

Author and Artist Biographies



Emma Barrett is a freshman Presidential Scholar and honors student at Florida State University studying anthropology and international affairs. She plans to pursue an MS in international affairs and is interested in the international repatriation movement, which aims to relocate artifacts and cultural heritage to their countries and peoples of origin.



Kaira Brown is a New Jersey native and a junior at Vanderbilt, double majoring in public policy and Latinx studies. She is also a sprinter on the varsity track and field team where she ranks #4 all-time in school history in the outdoor 400m dash. She is also a proud member of the College Scholars Honors Program. Off campus, she serves as a volunteer tutor for middle school students with D.A.F.T. Youth Services. She spends her free time reading, baking, and playing Candy Crush.



Charles Campbell is a first-year Presidential Scholar and honors student at Florida State University. He is majoring in geography with a minor in urban & regional planning and is pursuing a certification in emergency management. He researches urban renewal and gentrification in Tallahassee, FL, as well as the impacts of natural resource extraction on northern Canadian Indigenous communities. Outside of academics, Charlie enjoys exploring Florida and outdoor activities. Charlie hopes to attend graduate school for urban planning or geography.



Emily Duckworth is a senior honors student at the College of Charleston pursuing a degree in political science while on the pre-medical track. She is involved in Alpha Chi Sigma and Alpha Epsilon Delta, the National Chemistry and Pre-Health Honor Societies, as well as Students 4 Support, a campus-run peer counseling service. Off campus, Emily conducts research at the Medical University of South Carolina and works as a medical assistant and scribe. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school and hopefully become a practicing plastic surgeon one day.

Author Biographies



Allen Duggar is a senior at the College of Charleston where he studies English, religious studies, and music. His research interests include shape note hymnody, ritual studies in contemporary Christianity, and mysticism. He is a Harry and Reba Huger Scholar as well as the Programming Director of the CisternYard Radio station. After graduating, he hopes to pursue a PhD in religious studies in preparation for an academic career.



Vanessa Hawkins is a sophomore honors student at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she is double-majoring in music and physics. She is a dedicated member of UMD's Piano Studio, with notable performances in UMD's 2021 Outdoor Concert Series and Matinee Musicale's 2022 Scholarship Recital. In the Physics Department, Vanessa works as an undergraduate teaching assistant for general physics classes and is a member of Women in Engineering and Science. Following graduation, Vanessa plans to combine her two passions and pursue a graduate degree in acoustics.



Eric Macaluso is a graduate from SUNY Geneseo and is a medical student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. He received a BS in neuroscience and minored in the honors program. He was a volunteer EMT at the local fire department, vice president at the school's medical fraternity and involved in multiple neuroscience research projects as well as a project on local dairy migrant workers' health. He plans to become a physician and be involved in global health in some way throughout his career.



Ava Minu-Sepehr is a third-year student at the University of Oregon, where she is majoring in cultural anthropology with minors in chemistry and global health. On campus, she serves as a global health research assistant studying malaria in Zanzibar. She also researches cultural geography through forms of counter-mapping, focusing on Indigenous Oregonian water sovereignty. After graduation, she is deeply invested in pursuing medical school and specializing in gynecology. In her written work, Ava often reflects on the impact of the Iranian diaspora on her sense of self, and the diverse experiences of movement, loss, and exile that impact her and those around her, across identities.

Author Biographies



Shraddha Patel is a freshman honors student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. She is double majoring in biology and chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry and is passionately driven to pursue a career in medicine. Growing up in the natural scenic beauty of East River Mountain in Bluefield, VA, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. Shraddha's pastimes include experimenting with international cuisines, performing renditions of classical Indian music on the harmonium, and volunteering in summer-school children's programs. Amidst her larger goals in medicine and public service, she aspires to maintain her small-town ideals while savoring the simple things in life.



Madison Poisall is a recent graduate from Florida State University with a degree in psychology and a minor in child development. During her time at Florida State, she was an active research assistant and was a part of three research labs in three different areas of psychology. She also served on the executive board of FSU's chapter of Psi Chi Honor Society in psychology and plans to continue researching during her gap year before applying to counseling psychology PhD programs. Aside from her studies, she enjoys working at her local sushi restaurant part-time and enjoying the Florida sun with her friends by the pool.



Maggie Rodgers is a junior at Fairfield University in Connecticut studying molecular biology and mathematics. On campus she conducts research with her professor investigating cancer cell biology, focusing on the effect of oleuropein on metastasis. She hopes to continue this work in her career, pursuing a master's degree in cellular biology and conducting research. She is a mentor for underclassmen biology and honors students, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the National Mathematics Honors Society. Outside of class, she is passionate about painting and creating other forms of art and enjoys sewing in her free time.



Jacob Romero is currently attending Elmhurst University, but will be attending the University of Illinois in Chicago next fall to pursue a Bachelor of Design in graphic design and industrial design with a minor in computer science. After completing his bachelor's degree, Jacob hopes to work in the UX design field and bridge the gap between fine arts and design. But until then, he continues to work in his family's window replacement business.

Author Biographies



Abigail Wilhelmi recently graduated from the University of North Dakota in May 2022 as an honors student with a B.S. in biology and a minor in psychology. Along with participating in the honors program, Abigail has been a student ambassador for the university, played on intramural sports teams, and volunteered at North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind while completing her undergraduate degree. In her free time, she enjoys reading, being active, and spending time with family and friends. Abigail is passionate about the field of eye care and will be continuing her education at the Illinois College of Optometry to work toward her goal of becoming an optometrist.



Ann Williams is a fourth-year honors student and Blount Scholar at the University of Alabama, majoring in international studies with minors in Chinese, women's studies, and liberal arts. She is currently completing a year of intensive language study at the International Chinese Language Program in Taiwan on a David L. Boren scholarship. While focusing on studying Chinese takes up much of her current free time, she loves to read Toni Morrison novels, spend time in coffee shops, and go hiking. Her current research focuses on heritage politics in domestic identity building in Taiwan, and she is broadly interested in China/Taiwan international relations and policy. After graduating in December, she hopes to find a way to stay in Taiwan.