

Author Biographies

Sarah Aldridge is a senior at Appalachian State University, where she is a Wilson Scholar and a student in the Honors College. She is majoring in political science with minors in sociology and global studies. After graduation, Sarah plans to work in the field of education policy before returning to school for her Master of Public Policy. Despite changing her major from elementary education soon after realizing her passion for policy research, Sarah still aspires to improve the educational experiences of marginalized students through research. In her free time, she enjoys reading and visiting art galleries.

Brett Collar is a junior at Purdue University, majoring in biomedical engineering with a minor in electrical engineering. He works as an undergraduate research assistant at the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering, focusing on predictive modeling in healthcare. This summer, he will be joining the Center for Implantable Devices at Purdue as an undergraduate researcher, where he will begin exploring novel glaucoma treatments. Brett hopes to eventually pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering to further his knowledge and expertise in prosthetics and orthotics.

Mohamed Elzarka is a Master of Public Health candidate at the University of Cincinnati and a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati, where he received degrees in neuroscience and liberal arts as part of the University Honors Program. He is currently conducting research on holistic models of psychosocial care in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, with support from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Eva Lin Fahey is a senior B.F.A. studio arts major at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Commonwealth Honors College. Primarily working in water-based media, she creates abstracted compositions exploring the interconnections between family, cultural hybridity, and identity.

Adopted from China, Eva currently makes work that investigates her connections to American and Chinese culture. Her work revolves around the ideas of attachment and detachment, connection and divide. Although deeply rooted in personal experience, her art also invites viewers to relate the work to their own experiences. Through this link of empathy, she hopes to create artwork where people consider the complexity of the individual and begin to think deeper about how we become and continue to become the people we are today.

Sophia Fortmeyer graduated with honors from the University of Kansas in 2017, receiving degrees in global/international studies and French. Her research focuses on the socio-politics of natural resource extraction, specifically in sub-Saharan Africa. Her career aspirations lie in the fields of sustainable development and human rights. She currently teaches English in the south of France.

Olivia Fuson is a sophomore from Portland, Oregon, pursuing a double-major in history and Spanish and a minor in women's and gender studies at Creighton University. Inspired by her passion for justice and equality, Olivia strives to integrate marginalized perspectives into her historical research and hopes to one day incorporate these perspectives into her career as a physician. Outside of class, Olivia conducts functional genetics research, volunteers in the pediatric ward at a local hospital, and works as a medical scribe. She also enjoys ice cream, reading, trying new restaurants, and spending time with family and friends.

Mark Laaninen is a sophomore at the SUNY New Paltz, double majoring in music and history and minoring in linguistics. His focus is on the history of working class and marginalized communities, especially those of Medieval Europe. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, reading, cooking, and playing his guitar. This is his first publication.

Dana Macfarlane is a senior honors student, graduating from Temple University with a B.A. in biological anthropology. Dana has a strong interest in how the environment interacts with the human body, including research that investigates the impact of water quality on body decomposition. Amongst other things, Dana enjoys teaching and talking about science with all ages.

Taylor Marks is a sophomore honors student at the University of Florida, majoring in telecommunication with a specialization in news. She is currently a staff photographer for the *Independent Florida Alligator* and has received photo features in the *Tampa Bay Times* as well as *BBC World News*. Following her time at the University of Florida, Taylor intends to pursue a career as an anchor or political correspondent for a major broadcasting network.

Julia Miller is a third-year honors student at the University of Wisconsin Madison, pursuing a major in neurobiology and a minor in sculpture. Her studies reflect a passion for navigating and interpreting the unknown; both pursuits require the unconventional solution to a given dilemma and support a future career in surgery. She hopes to utilize her distinctive vision and skills in artistic engineering and spatial visualization to work with victims of physical trauma in a reconstructive capacity. In pursuing this goal, Julia splits her time between art and pre-medicine commitments, while working as a CNA and volunteering both as an organic chemistry tutor and inpatient unit host at the University Hospital. In college, she has also advanced her interest in reinvention through immersion in different cultures and communities. She hopes that her volunteer excursions abroad will further expand her understanding of the world and its inhabitants, allowing for more comprehensive and compassionate care of patients and their families.

David Mudd is a student at the University of Portland, where he studies English literature and political science. His primary areas of interest are American literature, history, and politics, especially the way each informs the other and can shape our understanding of the modern world; occasionally he also goes backpacking. After graduating, he intends

to do volunteer work with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps before going to law school, and hopes to use those skills to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Ashley Murr is a senior in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Aligning with her interest in sustainability, her research broadly examines sustainable infrastructure. She hopes that with some creativity and clever engineering, small changes in a variety of fields will help create more sustainable and resilient societies.

Originally from Warroad, Minnesota, **Jackson Nash** is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is a member of the University Honors Program, pursuing a degree in chemical engineering. As an avid outdoorsman, he enjoys the beauty and resources Duluth and Lake Superior have to offer. In hopes of contributing to the preservation of the environment, he plans to continue pursuing research on solar cell technology. Motivated by solving problems and engineering projects, Jackson is an active member of Tau Beta Pi, Omega Chi Epsilon, and AIChE.

Bridget O'Hara is a junior at Temple University, studying media studies and production with minors in environmental studies and anthropology. An aspiring documentary filmmaker, Bridget hopes to combine her passions of media and social justice to create films that help the greater good. Bridget created this documentary in conjunction with the rest of City Sound Productions: Matt Ward, Hoa Ivy Nguyen, Chris Lumsden, and Kelsi Smith. The team spent a semester researching the effects of music education to create *Encore: Music Education for Social Change*, a film intended to highlight the benefits that art education has on students.

Constance Roberts is a junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Commonwealth Honors College. She is pursuing dual-degrees in art history and German and Scandinavian studies while minoring in Mandarin. Her senior thesis will examine Miss Cranston's Tea Rooms in Glasgow, focusing on the Willow Street Tea Rooms. Her interests include photography and learning about other cultures. On

the weekends, she volunteers as an ESL conversation partner through Amherst's local library.

Anna Tyrina is a third-year student at the University of Maine in Orono, majoring in chemistry with a pre-medical concentration. Her studies focus on developing an understanding of how proteins interact with gold thiolates, which are used as drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. After graduation, Anna plans to attend medical school and pursue a career as a pediatrician. Anna has also recently self-published her first poetry collection and plans to publish her second this summer. Anna spends her free time reading, learning new languages, and researching topics of interest.