

Ashton Merbach

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University | Evanston, IL

Anticipated June 2023

Bachelor of Arts in *Environmental Science* with a Minor in *Psychology* and Certificate in *Sustainability and Energy (ISEN)*

Cumulative GPA: **3.828/4.00** | SAT: 1550/1600

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Northwestern Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) | Evanston, IL

April 2022 — Present

Undergraduate Clerical Aide

- Serve as the undergraduate student liaison for the FSL Office and maintain office operations and organization
- Audit chapter rosters and attendance records across all 4 Greek Councils at Northwestern (NPHC, MGC, IFC, and PHA)
- Communicate with Council and Chapter leadership on behalf of the FSL Office

Northwestern Arch Scholars Bridge Program | Evanston, IL

August-Sept. 2021; August-Sept. 2022

Head Undergraduate Teaching Fellow (specializing in Economics)

- Served as Head Undergraduate Teaching Fellow (UTF) for a 5-week, pre-college program geared toward facilitating community and adjustment to college for 60 First-Generation, Low-Income students
- Led a team of 10 UTFs, each specializing in different academic disciplines, to coordinate weekly UTF Office Hours, Social Events, and Informational Workshops explaining how to navigate Northwestern's resources
- Supervised all program events and served as Head Resident Advisor for all 60 students and 10 UTFs living in the dorm
- Assisted Professor Scott Ogawa as a co-TA in an Introductory Economics course of 16 students by grading all assignments and exams, leading office hours, and facilitating in-class demonstrations

Chicago Botanic Garden | Glencoe, IL

June-Sept. 2020; June-August 2022

Research Assistant in the Barak Lab

- Cultivated a tool consolidating 5 existing seed and seedling field identification guides spanning 218 species for convenient use in fieldwork and as a basis to identify gaps in knowledge to plan for future Garden research
- Distributed this work to adjacent Garden labs and current graduate students at the Garden to aid in field identification research and published the project in the SER Midwest Great Lakes Restoration blog
- Assisted graduate student, Rory Schiafo (rschiafo@u.northwestern.edu), in weekly fieldwork and lab processing on a PhD dissertation project looking at the functional traits of plant species in restored oak woodlands to investigate how plant communities assemble and change along land-use history and management gradients

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Kappa Delta Sorority | Evanston, IL

December 2020 — Present

Vice President - Learning and Development

- Coordinated and facilitated the National New Member Program for 80+ New Members to educate them on the values of Kappa Delta Sorority and the ways that KD can support them during their time as a collegiate member and beyond
- Oversaw a board of 12 SET Leaders, training them to advise new members in their transition to college and Kappa Delta, and worked as a team to create an engaging, safe, and exciting experience for all new members
- Worked closely with the other 7 members of Council to maintain chapter operations and organization between positions

Significant Others A Cappella | Evanston, IL

June 2020 — Present

President (2022)

- Oversee all operations of the group, including concert bookings, sound equipment, marketing, travel, rehearsal schedules, auditions, and management of the executive team

Social Media Manager (2020-2021)

- Managed and maintained the social media presence of "SigO" (the only all-female a cappella group at Northwestern) on both Instagram and Facebook and increased our social media following by 94.7% over the past year

NU Bioscientist Program | Evanston, IL

Sept. 2020 — Sept. 2022

Second-Year Mentor

- Mentored 4 first-year undergraduate students in finding lab research opportunities and securing funding for the project of their choice through the Northwestern Undergraduate Research Grant (URG)
- Facilitated weekly meetings to discuss research topics, URG writing strategies, and address general NU student concerns

ADDITIONAL

Computer: Proficient in Microsoft Office, Excel, MuseScore & Arc Map | Working knowledge in PDF, Canva & NoteFlight

Interests: A Cappella Music | Climate Action and Sustainability | Kappa Delta Sorority | Shark Week