Pursuing his Passion for Politics

STUDENT PROFILE

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— John Kauffman TD ’18

John Kauffman TD ’18 has discovered a passion for politics. While growing up in Channahon, Illinois, he recalls having an interest in the field but did not become actively involved in the local political scene. However, shortly after arriving on campus as a freshman, he took advantage of the opportunity to begin campaigning for local candidates in New Haven.

“Going door-to-door, knocking on doors, and talking with people in the community was great,” he said. “It allowed me to meet not just people who live near Yale’s campus, but also people who live in the nearby community and all the different wards around campus. It was a really amazing experience.”

Based on his ongoing coursework and involvement in campus groups like the Yale College Democrats and Students for a New American Politics, John is now leaning toward a career in either political activism or policy making. “The decisions that people are making and the policies they make do have an impact on everybody who lives in this country,” he said. “I feel like it’s my responsibility to understand those policies and to learn what I can do to make an impact on the people around me. Studying politics and getting involved politically is a way for me to contribute.”

Looking ahead, John is considering law school or another career path in which he can make a difference in the world. And he is grateful for the financial aid that has made these options possible. “This is a really special place,” he said. “I owe everything to Yale and the people who made it possible for me to come here.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like John to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.