

Sample biographical abstracts (100 word maximum)

Because the Watson Fellowship emphasizes the “person” first and project second, we ask you to supply a short biographical summary that we can use in our materials and publications. Within the 100-word limit, feel free to mention your accomplishments while also demonstrating how your project might be rooted in your past and/or present life. Indeed, because Watson projects often grow organically out of who you are and what you’ve done, it is especially nice for the biography to reflect such connections. We reserve the right to edit your abstract for size, content, and style.

Carina Baskett (“Exploring and Sharing Nature and Culture through Bilingual Podcasting”)

Goldwater Scholar, Mellon/Mays Fellow, and National Merit Finalist, Carina is known as the “Tree Queen” for her development of an extensive campus tree map and labeling system. A major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, she has published a peer-reviewed paper on pollination and invasive species in the *Annals of Botany*. She is also active in campus radio, serving as News Director for KTRU and teaching a course on radio journalism. She has also interned at Houston Public Radio, KUHF.

Emily Beeson (“The Mennonite Experience with Cultural Identity and Adaptation”)

Granddaughter of Amish-Mennonites, Emily was raised in Manhattan but spent her childhood summers on the Lancaster, PA family farm. Emily is an International and Global Studies major. At the University of the South, where she is an ESL tutor, she co-founded the lacrosse team in her first year and shepherded it to become a full varsity sport. She received a fellowship from the Biehl International Research Fund to volunteer at the Monteverde Butterfly Garden in Monteverde, Costa Rica, an opportunity she developed, not through a professor or an NGO, but through “the Quaker lady” who monitors the college’s front gate.

Laura Candler (“Land in Light of Clouds”)

Licensed pilot, time-lapse photographer, Cloud Appreciation Society member, Laura is an Environmental Studies and French double major at the University of the South. She is captain of the cross-country team, co-chair of Environmental Residents, and

volunteer for the South Cumberland Community Association and Sewanee Organic Garden. She was grand prizewinner in the “Nature in Focus Domain” photography contest (and third place in the “best landscape photo” category).

Sulochana Dissanayake (“The Development of Contemporary Theatre Companies in S. Africa and Indonesia”)

Sulo is an active theatre director, leading the Robinson Players, the student-run theatre group on campus, and directing four productions for the Bates College and Williamstown Theater Festival. She interned at the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis) and received the Harvard Center Community Based Research Fellowship Award for research on the children of prisoners in Sri Lanka. She dreams of founding a contemporary theatre company in Sri Lanka some day.

Edward Falk (“Keeping the Faith: Endangered Religious Communities in the Arab World”)

With Jewish/Catholic parents, Ed first learned Arabic working with refugees in St. Louis, then traveled to Syria to perfect his skills. As an Eagle Scout and National Merit Finalist, he attended Carleton College, where he majors in History. He is a member of the field hockey team, the jazz band, and History Department Curriculum Committee. His goals are to become a scholar/historian/statesman of the Middle East region.

Max Goldstein (“Swimming Around the World: Creating Bridges Between Communities”)

Max has worked for several years as an ocean lifeguard for the Los Angeles Fire Department and was chosen “Lifeguard of the Year” in 2007. He is a United States Lifeguard Association Jr. Champion, a lifeguard instructor for LA Summer Youth Programs, and a certified EMT. At Bowdoin College, where he majors in Biology and Romance Languages, he is a varsity swimmer and triathlete. He founded the campus Food Co-op, an annual Solarfest (solar powered music and arts festival), and the Capoeira Club.

Nathan Hall (“Inspiring Vision for a New World: Rural Economies as Sustainable Pioneers”)

Founder/Owner of East Kentucky Biodiesel LLC and former “grunt” (underground miner), Nathan majors in Sustainable Agricultural & Industrial Management. He’s been a bicycle courier, anti-mountaintop-removal activist, and member of the “Highroads Strategy Team” (a statewide coalfield economic development group).

He's a graduate of the Entrepreneurship for the Public Good Program and recipient of a state grant to develop a mobile/modular biodiesel-from-waste grease production system. At Berea College, he founded "Berea Bikes" and "Berea Biodiesel," which supplies biodiesel to service vehicles on campus. He's also an old-time mountain musician (fiddle and guitar). The Watson is Nathan's first adventure outside the USA.

James Morton ("Large Format Cargo: Photographing the Shipping Industry")

With a merchant-marine grandfather and art-historian mother, James is a large-format camera photographer with an eye for ships. At Union College, where he majors in History and Environmental Science, he is captain of the sailing team. He received Student International Initiatives funding to pursue special photographic work during his study-abroad semester in England. In the summers he works as head sailing instructor at Orient Yacht Club in Orient, NY.

Anthony Siracusa ("People Using Pedal Power: Global Bicycling Communities")

Anthony founded a community bike shop, "Revolutions," in the basement of an area church, while completing his GED. He writes a monthly column about bicycles entitled "LifeCycles" for the "Memphis Commercial Appeal" daily paper and serves on the Memphis Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). He is a Bonner Scholar at Rhodes College, where he majors in History. As a "Summer of Service Fellow," he designed and facilitated a civil rights immersion experience for groups of youth from around the country. Except for a one-week European tour with his punk-rock band, the Watson will be his first experience out of the USA.

Anoush Suni ("The Language of the Oud: Cross-Cultural Connections Through Music")

Violinist, guitarist, oudist (daughter of a piano teacher and great-granddaughter of an ethnomusicologist), Anoush studied for a semester at the American University in Cairo, where she was a member of the rowing club and the Arab Music Ensemble. At Pomona, she participates in the Model Arab League, the Middle Eastern Student's Association, and plays on the women's rugby team. With a Summer Undergraduate Research Award, she worked for the IMPACT Institute for Women's Development in Sana'a, Yemen.