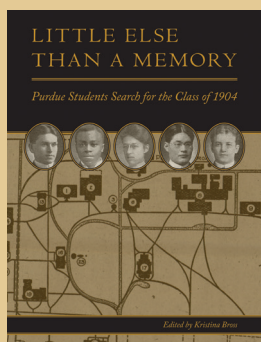




# OUT OF THE BOX: HONORS COLLEGE IN ACTION

*Little Else Than a Memory* is the first volume published by Purdue University's new Honors College, and it is the product of a collaboration among the students and faculty from two Honors College courses, one in scholarly writing and the other in scholarly publishing. The book contains ten essays by undergraduate students of today about their forebears in the class of 1904. Not only are the biographical essays written by students, but the editing, typesetting, and design of this book were also the work of Purdue freshmen and sophomores.



In the fall of 2013, the Purdue Honors College presented twenty-two of its undergraduate students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Higher academia has long celebrated the institution of scholastic publishing, which allows researchers and authors to disseminate their studies, findings, and perspectives to

inquiry and archival exploration. In addition to perusing topical literature, the students' survey of the past graduates included intensive examination of antique issues of the *Exponent*—the student newspaper—and comprehensive study of the 1904 yearbook—the *Debris*. The University's archivists, including Sammie Morris and Neal Harmeyer, guided students through the Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections, which revealed scrapbooks and photographs that gave unique insight on campus culture and student backgrounds.

the greater public. Such scholarly publications are often restricted to graduate and postgraduate researchers, with few undergraduate projects reaching book form. However, two courses within the Honors College united to create and publish a volume of undergraduate essays written by current students about their predecessors, the Purdue class of 1904.

The course culminated in a demanding final project, the biographical analysis of a member of the class of 1904, which launched the writing class on an extensive journey through archives and records to uncover the lives of long-dead Boilermakers. Various academics and

Professor Kristina Bross, director of the College of Liberal Arts Honors Program, developed an honors course intended to introduce undergraduate students to intellectual research and academic authorship. The class, designated Interdisciplinary Approaches to Writing, established the class of 1904 as a base for a variety of different research projects throughout the semester, which bridged the gap between electronic

**Above.** The Honors College Publishing Bootcamp class had the opportunity to visit BookMasters, where *Little Else Than a Memory* was printed. They are pictured standing in front of the press that printed the book. Left to right: Paige Pope, Kelsey Schnieders, Tim Bolton, Kasey Kaisershot, Brooke Halteman, Abigail Johnson, Director of Purdue University Press and Head of Scholarly Publishing Services Charles Watkinson, Bookmasters's President of Manufacturing Services Brad Sharp, and Associate Professor Catherine Fraser Riehle.

researchers, all learned in biographic writing, spoke to the students about appropriate processes, inspiration, and style, and the class embarked on an investigation into their subjects' personal histories. Some of the earliest female and African American pupils were researched, along with international students, farm kids, and inter-city teens. Each writing student uncovered a diverse range of information, noting exploits, successes, and upsets of Purdue students over a century ago, and every author employed unique stylistic and thematic approaches within the resulting biographical essays.

Meanwhile, Charles Watkinson, director of Purdue University Press and head of Scholarly Publishing Services, and Catherine Fraser Riehle, an associate professor of library science, had been preparing to offer an honors class in the spring of 2014 entitled Publishing Bootcamp. This class would allow students to explore the scholastic publishing industry and the process of acquiring, editing, producing, and ultimately publishing various types of scholarly works—in journal as well as in book form. Watkinson and Riehle approached Bross midway through the fall semester with an idea for a potential partnership between their two classes.

“As we talked,” Bross states in the preface to the now-published book, *Little Else Than a Memory*, “we realized that a partnership between the two classes would be an excellent fit and would support Purdue’s larger goals of supporting undergraduate research across the University.”

In the spring semester, the six students of Publishing Bootcamp experienced firsthand both the ups and downs of following a project from its beginning stages—the trials of working with preoccupied authors to maintain the integrity of their initial essays—to the satisfaction of holding the printed-and-bound book in their hands. Beginning with preliminary edits, the students were each assigned a chapter written by a student author in Bross’s class. Referencing the *Chicago Manual of Style*, they independently edited the texts. Once the editing stage was complete, the students worked extensively in Adobe InDesign to lay out the finalized text drafts and deliver them to the printer. Managing Editor Katherine Purple, Production Editor Kelley Kimm, and Editorial Assistant Jennifer Lynch from Purdue University Press provided initial training in copyediting and offered constant support throughout the editing and layout process.

In April, the publishing students were given the chance to visit BookMasters, located in Ashland, Ohio, where *Little Else Than a Memory* was printed. Upon arrival, they were each presented with a copy of the completed book, and after a tour of the production warehouse the class was

tasked with delivering a few dozen of the books to the student authors and supporters.

As they watched their book grow from initial research to final hard copies, the writing and publishing students gained valuable perspective on the process of scholastic investigation, biographical analysis, and publishing methodology.

*Little Else Than a Memory* is now available for purchase at [www.press.purdue.edu](http://www.press.purdue.edu).

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## Student Authors

**Eden Holmes** is a freshman studying history and law and society. As a member of the Honors College, she participated in the Interdisciplinary Approaches to Writing course, and her biographical essay about Howard Ernest Satterfield was published in *Little Else Than a Memory*. Holmes intends to pursue a law degree following her graduation.



**Abigail Johnson** is a freshman in exploratory studies. She plans to declare a major in English and earn her teaching license. Eventually, she aspires to earn more than a few graduate degrees. Johnson’s love for writing and editing was piqued by the idea of a Publishing Bootcamp, and the experiences she accrued producing *Little Else Than a Memory* will prove useful as she pursues publication for a novel of her own.

