

## *Author Biographies*

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### **Stefnie Cerny-**

Stefnie Cerny is an honors junior at Virginia Tech, located in Blacksburg, Virginia. She majors in Studio Art and Theatre Arts Design and hopes to pursue Cinema Production and Prop Design upon completion of her undergraduate studies. Stefnie resides in Southwest Virginia but is a native of Northern Michigan and often ties her admiration for both locations in her work. Her experience includes commissioned artwork, children's book illustration, film production assistance, and theatre stage decoration. Art was an interest that began young and stayed constant throughout her life. Being an artist gives her the chance to challenge herself in unusual ways and branch out into other fields, such as theatre and cinema.

### **Benjamin Davis-**

Benjamin P. Davis is a student of philosophy and international studies at the University of North Dakota, where he is also a member of the Honors Program. His research engages phenomenology, liberation theology, postmodern philosophy, the philosophy of education, and the life and works of Simone Weil. He hopes to pursue graduate studies in Continental philosophy, as well as to promote philosophy as a way of life.

### **Leah Huls-**

Leah Huls is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She is in the University Honors program and is majoring in Teaching Communications, Art, and Literature and English, Literary Studies. She plans to student teach abroad in Ireland and graduate with her teaching degree in December 2017. Her dream is to have a life split between the classroom and a career as a fiction writer. Currently, Leah is a Resident Advisor and spends her rare moments of free time reading fiction, going on walks, and enjoying long coffee dates with friends.

### **Jessica King-**

Jessica King, from Stafford, Virginia, is a sophomore Stamps Scholar at Virginia Tech. She is majoring in Communication Studies and International Studies and pursuing minors in German and Religion. Jessica is a Resident Advisor at the Honors Residential College at East Ambler Johnston. She is passionate about issues of social justice and equality. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys hiking, listening to music, community service work, and cheering on the Hokies in Lane Stadium. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a Master's and then a PhD. She conducted her research as a part of Dr. Paul Heilker's Language, Violence, and Nonviolence Research Group.

### **Sreekar S. Kuchibhatla-**

Sreekar S Kuchibhatla is a undergraduate honours freshman at UNC Chapel Hill, majoring in Business. He was born and brought up in India, did his Intermediate education at FIITJEE and IGCSE -ICE from Oakridge International, Hyderabad. Sreekar is Founder CEO of 'Quid Faciam,' an innovative skill based volunteerism for the new millennials, at 15. With his audacity to envision and eagerness to impact, he inspired hundreds taking to volunteerism and impacted thousands of underprivileged. Sreekar is a 6th grade guitarist from the Trinity College London, who pioneered community outreach through music in India. Besides, he is an environment champion, an avid photographer, and an active tennis player.

### **Matthew McDermott-**

Matthew McDermott is a Junior at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying Civil Engineering. While at UMD, he works as an undergraduate research assistant in the department's environmental research laboratory assisting graduate students with their research. After graduation he plans on attending graduate school with an emphasis in structural engineering. Originally from the Twin Cities, Matthew enjoys outdoor activities including running and cross-country skiing, as well as flying.

**Bailey Murawski-**

Bailey Murawski is a first-year student at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She received her Associate of Arts degree during her senior year of high school and is now working towards a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She hopes to attend medical school in the future. Bailey enjoys her free time coaching gymnastics, spending time with friends and family, and exploring Duluth.

**Hannah Neukircher-**

Hannah Neukircher is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She plans to double major in Criminology and Psychology. After college she hopes to investigate criminal cases with the hopes of eventually working for the FBI. In her spare time, Hannah enjoys reading, traveling, and playing soccer.

**Caitlin Pederson-**

Caitlin Pederson is a senior at the University of Minnesota Duluth, and will be graduating with a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry with a Mathematics minor. She is a member of the University Honors Student Association, a member of the Scholars Club, and is involved in a computational chemistry research lab at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her future plans are to attend University of Minnesota's College of Pharmacy and acquire her PharmD degree.

**Rachael Prozinski-**

Rachael Prozinski is a junior at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She plans on majoring in Business Marketing with a minor in Communications. After college she plans to work in the Sales Marketing field and acquire her Master of Business Administration. In her spare time she enjoys playing hockey, reading, and partaking in numerous outdoor activities.

**Patricia Shorter-**

Patricia "Pat" Shorter is sophomore studying Biology with an emphasis in Entomology. She is an undergraduate researcher in the insect systematics lab, where she photographs and digitizes preserved bees and other pollinators. She is also a curator at the Virginia Tech Entomological Collection. Pat wrote her first complete work, a fantasy novel, as her senior project at Gloucester High School and now competes in NaNoWriMo and presents her short works at open mic nights sponsored by her honors residential community. She is a Gloucester, Virginia native working towards a BS at Virginia Tech.

**Tahnee Trenberth-**

Tahnee Trenberth is from a small northern town called Chisholm, MN. Currently, she is attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth working toward her Bachelor of Arts degree as a communications major with a journalism minor. In her free time she enjoys writing, reading, taking photographs, listening to music, site-seeing, stargazing, & spending quality time with her parents, pets, and best friends.