Meet John Henry Vansant ‘18
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Kimball Union Academy, 2014
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Why I chose Wesleyan:
Unlike any other school I considered attending, Wesleyan has a community that challenges you to broaden your perspective, to move beyond what is comfortable, and to shape the world we live in. While other schools confine the educational experience to the lecture hall, I am constantly learning from my incredible peers and from the experiences I have with my friends. Whether it’s a protest, a concert, a training run, or an adventure with my friends, I am constantly growing and developing into the engaged leader and loving person I strive to be.

Academic Interests:
I am a College of Social Studies and Religion double major, with a Certificate in International Relations. This means that I study political theory, economic theory, history, philosophy, religion, and international relations through a cultural, political, and religious lens. As I plan to narrow my focus for a senior year thesis, I wish to dive into the issues surrounding religious freedom in the United States. After Wesleyan, I hope to translate my studies into impactful work through a career in law or progressive politics.

Favorite class at Wes:
My favorite class at Wesleyan has been CSS220, History of Economic Thought, with Prof. Wendy Rayack. Going into the class, I was very nervous about my ability to analyze economic theory. However, Prof. Rayack helped me develop a new appreciation for economics and strengthen my writing skills through an intensive eight-week tutorial. It helped me expand my perspective, and now, I cannot stop bringing up Sen’s capability theory in all of my other classes.

Current Classes:
CSS391: Crime and Punishment, RELI373: Religion Science and Empire, RELI391: Religion and the Social Construction of Race, RELI409/CSS409: Senior Honors Thesis (This Land was Not Made for You and Me: Sacred Land Jurisprudence, the Black Hills Land Dispute, and the Christian Construction of Land and Religion in the United States)

Why I want to be a tour guide:
I want to help prospective students challenge what they hear throughout the college process and evaluate their top choices based on the learning environment and community, not the institution’s prestige. I am so thankful to be at Wesleyan and I love sharing what makes Wesleyan special to those on my tours.

Outside the Classroom:

Extracurriculars:
- Co-Captain Wesleyan Cross Country and Track and Field
- USLAC
- Member of Alpha Delta Phi Society

Favorite Activity at Wes:
I love representing Wesleyan as a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field teams. The team is one large, eccentric, and loving family.

Favorite moment at Wes:
When Wesleyan hosted the NESCAC cross country championship race on Halloween, and my friends and family came in costumes to cheer me on!

Favorite movie(s):
Three-way tie between The Shawshank Redemption, The Green Mile, and Forrest Gump

Favorite song:
“Jingo” by Santana

Fun Fact:
My hometown of Thetford, VT, was the first municipality in the United States to call for the impeachment of Pres. Richard Nixon!