

‘Hello! It’s nice to meet you!’

Kentucky arrives on the Island

By Jennifer K. Perkins

At this point, you’ve probably noticed the new silver truck that has been driving around the island for the past few days, so I guess it is time that I officially introduce myself. Hi, my name is Jennifer Perkins. I am the new intern at the Washington Island Observer, after hearing about the opportunity through the International Society of Weekly Newspapers.

I am from Kentucky, but if you don’t hear my accent at first, keep me talking and you will. I am a senior at Eastern Kentucky University, ECU, where I study journalism and history.

I bring three years of journalism experience with me to the island. I started as the opinions editor for The Eastern Progress, my university newspaper in 2017. I have also served as the news editor and cur-



**Washington Island Observer intern
Jennifer Perkins**

rently serve as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper. Last summer, I was an intern at The News Journal in Corbin, Kentucky. Both places have taught me different aspects of covering communities, but neither are as close knit as the island.

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Kentucky

I enjoy writing news pieces, but my goals for this summer are to write more columns and improve my photography. I will return to Kentucky in August to finish my degrees. In August of 2020, I will move back to Scotland for graduate school and hopefully pursue a degree in international journalism. I would like to attend either Glasgow Caledonian University or University of Stirling.

A little more about me personally: I love Scotland and studied abroad there for almost five months this past year at the University of St Andrews, which was recently ranked second in the UK and first in Scotland by The Guardian. Dogs are my favorite animal and I have a mixed breed back home named Max. If you ask about him, I will show you pictures so please be prepared.

I am kind of an introvert, but I really enjoy talking to people. I tend to use weird words and phrases like 'y'all' and 'what's his bucket;' I'll explain what that means if you ask.

Southeastern Kentucky is not a place where people bike because we live in the mountains, but my goal for this summer is to bike at least all the main roads on the island, if not all the roads. I also want to eat at every restaurant on the island. Southern culture heavily revolves

around food, so I am excited to experience the different foods here on the island.

You may have met my only sibling while she was on the island for a few days. Her name is Lyndsey. She is a nurse at the University of Kentucky medical center. She works in the recovery room to help patients come out of anesthesia and provides post-operative care for both inpatient and outpatient procedures. She is two years older than me and graduated from ECU.

My mom is an English and Language Arts teacher in Kentucky; she teaches sixth graders right now. My dad is the senior mechanic for UPS in London, Kentucky. My hometown is London which is located about an hour and a half south of Lexington; London is in the Southeastern portion of the state.

I have already felt so welcomed by the community that I am even more excited to spend the next couple of months with you all.

If you have any suggestions about what I should do on the island, what food to eat at different locations or the easiest bike riding routes, please let me know. I would love to meet each and every one of you before I leave.

I am new to this whole column writing thing, despite my experience as a journalist, so if you have suggestions about topics you would like for me to write about or explore, again, please let me know.
