machine learning techniques for the prediction of tandem mass spectra from given peptide sequences. During the fall semester, Ade will work with Professor Martin Swany on strategies for effective data processing and low-latency networking. Ade is also part of the supercomputing team that will represent Indiana University at the Super Computing Conference (SC23) in Denver later this year.



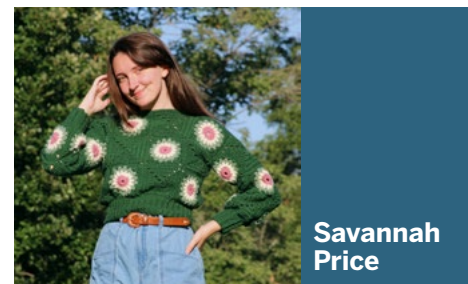
Joelle Jackson is a rising senior majoring in anthropology and Folklore and Ethnomusicology with an individualized minor in Social Science Research Methods. In the fall, she studied at the University of Kent in England, and she also participated in

an anthropological field school in Oaxaca, Mexico in May. In the spring semester, she served as a democracy reform organizer with the Workers Circle. She also successfully defended her honors thesis in anthropology. This summer, she is continuing her work as an undergraduate researcher with Traditional Arts Indiana and will be traveling to Ireland to undertake archival research at the National Folklore Collection.



Madelyn Mustaine completed her undergraduate thesis on the effects of state policies allowing Medicaid payment in mental health treatment facilities. This topic was a personal passion for Madelyn, as it happened to be the subject of her Wells Scholarship essay in 2019! Madelyn spent the spring 2023 semester studying abroad at the Australian National University interning with the Australian Capital Territory Department of Health. While in Australia, Madelyn completed a research project on social capital in government health promotion grant programs. Upon returning

to Bloomington this fall, Madelyn will begin her accelerated master's program in public affairs through the O'Neill School. She is proud to have been selected for the Washington, D.C. Accelerator Program, where she will be interning in the nation's capital during her final year of graduate school. Madelyn is looking forward to continuing to pursue her passion for improving health policy!



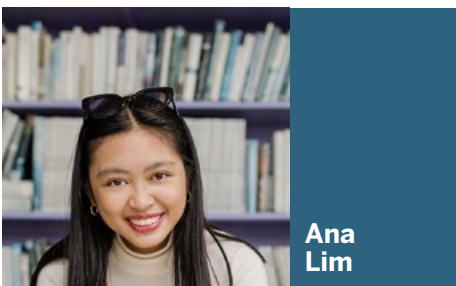
Before her final year in Bloomington (sadly!), **Savannah Price** is enjoying a busy summer: working as a research assistant for Dr. Sanders in the Gender Studies department, attending three weddings (including her sister's!), taking a summer class, and working on promotion for her book *Retro Crochet Style*, which will be published on September 5th. In the photo, you see her modeling one of her creations.

CLASS NOTES



Cooper Sykes is a rising senior scholar majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and geography and minoring in German and Water Resources Science, Policy, and Management. This past school year afforded him the wonderful opportunity to study abroad in Vienna, Austria, thanks to the incredible support of the Wells Scholars Program. During the summer, Cooper is working for the City of New Albany, Indiana, as a part of the Resilience Cohort in the McKinney Climate Fellows program. He will be engaging with the New Albany community to support the city's efforts toward the completion of a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Resilience Plan.

CLASS OF 2021



Ana Lim is a rising junior Social Work major. As an International Studies

minor, she is particularly grateful for the opportunity to have traveled abroad with fellow Wells Scholars to Berlin in the past year. Currently, she is working as a McKinney Climate Fellow at the Environmental Resilience Institute and Indiana Resilience Funding Hub, where she is providing technical grant writing assistance to rural and historically disadvantaged communities that require funding for sustainability projects.



Jordan Pace has spent this year focusing on her biology studies while also expanding her horizons by participating in a service club, trying out new hobbies like crocheting, and reading lots of books. This summer she is living at home in Columbus, Ohio and interning at the Columbus Zoo while also taking online classes. She looks forward to returning to Bloomington for her junior year.



Anastasia Spahr is a rising junior double-majoring in English (with a creative writing concentration) and French. In the fall, she was inducted into the Pi Delta Phi French National Honor Society, and in April, she received the Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize for her accomplishments in her French courses. This past school year, she served as the Vice President of the book club Bookmarked at IU, the Poetry Editor of the Publishing and Editing Club, and the Secretary of Rotaract at IU. In March, she immensely enjoyed traveling to Berlin with her fellow Wells Scholars. She also spent two wonderful weeks in Paris at the end of May as part of the Hutton Honors course, "Reading the City: Parisian Spaces." This July, she looks forward to traveling with her family to Newfoundland, Canada.

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2022



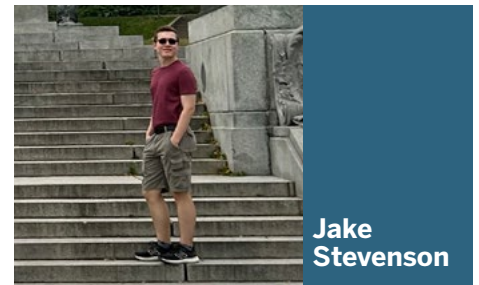
Christian Courage Barda just finished his Freshman year, pursuing a BM in Composition as well as a BSOF in Historical Performance-Voice and Nonprofit Management and Leadership. During his first year, Courage received second prize in the NOTUS Composition Contest for his composition “so much depends” (which you can watch on YouTube). He also placed second in the Jacobs and Kelley schools’ Innovation Competition for “TUTTI: The Disability and Arts Advocacy Project,” which he plans to begin in the new academic year. This summer, he went to Newport Beach, California, to witness his composition “This One Was One” (which uses text from Gertrude Stein’s 1912 poem “Picasso”) performed by the Choral Arts Initiative. He had a marvelous time in Berlin with his Wells classmates and is excited to meet the incoming class of Wells Scholars!



Laila Morris is a Sophomore Wells Scholar from Chicago, Illinois, double-majoring in International Studies and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. She is a part of the Arabic Flagship Program, a Peer Mentor for the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies Living Learning Center (HLSGISLLC), and a Student Ambassador for the Hamilton Lugar School. She aims to use her passion for language to take her on a journey to discover different parts of the world and use her knowledge to help others.



After the Wells Scholars freshman trip to Berlin, **Sophia Nguyen** is staying in Bloomington this summer, using this semester to take Japanese classes with the IU Language Workshop as well as to intern with the IU English Department’s Victorian Studies journal.



Jake Stevenson is a rising Sophomore student at IU. This Summer, Jake spent a week between Montreal and Quebec City in Canada where he was able to practice and hone his understanding of the French language as well as of Quebecois history and culture. He found this experience to be both highly enjoyable and enriching and believes that it will serve him well for future studies abroad in the Francophone world.



NOTES

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