

Biographical Sketches of the 2010 *Agora* Writers

Ben Calvert is currently a freshman at Lynchburg College. He is an economics major, interested in public policy. His other recent writing endeavors include writing and editing for his blog, The College Scope. Ben enjoys exploring the outdoors and adventuring in and around his hometown of Easton, Connecticut.

Tess Evans is a sophomore at Lynchburg College, majoring in History with a minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. She works as a tutor in the Wilmer Writing Center and is a member of Phi Alpha Theta. She loves all animals and takes care of a wide variety at home, and she enjoys spending time with her family in Charlottesville.

Caitlin Flathers graduated from Lynchburg College in 2009 with a B.A. in English. At Lynchburg College, Caitlin was the recipient of the 2009 Laura Jeter Parker award for English, and she also served as an Assistant Hall Director, Wilmer Writing Center tutor, and Captain of the Equestrian Team. Caitlin now resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she trains at the Olympic Training Center and hopes to represent the United States in the 2012 Olympic Games in the sport of Modern Pentathlon.

Julia Kittel, who comes from Elliott City, Maryland, is currently a sophomore at Lynchburg College and is undertaking a double major in English literature and music performance. Julia currently studies horn under Ms. Catherine Creasy and piano under Dr. Cynthia B. Ramsey. A member of the Westover Honors program at Lynchburg College, Julia is currently conducting research on Impressionism in music and art to be presented at the 2010 Student Scholar Showcase. She serves as horn section leader in the Lynchburg College Wind Symphony. During the winter 2009, Julia studied classical literature in Rome, Italy, in order to earn credit toward her English major.

Jill Markwood, a graphic design major, will graduate from Lynchburg College in May 2011. Originally a graduate of the Commercial Art Program at Central Virginia Community College (CVCC), Jill decided to complete her Bachelor of Arts at Lynchburg College, after having worked for a number of years in the world of photography and advertising. Jill is employed as the college photographer at CVCC and also works as an instructional assistant to the Communication Design Program. She serves on various CVCC committees, including marketing, website development, and international and cultural events committees. In addition, she teaches photography classes at the Lynchburg Academy of Fine Arts. She is a talented free-lance photographer and has had several one-woman gallery shows of her photographs. Jill is a founder and member of the Blue Ridge Photographic Arts Society and a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

Laura Marino Rugeles graduated from Vancouver Island University with a B.A. degree and a major in philosophy in January, 2010. She plans to pursue graduate studies in philosophy. She is interested in the areas of ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy. Her current research projects focus on the challenge of skepticism and justification of religious belief. When she is not working on these projects, Laura is biking, walking her dogs, or teaching Spanish on Gabriola Island BC, Canada, where she lives.

Taelor Skinner is a junior at Lynchburg College, majoring in English (Creative Writing) and minoring in French and biology. She is the co-editor of the College's student literary magazine--*The Prism*--for the 2009-2010 academic year, the chairperson of the Poetry Club, and a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honorary Society. After graduation, Taelor hopes to join the Peace Corps, teach English in France, and obtain an M.F.A. in poetry. Her long-term plans are to work either in editing or with a non-profit organization.

Allie Sypher, originally from Reston, Virginia, is a senior at Lynchburg College, majoring in psychology with an English writing minor. She plans to attend graduate school in fall 2010 and eventually to complete a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. Allie enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with family and friends.

Tim Willis graduated from Lynchburg College in January 2010 with a B.S. in Computer Science. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and a four-year participant in the ACM Programming Competition. Tim intends to spend several years in software development before going back to school for an M.B.A.