



Meet The First Years: Introducing Franklin & Marshall's Class of 2020

Meet Audrey Lee, passionate writer from Devon, Pennsylvania

BY AUDREY LEE
Class of 2021

When I'm writing about myself (see: college essays, all of my poetry) I become suddenly self-conscious about introductions. I can introduce myself as, "Hello, I am Audrey Lee and I am from Devon, Pennsylvania and am an incoming first-year." That works, right?

Franklin & Marshall always stood out to me, even from the first time I stepped on campus, which happened to be over spring break. There were no admissions tours so I visited the dog park and declared I had to return at some point to look at the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House and campus facilities and learn more about the college. After several more visits and an interview, I applied as an Early Decision I applicant and was enthralled upon acceptance. But why Franklin & Marshall? I am a writer, and plan on majoring in English with a concentration in creative writing over the course of my four years. I have been published by the likes of Teen Vogue, Rookie Magazine, and various literary magazines, and have a chapbook coming out in 2018 with Red Paint Hill Publishing, titled "Unknown Futures."

I found Franklin & Marshall to be



Photo courtesy of Audrey Lee

particularly supportive of the writing community, especially with the presence of the Writers House and the Emerging Writers' Festival. I look forward to getting involved with the Writers House and creative writing program at Franklin & Marshall, as well as with the radio station, mental health activism, feminist and women's empowerment groups, and out-

doors programs across campus.

My goal for my first year at Franklin & Marshall is to be engaged at school. Whether it means joining clubs, volunteering, running a show on WFNM, getting into Greek life, or taking up a sport, I am excited to connect with my peers and the city of Lancaster as a whole. I update on my writing and chapbook publi-

cation process at audreymorganlee.weebly.com, and especially love to connect over reading and writing.

This is the longform paragraph version of my introduction (it works, right?). I have so many hopes and expectations for my first year at Franklin & Marshall, and I completely plan to fulfill them here in Lancaster.

Meet Rasheed Adewole, enthusiastic learner from Nigeria

BY RASHEED ADEWOLE
Class of 2021

Bonjour! My name is Rasheed Adewole and I am excited to be a part of the great class of 2021. I was born in Nigeria and lived there for 11 years. In 2001, when I was two, my parents immigrated to the United States to seek better opportunities for our family. Unfortunately, at that time, they could not bring me with them. As a result, my aunt raised me from the ages of two to eleven. In December 2009, my mother was able to bring me to the United States. My parents settled in Newark, New Jersey, and I have lived for almost seven years now. The opportunity to come to the United States has been quite rewarding; however, there have been some challenges. I have been picked on because of my accent, ridiculed because of my culture, and even robbed while walking from school alone. Despite the adversity, I have found friends who have

encouraged me, mentors who have broadened my horizons, and have developed in me a love of reading.

In my future, I envision using my voice to highlight the plight of communities around the country. I see myself running for office and working to improve my community in New Jersey. At F&M, I hope to engross myself in learning. I want to explore questions such as how we as a society create and maintain social classes? How should we as a nation rethink political representation while strengthening political discourse? I want to receive a strong foundational education at F&M in order to be a productive member of the Law Review at a law school. I want to analyze complex ideas and provide effective solutions at a non-profit organization or a consulting firm.

F&M's commitment to giving its students the academic and professional skills necessary is personified by its faculty. I'm excited to take the Polit-



Photo courtesy of Rasheed Adewole

ical Asylum Practicum with Dr. Susan Dicklitch to explore human rights issues. The course will allow me to work on a subject relevant to my field of interest and as new citizen of the United States, it is personally meaningful. At F&M, education is not just the dictations of professors to their students, but the emphasis of experiential learning to endow students with new perspective. This is the kind of education that I crave. I know that I will

be able to take full advantage of the F&M experience by getting involved in a wide array of student activities, especially in student government.

Favorite authors: James Baldwin, Colson Whitehead, Malcolm Gladwell, and Bryan Stevenson.

One of my goals in life is to become fluent in French and to live in Paris for a few years. Maybe one day, I could retrace the steps of James Baldwin in France.

Meet the First Years

Meet first-year Sierra Goldridge as she makes the transition to college life

BY SIERRA GOLDRIDGE
Class of 2021

I always have the hardest time talking about myself. I know, that's common, but, you see, it's not that I don't know what to say, it's just that in order to know me... you'll have to know that there's a lot to say. That may seem a little odd or off-putting to you, but the thing is, I just genuinely love EVERYTHING. I haven't exactly found a word in the English language that describes that yet. I've been given suggestions: that I'm a generalist or polymath, that I'm eclectic or dilettante.... Don't get me wrong, they're all close, but I just don't feel like these terms describe it well. I'm just Sierra!

I'm passionate about all there is to be passionate about. I love, enjoy, and am unapologetically enthusiastic about everything! I consist of about a million oppositions and contradictions. For example, my two favorite snacks? Funyuns and carrot sticks. My two favorite artists? Chance the Rapper and an Italian composer named Ludovico Einaudi.

I'm super outgoing and bubbly; I especially love being around others and meeting new people! Sometimes though, I can be introverted and just feel like curling up

with a good Jodi Picoult book or watching a documentary.

I find deadlifting just as soothing as vinyasa yoga.

I use my planner and bullet journal just about as much as I use air. I like having every little thing planned out. I also really love spontaneous excursions!

This one time, at 11pm to be exact, I decided to drive all the way to the Bay of Fundy (that's in Canada by the way) so I could spend the next day at the beach experiencing the "world's highest tides." I have to say, I loved it (surprise!) and it was totally worth the loss of sleep. (I don't think my boss enjoyed it as much as I did though...especially when I called to tell him I wouldn't be coming in that day because I "wasn't feeling well" with a phone number from out of the country.)

I think you get the point; I really do love everything! I feel that (this is about to get really cheesy, be prepared...) life is a celebration, and I want to enjoy all that it has to offer!

You've probably already assumed this, but I'm really, really, REALLY excited to be coming to F&M this fall. I'm looking forward to all of the new opportunities that F&M will afford me;

exploring campus and Lancaster, going hiking with EAA, playing in the pep band, and yoga with Bonnie Page. I'm ready to immerse myself fully in the experi-

ences of my freshman year. My only expectation? To end the year with a giant, bolded exclamation point!



Photo courtesy of Sierra Goldridge

Meet excited first-year Nina Kegelman from Wilmington, Delaware

BY NINA KEGELMAN
Class of 2021

I'm Nina Kegelman, and I can honestly say I don't have one normal photo of myself in my camera roll. Here is me sporting a black, furry hat from Russia, which I enjoyed wearing around the house in wintertime.

I'm from Wilmington, Delaware, and I have a cat back home named after Dobby the House Elf. I like to watch crime dramas, police procedurals, and comedies, listen to music and podcasts, play guitar, and engage in good cathartic rants in my journal. I've been described as empathetic and a good listener by my friends, a critical thinker by my teachers, as being influenced by a "Cool Dad Raising Daughter On Media That Will Put Her Entirely Out Of Touch With Her Generation" by The Onion, and a "weenie" by my older sister.

I attended private, Catholic, all-girls school since 4th grade. But don't let that fool you! I was in private, Catholic, co-ed school from kindergarten through 3rd. While I gained a lot from this experience, I'm looking forward to trying new things and meeting many different people in college.

After being roped in to the Newspaper club in my junior year, I quickly became invested in sharing my sil-

ly thoughts with the rest of the small community of roughly 200-students that attended my high school. I have a partiality towards Op-Eds and satire; some of my favorite pieces being "Pope Francis for President" (in which I compared the 2016 election candidates' proposals for hot-button issues with the stances of the Catholic church as phrased by Pope Francis), "SNL: More Important Now Than Ever," and "10 Things You Know if You Read 10 Things You Know Articles."

Another one of my interests in high school was making a fool out of my friends and myself in the "Academic Bowl" club competing against other high schools in our knowledge of trivia, basic geometry, and rusty memories of European history.

I was also in the Peer Counseling club, where I learned active listening skills and how to offer emotional support and resources to other students. This opportunity gave me the experience for one of my goals to become a certified counselor.

At F&M, I hope to continue pursuing my interests and use them productively to contribute to the betterment and well being of the college. I am not sure what I want to do yet, but I hope my experience here will bring together my desire to help peo-

ple, write good stuff, and become fluent in Spanish.

Thanks for reading! I can't wait to meet everyone!

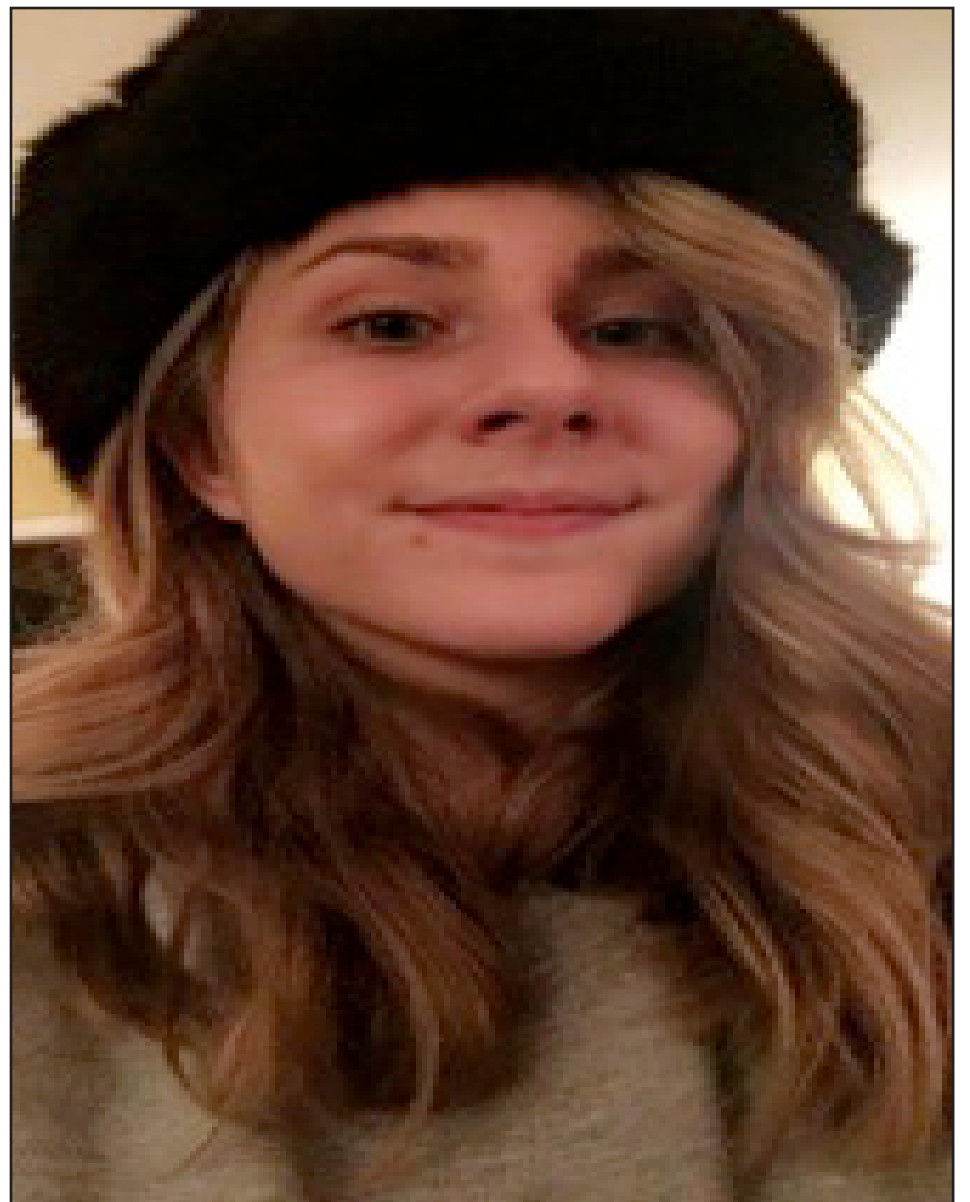


Photo courtesy of Nina Kegelman

Meet adventurous world-traveler, first-year Olivia Mautone

BY OLIVIA MAUTONE

Class of 2021

Hello everyone! My name is Olivia Mautone and I am from Amsterdam, New York. As a first-year student at F&M, I am looking forward to establishing new friendships, taking interesting and challenging classes, going on new adventures, and of course, going to The Bachelor/Bachelorette viewing parties with fellow avid fans. I am excited to live in Ware College House, participate in all of its traditions, and make it my home away from home. This past summer I attended KCON NY, worked as a counselor at the summer camp I have been involved in for 14 years, and visited family around Italy in cities like Modena, Palinuro, Tuscany, Pompeii, and Naples.

In addition to taking a well-rounded list of courses, I am currently interested in exploring math, science, and languages. I also have interest in fashion design and drawing. In terms of

extracurricular activities, I hope to be a member of an a cappella group, play badminton, and get involved with The College Reporter.

I have a passion for traveling and immersing myself in new cultures. One of the best adventures I've been on was to the Galápagos Islands and Ecuador where I had the opportunity to snorkel with turtles and sea lions, hike the Sierra Negra volcano, visit a market in Quito, see Darwin's famous finches, and mountain bike past lizard beaches and giant cacti. In addition to traveling, I like to stay active with activities like yoga, biking, hiking, and dancing. I enjoy cooking (and eating!) Korean food, baking, knitting hats, drinking chamomile tea, and playing the piano.

Although I am a bit anxious to get a feel for the rigor of the sciences and other courses, I am prepared to work diligently and am very excited to meet new people and become a part of the F&M community.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Mautone

Meet creative first-year Ethan Beller

BY ETHAN BELLER

Class of 2021

So I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to write for this project, that I am doing at 2:10 a.m. on August 10th. I've always been a voracious reader and interested writing so I knew I wanted to turn something in for the paper but I wanted to make sure I could write something interesting. I'm now at 61 words. What do we need again? 300-500. Ok, so... hobbies?

I'm a photographer and I've been doing a range of professional work for a few years. I began by taking amateur classes and from there I started working with my teacher in a professional capacity. I've done some wedding photography and some art photography as well as some music videos for friends. I'm looking forward to doing more

photography and such in Pennsylvania.

When I'm not shooting photos I usually am either listening to music or watching movies. I have a huge music library. I used to have a bunch of CDs but I got rid of most of them after digitizing my music.

I'm also very into music history and I think the process of how people listen and create is amazingly interesting. I can't wait to take classes in both Film and Music History at Franklin & Marshall.

Other than that, I must be honest I don't do much of the extraordinary. 235. Brevity is a strength. Oh that brought us to 245! My experience as a student at F&M will hopefully be a time of growth and learning and will help me to develop into a better man and a better person. Go Diplomats!



Photo courtesy of Ethan Beller

Meet musical first-year Madeline Hoy



Photo courtesy of Madeline Hoy

BY MADALINE HOY

Class of 2021

Hello F&M! My name is Madeline Hoy, though everyone calls me Mad-die, and I'm so excited to be coming in as a freshman this year!

I'm from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where I lived with my mother, step-father, pesky little brother, and two extremely high maintenance dogs. I am also the most uncoordinated person you'll ever meet in your entire life. I promise.

I attended Central Dauphin East High School, and the only thing I learned there was the art of procrastination and how to run up and down two flights of stairs in under four minutes.

I've been a musician for as long as I can remember. I play the piano, clarinet and sing with the choir. I've played a large role in our school's marching band and music honors society, and participated in the pit orchestra for all of our school's musical theatre productions. This year, I plan to get involved in the music ensembles so I can continue doing the thing I love so much.

One of my life's passions has always been animals, so when I heard about F&M's animal behavior major,

I jumped at the chance. I was fortunate enough to visit the vivarium two years ago with a camp I attended at my local zoo (Which was actually how I found out about this amazing school!). I hope to explore the different career options that path could lead me down, hopefully in a field working with and helping all sorts of creatures!

I am, however, a quite indecisive person, so I made sure F&M had available my second choice of major: English. I've always excelled at English in school, and I love reading and writing. Sometimes, I'd rather spend a day curled up in bed with a Stephen King or Harry Potter book than leave the house. In high school, I was fortunate to be able to start and lead our creative writing club. So, for now, I'm stuck between these two major options, but who knows where I'll be come sophomore year!

What I'm most looking forward to at F&M is a new experience. Making new friends, trying new things, and exploring new options and paths to walk down.

High school taught me so many things, and I can't wait to see what F&M will teach me, in and out of the classroom!

Meet the First Years

Meet Saisha Ramdour, incoming first-year from Mauritius

BY SAISHA RAMDOUR

Class of 2021

Hello! I'm Saisha. I come from a small, volcanic, tropical island from across the globe. Mauritius is described as a multi-cultural, multi-racial and a multi-linguist democracy. I, myself, am an Indo-Mauritian; I speak creole (our mother-tongue), French and English, and I'm into science, animals, food and badminton. Also, I'm a first-generation college student and the first in my extended family to be going to the States for studies - this might be unnecessary information, but it's a highlight for my dad.

It all started when I first read the word 'Congratulations!' accompanied by the confetti. It was 4 a.m. when the announcement was up and for six hours straight prior to it, I was staring at the ceiling in my room. F&M mattered so much to me; one, because it was among my top choices and two, because it represented that huge leap I needed from the monotony of mainstream university plans. Then, it happened.

Personally, there were different phases from getting the acceptance to the day of my departure at the airport. First, it's the exhilaration, followed by 'Hang on! it's not confirmed - as in *confirmed* - yet. Don't be too excited about it; anything can happen.'

Then there is the 'Ohh. I'm actually going. I'll be leaving home to a completely new place. It can be awesome, but it can also go terribly wrong....' Finally, it's the 'ONE WEEK TO GO! BRING IT ON Y'ALL!'

Yet, it is nearly palpable that I'm not the only one with blustery hormones. Lately, there has been a sudden personality change in my parents, and I'm totally enjoying most of it. Mom would no longer bicker about my messy room or me being in pajamas all day, and Dad serves me food when I'm not eating on time instead of just complaining about it. Some days, out of the blue, there is this pride in their eyes, and other days, there is longing in their gaze. But I swear, I don't remember receiving so much attention and affection in my nineteen years of life as I have in these past months.

By far, coming to F&M has been the most monumental milestone for me. Going to college in the States has been my dream since 2015 when I started considering it as an option after secondary school. Soon, this 'option' became my ultimate aim that pulled me out of the 'I have no idea what I'll do in life' crisis. Well, I still don't know what I'll do in life, but I'm happy right now. There's the feeling of at least being on a path instead of stuck on a cross-



Photo courtesy of Saisha Ramdour

road - the feeling of being on the *right* path. The only thing I'm expecting from F&M is the experience of novelty. If in a good way, *tant mieux*, but if in a challenging way, it will only make me grow, I hope.

Meet first-year Natalia Nevinchana, passionate about art, advertisements

BY NATALIA NEVINCHANA

Class of 2021

Have you ever wondered what happens when Facebook targets you a right advertisement? Magic! Because this is the way I got here. And you know what? After this situation I realized that procrastination on social networks can cost me 1,5 years of hard work and sleep deprivation. However, I want to tell you not about how hard my admission process was, but about how hard I love marketing, art, people and the world. So, I am Natalia from Ukraine and this is who I am. Did you know that...

I can spend hours watching TV advertisements? Yes, normal people usually skip them, but I just stare at them analyzing approaches, ideas and marketing methods.

The starry nights scare me a little bit, just because when you look into the universe, it looks back to you and makes feel a little bit miserable - who are you and who are the stars that fly to you from billions of light years?

I always dreamt of being a businessperson. When I was 4 or 5 years old, I managed to exchange the right to ride a slide (that belonged to community) on the right to ride a scooter (that belonged to a girl) and only recently realized that it wasn't an equal exchange.

I want to change the world and I love art. So, if the first question that I will ask you when we will meet for the first time will not be "What is your favorite color?" but "What do you think about art?", please, don't be surprised, I am just trying to figure out how exactly art changes the world (if you know, please, tell me)

Red Hot Chili Peppers are the best band in the world. For me. Forever.

After the the first story I told you in the beginning, I believe that the best wish for anybody would be "Let the right advertisements be with you!" And that is my wish for you, guys!

I am extremely happy to have an opportunity to meet each of you and to be at F&M.



Photo courtesy of Natalia Nevinchana

Meet Bonnie Page, first-year from Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

BY BONNIE PAGE

Class of 2021

Hi everyone! I'm Bonnie Page, and I come from Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

To give you a brief insight of my surroundings, good ole' D-F is 4 hours from Canada, has approximately 4,000 residents, and is about an hour drive away from the nearest Walmart—which translates to being your typical, middle-of-nowhere small town. However, I can't really say that I'm a "small town girl" since I've only lived here for half of my life. The other half was spent in suburban Florida since my parents were snow-birds, and we could travel back and forth because I was homeschooled until eighth grade. Yes, the transition from being home schooled for my entire life to attending public school was incredibly strange, but I'm grateful for the chance it gave me to understand my own identity.

Speaking of identity, I've developed a passion for social awareness and advocacy over the past 4 years, and now it's utterly impossible for me to picture my life without those crucial components. I'm an intersectional feminist, a lover of the environment, a travel junkie, and a virtuoso of perfectly-timed SpongeBob quotes (seriously, my mind is a constant loop of pre-2010 episodes and I used to be able to recite the transcripts).

As of now I plan on majoring in Environmental Science, but I've certainly considered exploring other scientific realms such as Neuroscience, Biology, or Chemistry—which of course means that I get to bombard myself with science and mathematics courses throughout college. I must say that mathematics has not been my fondest subject in the past, but I absolutely love research and scientific theory. I would love to contribute to any scientific field. With that being said about my love of science, I'd also like to add that I'm a big fan of writing

and journaling. I plan on writing both fiction and nonfiction books, continuing to develop my blog, and starting my own charity or nonprofit someday.

One of the many reasons that I decided to attend F&M was because I knew these goals could be attainable if I stayed focused and worked hard enough for them. I'm sure most of us can say that we were confident enough in our abilities to know that we'd succeed anywhere, but what set F&M apart for me was the support of great faculty and students that truly want to see each other

make positive, lasting impacts. Staying motivated is hard, but when you're in the presence of astonishing critical thinkers, determined researchers, and passionate advocates that inspire you, the goals that felt a million miles away in your close-minded, small-town high school don't seem that far out of reach.

Although I'm aware that many of my nights will be spent cramming until 3AM, I'm beyond ready to begin my life at Franklin and Marshall and to be involved in our endearing (and somewhat cheesy) F&Mily.



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Page

Meet Moises Hernandez, who is ready to take on all that F&M has to offer

BY MOISES HERNANDEZ

Class of 2021

Hello, my name is Moises Hernandez. I am a Peruvian resident of Lancaster City who is very interested in natural sciences and interested in understanding how the chemistry behind them works.

I love doing my own research, at times, but I think talking it out with others is what makes the efforts to understand things worthwhile; talking brings new ideas and different perspectives to the ideas I have.

I love hearing different perspectives; they help me to see how someone else's experience can give them a different perspective than my own and could help me consider new ways to effectively show and justify the work I have put into my research, and, most importantly, give me the chance to use new ideas to form a personal viewpoint instead of one I just picked up from my family or friends.

As a student that is more science oriented, I am excited to see what interesting concepts and ideas I'll learn while attending Franklin and Marshall. However, I also want to have a lot of fun outside the class-

room during these next four years.

I honestly can't wait to see what fun activities I can participate in and the cool people I will meet at these activities. I am mainly looking for activities that involve cooking, singing and acting, but I am tempted to try activities beyond my comfort zone.

I'm really excited to be going to college and I want to succeed both mentally and academically. Although it's important to learn everything you can about the world, I think it's equally important to take time for someone to learn about themselves and what they want to pursue in life (because honestly, is it REALLY a full life if someone never understood what they wanted from it!).

My friends would say I'm very ambitious towards doing things right (and they are right); I want to be able to say, "I got this degree because I got to know myself and I understood what I needed to succeed in my future."

I hope you take some time to relax and learn from yourself this year, and if you have any thoughts or just want to talk, feel free to talk to me anytime (my email is ismhernan1@fandm.edu).



Photo courtesy of Moises Hernandez

Meet the First Years

Meet Elena Robustelli, who is excited to begin her latest adventure at F&M

BY ELENA ROBUSTELLI
Class of 2020

Elena Robustelli is the nice Jewish girl your parents warned you about. Her name is pronounced the same way as the chick from the Vampire Diaries, apparently. Elena thinks the elusive “First-year First Impression” is daunting and inherently loaded with arbitrary judgement, so she recommends talking to her in person rather than deciding by skimming her subpar autobiography.

Her likes include mosh pits, acappella, the Oxford comma, rom-coms, slam poetry, tolerable showtunes, black coffee, long walks on beaches, Matt Damon, investigative journalism, Seinfeld, warm hugs, Thai food, feminist prose, angry girl music of the indie rock persuasion, and probably you. Her dislikes include Gogurt, alternative facts, the RNC, the DNC, bro country, Snapchat, Toby Flenderson, the social construct of the manic pixie dream girl, autotune besides Kanye and Bon Iver, and writing about herself in the third person.

Academically, Elena believes in learning the rules so she can break them which is her main

reason for going to college. She applied undecided to F&M, but she’ll likely major in either Political Science or BOS (and of course, putting that in writing means she’ll eventually declare a major in something completely unrelated to both the former and the latter). She wants to declare a Music minor, but as of now, she’d rather die than take another theory class, so we’ll see.

Elena worked this summer as the intern for an emerging music festival as well as the songwriting Teacher’s Assistant at a creative and performing arts camp in NYC. The first song she ever wrote was about the Jonas Brothers at the tender age of 8.

At F&M, Elena hopes to continue her passion for the music business by helping to curate the college festivals, and maybe starting a band--her main instrument is the keyboard, so if you play guitar, bass, and/or drums, hit her up.

You can find Elena in the Brooks College House, at the cafeteria, and on most social media platforms if you stalk hard enough. In closing, she’s just happy to be here.



Photo courtesy of Elena Robustelli

Meet Kassidy Wynne, first-year who is ready to make her mark at F&M

BY KASSIDY WYNNE
Class of 2021

Hey everyone! My name is Kassidy Wynne and I am a first year from Norwalk, Connecticut. I am the first person in my family to go to college and I am so excited to explore the many experiences that Franklin & Marshall can offer me. As of right now, I am interested in majoring in government, but I am also interested in environmental science.

The second time I visited campus was when I decided that it was the school for me. I loved how the staff and students recognized me by name and remembered our conversations from my visit many months before. It really showed me how tightly knit the Franklin & Marshall community truly is. More importantly, it showed how much those at F&M actually cared about one another. Coming from a large high school, the recognition was something that I would not normally get, and I instantly fell in love the idea of being able to know as many people on campus that I possibly could.

In high school, I formed a community-wide sexual assault prevention and education week. Some of the adults at my high school thought that it was ‘too innapropriate’ of a topic to talk about publicly (as if

sexual violence/harassment does not occur in high school) and fought me hard on it. Despite their efforts to prevent it, I utilized community resources to help students and staff at my high school receive free resources to help them with their past traumatic experiences, as well as educated my school on a topic that would have normally been avoided. I would love to join a club on campus that would allow me to continue my efforts to educate others and help to prevent cases of sexual assault.

At Franklin & Marshall, I hope to make lasting friendships. I am always down for a dinner date, a coffee run, or a random adventure. I love trying new foods, learning new slang words, and, of course, talking about my favorite show, The Office. I am obsessed with Young the Giant and Chance the Rapper and I am always looking for people who love them as much as I do. I also enjoy giving back to the community in any way that I can and hope to be very involved in my years at Franklin & Marshall.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing your stories. I am excited to bring my determination and hopefulness to campus as I make my mark as a member of the class of 2021.



Photo courtesy of Kassidy Wynne