

# Author Biographies

## Gabrielle Gibson

Gabrielle Gibson is a senior at Florida Atlantic University where she is majoring in English and minoring in Leadership Studies. Gabrielle is one of five siblings and a twin from Jacksonville, Florida where she grew up swimming competitively and running Cross Country. In her time at FAU, Gabrielle has served as a Resident Assistant, an Elite Owl, Leadership and Service Ambassador, and is a member of Alpha Xi Delta. Gabrielle has also completed an internship with the Walt Disney World Company in Orlando, Florida as well as has presented her own leadership workshops at FAU's many leadership conferences. Through her involvement, Gabrielle hopes to take on Alpha Xi Delta's mission as her own, "inspiring women to realize their potential" through authentic storytelling. Through exploration of leadership and followership philosophies, Gabrielle works to create "brave spaces" in which her community can "rewrite the narrative" with the pen in their own hand.

## Borina Jean

Borina Jean is a native Floridian who has always found herself to be fascinated by our nation's criminal justice system. Since she was a child, she has been enamored with the idea of one day being able to give back to the community that raised her. She believes working within the criminal justice system to promote equality, justice, rehabilitation, reform, and policies that benefit the greater good of society is one of the ways she can help the only place she has ever called home. Thus, for this reason, her research on drug courts is significant because it sheds light on how various coordinators of the program are essential for the promotion of substance-free lifestyle, which in turn encourages the well-being of communities everywhere.

## Haley Katz

Haley Katz is a recent graduate of FAU and is in the process of applying to medical school this year. Her plan is to pursue a MD/PhD program where she can continue to work in the field of immunology. She joined Dr. Nouri-Shirazi's lab due to her interest in immunology and studied the behavior of T cells towards allo- and xenografts for over two years. She has gained much from Dr. Nouri-Shirazi's mentorship in terms of knowledge, guidance and confidence which has culminated in: 2 posters, 3 presentations at both the regional and national levels, 3 grants and the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Award for the College of Medicine in 2018.

## Alexandra Lopez-Nadal

Alexandra Lopez-Nadal is a recent graduate of Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University. Her thesis ("Greatest National Treasure: Elizabeth Bishop's Influence on James Merrill") studies the influential friendship and work between the 20th century poets. As a student, Alexandra served as the sole writing consultant on campus for two years while running the school's literary and arts magazine as Editor-in-Chief for three. She has an interest in the digital humanities which she has professionally endeavored through mobile app and website development. Her skill and range of experience reflects a passion for the arts; she has written on fashion trends for Claire's and most recently did work for the Key West Literary Seminar. She is now freelance writing as a copywriter in Prague. She can be reached at alexmlopezn@icloud.com.

## Daniel Packer

Daniel Packer graduated cum laude from Florida Atlantic University in May of 2019 with a BA in Linguistics with a concentration in English. He also earned a minor in philosophy and a certificate in English as a Second Language (ESL). In addition to his academic accolades, he is a published children's literature author, and has a young adult novel in-progress. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

### Geoffrey Stephen

Geoffrey Stephen is a biology major currently enrolled in the Bachelors of Science Program offered at FAU. Although a biology major, he was keenly interested in the opinion of individuals in highly controversial topics. This lead him to join the Business and Polling Initiative program offered at FAU, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Monica Escaleras and Professor Eric Levy. Geoffrey then worked with his partner, Tariq James, to establish a research study to find how political affiliation impacted an individual's view of the NFL Protest. Together, Geoffrey and Tariq presented their research at the prestigious Florida Undergraduate Research Conference and the National Conference of Undergraduate Research.

### Tully Turk

Tully Turk is a Spring 2019 graduate of Florida Atlantic University. He graduated cum laude with his Bachelor's Degree in English Literature, having completed the Honors Literature Program. He specializes in American, postmodern, and post-colonial literature and theory. He is currently applying to graduate programs.

### Lisa Victor

Lisa Victor is a recent graduate of Florida Atlantic University where she earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology. She has been a member of Dr. Nouri-Shirazi's lab for the past two years and has presented her work on the direct and indirection xenorecognition of T cells at three research symposia nationwide including the Autumn Immunology Conference (awarded 2nd place for Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation), National Collegiate Undergraduate Research, and the FAU Undergraduate Research Symposium. Lisa was also awarded the Undergraduate Research of the Year Award in 2019. She intends to pursue a graduate degree at FAU.

### Ellie Vilakazi

Ellie Vilakazi was born and raised in South Africa and has been in the United States for three years. In her spare time, she is usually out photographing all that Florida has to offer. She is currently completing her last year at FAU.