

## Browning's Academic Journey Comes Full Circle

Born in Texas, Evelyn Browning's family moved to Hampshire, England when she was two years old. She returned to the U.S. at the age of 12 and is now a senior at UW–Madison in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Browning will return to the UK this fall to attend the PhD in Biological Science program at the Wellcome Sanger Institute outside Cambridge. She was one of 43 Americans to receive the prestigious Marshall Scholarship which seeks to strengthen relationships between the United Kingdom and the United States through academic exchange and collaboration.

In addition to the Marshall Scholarship, Browning received a \$1,000 Pioneer Award from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society, and the William F. Vilas Scholarship. Browning is a former WALSAA Outstanding Sophomore Award scholarship winner and serves as a member of WALSAA's Marketing and Alumni Engagement committee.

A double major in genetics and genomics and data science, Browning made the most of her time at UW–Madison, both inside and outside the classroom. She began working in genetics laboratories during her freshman year. She co-authored a study published in *BioTechniques* with emeritus professor of genetics and chemistry David C. Schwartz and members of his lab. She now conducts research in the lab of Professor Steven Schrodi, investigating the epigenetics of familial epilepsy, the basis of her honors thesis. Her research has been supported by a Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowship, UW–Madison's most prestigious fellowship for undergraduate scientists. Her ambition is to uncover the underlying genetic risk factors for rare neurodevelopmental disorders and harness them for better diagnoses and treatments.

As academic chair of the Undergraduate Genetics Association, Browning helped fellow students identify research and scholarship opportunities. She also served as the former president of the university's Shorin-Ryu Karate Club and as a sport club student lead for University Recreation and Wellbeing, overseeing six student-run sport clubs. She enjoys sharing her love of martial arts as a volunteer at a local YMCA's Okinawan Karate class and can be found most Fridays participating in on-campus swing dances.

In 2025, she worked on an independent project aimed at detecting new cancer biomarkers at Exact Sciences, a Madison-based company specializing in earlier cancer detection and treatment. Browning graduates in May with a Bachelor of Science completing the Honors in Research program and the Biology Core Curriculum Honors Certificate.

Heather Mialik, CALS Honors Program Manager, said, "Evelyn exudes dedication and passion for her pursuits. She is hard-working, inquisitive, and a true difference-maker. Her resourcefulness as an undergraduate student – sleuthing for what is available in terms of funding, research opportunities, program participation – is inspiring. She has been an exemplary member of the CALS Honors Program challenging and supporting her peers simultaneously."

"Students like Evelyn redefine what's possible," said Jane Hillstrom, WALSAA President. "We can't wait to see the impact she'll make as her star continues to rise."



*Evelyn Browning*



### IN MEMORIAM

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Max Prange, FISC '10

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