

# Luke Grant Fountain

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## EDUCATION

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**Washington and Lee University (W&L)** | Intended Journalism and Economics Double Major | Class of 2025 | Lexington, Va.

- Johnson Scholar (merit scholarship covering full tuition, room and board, and summer enrichment funds) | 3.93 GPA
- Relevant Courses: Introduction to News Writing, Introduction to Mass Communications, Introduction to Digital Journalism, Information Sources, Covering Courts and the Law, Democracy and Its Critics, State and Local Government
- Other Clubs and Activities: Career Fellow, First-Year Orientation Committee, Campus Kitchen, Outing Club

**Fred T. Foard High School | Lenoir-Rhyne University High School Scholars Academy (HSSA)** | Class of 2021 | Newton, N.C.

- President Lenoir-Rhyne University HSSA (2019-2021), Valedictorian, "A" Honor Roll (2012-2021)
- Relevant Courses (Lenoir-Rhyne University): Statistics for Political and Social Research, Micro and Macroeconomics

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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**The News-Gazette** | Reporter | 08/2021-Present | Lexington, Va.

- Write stories weekly (12+ published) in newspaper with over 4,000 subscribers on impactful topics in the Lexington community, such as new affordable housing, police funding, teacher salaries, and snow ordinance laws
- Investigate candidates for public office and construction plans for properties in Lexington to determine factual validity and question individuals when statements made to the community were identified as inconsistent and/or inaccurate
- Interview important community members like the mayor, city council members, election officials, and other candidates for office on their stances on controversial issues in the community like alcohol regulations, free speech rights, and taxes
- Analyze data and translate it into easily readable form for readers, such as in city budgets, construction estimates, taxes, and potential new business in the community

**The Ring-tum Phi** | Editor / Reporter | 05/2022-Present / 08/2021-Present | Lexington, Va.

- Write digital and print stories (20+ published) covering topics of high importance to the W&L community, such as COVID-19 restrictions; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and labor shortages; capture photos of major campus events
- Investigate tips and prevalent rumors to determine factual validity and report on them, such as allegations of hazing in Greek life, pay gaps for female and professors of color, and sexual assault accusation made against a W&L professor
- Interview high-ranking officials at W&L, including the university president, department heads, board of trustee members, and health officials to obtain relevant and first-hand comments on controversial issues like masking requirements
- Design, draft, and lay out print and online publication of over 15 stories every publishing cycle to present stories in a compelling and informative way to readers as well as edit numerous stories to fit AP Style guidelines

**United States House of Representative** | Congressional Intern | 06/2022-07/2022 | Washington, D.C.

- Conducted research into multiple policy areas, such as energy and education to be used in high-level meetings with members of Congress, interest groups, and policy strategy briefings
- Addressed constituent concerns by facilitating multi-office responses to issues, such as social security payments, veterans' affairs benefits, and responded to over 500 correspondents on controversial issues like abortion and gun control
- Interacted and corresponded with members of Congress, staff, interest groups, and committee staff to develop policy solutions to pressing national issues, such as inflation, energy independence, and educational policy

**Catawba County Youth Council** | President / Member | 03/2020-05/2021 / 03/2017-05/2021 | Hickory, N.C.

- Led a group of 30+ students from 8 high schools in community service and engagement activities, as well as organized and led governmental information sessions with local and state leaders
- Allocated \$10k from the United Way to local nonprofits by researching, listening to presentations, and analyzing proposed financial budgets of organizations that could receive the money
- Designed and implemented a Pencil Box Drive for Federal Title I, low-income students, for the COVID-19 school year

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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**W&L Mock Trial** | Attorney and Witness | 08/2021-Present | Lexington, Va.

- Cross-examine witnesses based on sworn affidavits and pose questions to illuminate important facts to help audience members better understand the case, which is over 300 pages
- Collaborate with teammates to analyze evidence and pertinent case law to present opening and closing statements

**Contact Committee** | Member | 09/2021-Present | Lexington, Va.

- Oversee, negotiate, and facilitate contracts and the allocation of over \$200,000 to bring world-renowned celebrities, speakers, and personalities to campus, including Bob Woodward, Jimmie Allen, and Billy Beane
- Facilitate confidential discussions with 20 committee members about event marketing logistics

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

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- Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite; Microsoft certified in Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Publisher; proficiency in Canva social media advertising; knowledge in podcast and audio production; member of Education Writers Association and Society of Professional Journalists
- Interests: Cooking (currently writing a cookbook), hiking, volleyball, tennis, photography, writing, skydiving