



STUDENT FEATURE: IRELAND LARSEN

Sophomore Ireland Larsen was drawn to the interdisciplinary nature of the LPS program, knowing she "didn't want an education strictly in the law or in politics." "LPS provided the intersection of all of my interests," she says. After graduating from the LPS program, Larsen hopes to attend law school in the Fall of 2021. After law school, she plans to use her degree to "work in public service and bring to light the injustices society faces." Her favorite memories from the LPS department include learning about the "perspectives and passions" of her peers. "Our program is full of students who truly see each other and want to grow together," she says.

Larsen also acknowledges how LPS has transformed her worldview: In the second week of her Drugs, Law, and Society class, Larson recalls explaining to her friend why she thought drugs should be legal. Then, she "remembered that just a week prior I thought that argument was nonsense." "It's incredible the ways in which you can open your eyes to issues when you thought you knew the full picture already."

Larsen has also taken her time on campus to get involved with student organizations and the 2019-2020 caucus season. She currently serves as president of Delta Theta Phi Pre-Law Fraternity, and she initiated Bulldogs for Booker, the campus movement for presidential candidate Sen. Cory Booker.

LPS STUDENTS SWEEP ELECTIONS FOR STUDENT SENATE, PRESIDENT

In the past month, five LPS students were elected to student body positions for the 2020-2021 school-year. Michael Bell, Kody Craddick, and Meghan Kier were elected as At-Large Senators, Mady Nachtman was elected as Arts and Sciences Senator, and Adam Koch was elected as Student Body President. These newly-elected representatives remarked on how their LPS degree has trained them for leadership.

Bell says that LPS has taught him that governing bodies are often "distant in function" from constituents, making them "misunderstood" by the general public. For this reason, he hopes to "rekindle understanding" between student senate and the general student body. Craddick has learned about "the inner-workings of multiple issues" through his LPS classes. He hopes to use that knowledge to "better tackle difficult problems throughout campus." Kier says discussions from her LPS classes have informed her about issues affecting distant and local communities. She hopes "to have similar conversations that will lead to advancement within Drake's community."

As the newly-elected Arts and Sciences Senator, Nachtman hopes to promote "collaboration between the [Arts and Sciences] departments." The LPS program's emphasis on experiential learning shaped her platform, she says, leading her to focus on strengthening professional development opportunities on campus. Her LPS degree also inspired her candidacy: "If I have learned anything from LPS, it is that being involved in the political process is so important, which is why I decided to run for a senate position in the first place."

In his tenure as Student Body President, Koch aims to improve "environmental sustainability; health, safety, and well being; civic engagement and advocacy; and equity, inclusion, and accessibility." He plans to "structure and implement my goals with the interdisciplinary background of LPS."



LPS Sophomore Ireland Larsen with Former Presidential Candidate, Sen. Cory Booker

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **LPS Engagement Questionnaire:** Be on the lookout for a survey with many opportunities to get involved with the LPS department!
- **Student Paper of the Year:** Congrats to students Abbie Luetke and Avery Malinski for winning the departmental awards for best paper written in a lower division class, and best paper written in an upper division class, respectively.
- **Senior Feature:** A special edition of this publication will feature our seniors before the end of Spring Semester, so keep your eyes peeled!



Student Body President Adam Koch