

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS



## Megan Bailey

Megan is from Crothersville and is a senior at Indiana University – Purdue University Columbus. She graduates in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and plans to pursue a career focused in critical care. Upon gaining experience, she plans on returning to school for her Master’s degree in the coming years. She is truly inspired by the increasing substance abuse crisis and plans to use her team’s research to raise awareness on behalf of the need for adolescent education. In her leisure time, Megan enjoys spending time with friends and family, hiking, and traveling.



## Keiland Cooper

Keiland is from the midwest of Indiana and is currently in his third year studying Cognitive Science and Neuroscience—and just about everything else he can find at Indiana University Bloomington. His research has mostly consisted of studying the dynamics of complex intelligent systems. This includes the brain, where he studies the neural regions associated with learning and memory in model organisms, or artificial intelligence, where he studies catastrophic interference in computational models of semantic memory. He is also an executive member of ADAPT, a business psychology consulting group, as well as the Co-President of the Student Organization for Cognitive Science. He enjoys snowboarding, creating music, exploring nature, and design. After his undergraduate degree, he plans to go to graduate school to continue pursuing answers to complex questions surrounding the brain and other intelligent systems.



## Nirumpama Devanathan

Nirupama Devanathan is a sophomore Bepko Scholar at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) majoring in Biology and Philanthropic Studies, with certificates in Fundamentals of Data Analytics, Spanish, and Latino Studies. She aspires to become a physician-investigator to blend clinical skills with her research on the social and biological determinants of disease, especially by harnessing the power of data science. She is extremely involved in campus; she currently serves as the Vice-President of Programming for Student United Way, actively participates in Global Medical Brigades, mentors General Chemistry I students as a Tier 2 Peer-Led-Team-Learning (PLTL) leader, and serves on the founding executive committee of the Vedic Society.



## Parker Henry

Parker is a senior from Memphis, Tennessee earning a BA in Linguistics, a BS in International Studies, and a minor in Music. He is a member of The Phi Beta Kappa Society and a recipient of the Kate Hevner Mueller Outstanding Senior Award. During his time at IU, Parker has been fortunate enough to study abroad in Cameroon and Rwanda, focusing on the language of instruction in schools. In his free time, Parker enjoys playing the trumpet in the Marching Hundred and the Big Red Basketball Band. Next year, Parker will serve as an English Teaching Assistant in the Czech Republic through the US Department of State's Fulbright Program.



## Timothy Huber

Timothy is a 2017 graduate from Indiana University Northwest with a BS in Chemistry and minors in Mathematics and Physics. He took interest in quantum mechanics during undergraduate courses and was granted the opportunity to focus on this subject for a year through research under Dr. Alonso Contreras-Astorga. He also had the opportunity to study electrochemistry through research under Dr. Daniel Kelly. Outside of academics, he is pursuing his passion in triathlons by competing in Ironman races nationwide. Upon graduation, he began his career as an analytical chemist for a pharmaceutical company and is currently pursuing a growth opportunity as a field service engineer.





## Bailey Hull

Bailey is a senior studying human biology and psychology. He worked as a research assistant in the department of nutrition science and dietetics at Indiana University Bloomington. His passion for research resides in his belief that the ability to further society's collective knowledge stems from the motivation to learn through research. In his free time, he often finds himself playing basketball or watching sports. Following graduation, Bailey is excited to pursue a career in medicine as a physician.



## Haily Merritt

Haily is a senior Cox Research Scholar from Indianapolis studying Cognitive Science, Linguistics, and Central Eurasian Studies. She has had a part in research projects investigating second language phonology acquisition, the role of explicit knowledge in problem solving, children's acquisition of polysemous words, and computational models of metaphors and abstract thought. Outside of research, Haily enjoys making art, hiking, traveling, and buying plants. After graduating from IU, Haily will be continuing her education at Cornell University.



## Halley Rose Meslin

Halley is earning degrees in Environmental & Sustainability studies (Sustainable Food Systems concentration) and French with a minor in history. Halley Rose's research interests include sustainable food policy, the intersection of technology and terroir, and the role of gastronomy in fostering sustainable outcomes. She was the 2015-2016 Editorial Director of IU's chapter of the food website SpoonUniversity.com and received two grants from Food & Wine magazine to host awareness-raising events about food waste on campus. Halley Rose was an undergraduate researcher with the inaugural cohort of IU's 2020 Sustainability Scholars Program where she researched the sustainability of food labeling regulations in the U.S. and the EU. She spent the 2016-2017 academic year abroad studying sustainable development in Copenhagen, Denmark and French language and culture in Cannes, France. After university Halley Rose will be the Executive Assistant to the owner of a sustainable food company called SHED in California.



## Cameron Peck

Cameron attended Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and graduated with a BA in Biology and minor in Japanese Studies. He originally planned to go to medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon directly out of undergrad, but after discovering Japanese he is now planning to travel to Japan to teach English for 1-5 years (through the JET program) before medical school. After he returns, he would still like to pursue medicine, but plans to travel the world a bit beforehand. In his free time, he enjoys playing piano, viola, swimming, and translating Japanese short stories. He would also like to continue to participate in research, and attributes a lot of his success in his undergraduate Biology degree to the protein research he did with his mentor, Dr. Kimble-Hill.



## Samuel Pickett

Sam is a senior majoring in History and Spanish with minors in Latino Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Law and Public Policy. Throughout his four years he has been involved in a number of organizations ranging from Model United Nations and Human Rights Brigades to Hoosier Luminaries and IU's Admissions Team. He is currently the undergraduate intern at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and after graduation he will be attending the University of Virginia School of Law to study human rights and immigration law.



## Clarissa Ren

Clarissa is earning a B.S. in Biology, and she works in the Demas lab where she is completing her senior honors thesis on how photoperiod modulates behavior and the gut microbiome in Siberian Hamsters. She enjoys being an undergraduate teaching assistant for L112, L312, and L104. Outside of class, she will serve as president of MEDLIFE, an organization she has grown tremendously in while also serving communities locally and abroad. She also loves HHCA, figure skating, yoga, and traveling. She plans on graduating after Fall 2018 to travel the world. Afterwards, she hopes to continue research and attend medical school.





## Brilynn Roberts

Brilynn is a senior at Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus majoring in Nursing. She intends to apply her BSN, and minors in Women’s Studies and Sociology, to provide specialized care in women’s health. She aspires to return to school for her DNP or MSN to advance her patient care further down the road. When Brilynn is not studying, she enjoys spending time with her dog on the farm, kayaking, or visiting the nearby dirt track races. She and a fellow researcher intend to travel this summer to Australia to disseminate their research and further educate on the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.



## Anita Sayar

Anita is a freshman from Carmel, Indiana, majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Spanish. As a violin player for over 10 years, she is passionate about music and the brain and loves finding ways to incorporate the two. She currently works with mice in Dr. Alex Straiker’s Cannabinoid Physiology Lab, studying intraocular pressure in response to laboratory drugs. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, designing, playing violin, and spending time with family and friends.



## Therin Showalter

Therin is currently a senior completing his B.A. in Media Studies, with a specialization in Politics and Media, and minors in Playwriting and Creative Writing. In addition to academic work, he’s an avid filmmaker, writer, and columnist for the Indiana Daily Student, where he has also served as the desk editor of the Opinion pages. In the fall, he will pursue an MFA in Creative Writing (Nonfiction) at the University of Nevada. He enjoys reading, making music, and spending time with his fiancée and their cat and dog.



## Grace Taylor

Grace is a senior studying Nonprofit Management and Spanish. While at IU, she has participated in Best Buddies, Canvas Creative Arts Magazine, IU Dance Marathon and completed a semester overseas in Madrid, Spain. She has also been a teaching assistant in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs as well as a Student Manager at the IU Auditorium. Post-graduation, she will be moving to Portland, Oregon.



## Shelby Wasson

Shelby is a senior nursing school student at Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus. She has been inspired by the local substance abuse crisis to start raising awareness and advocating for the future generations to come. When not doing school work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter. After obtaining her Baccalaureate degree in Nursing, she plans to take the NCLEX and start her journey as a novice nurse. Shelby looks forward to having time to take hiking trips, leisure reading, and extending her family.



## Adam Wu

Adam is a senior at Indiana University Bloomington pursuing dual degrees in Economics and Mathematics. Born in California and raised in Singapore, Adam combines his global perspective with in-depth analysis to tackle key issues affecting the world. His research interests include the financial markets, economic policy, and environmental issues. In his free time, Adam enjoys travelling and meeting people with different backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints.