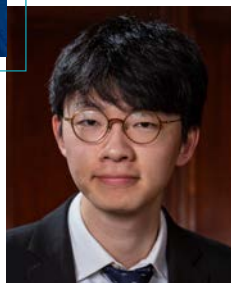
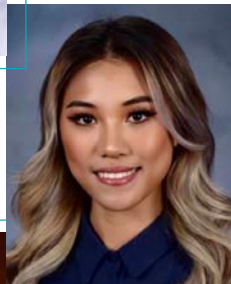




UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

ARTS & LETTERS



# 2023

## SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

Study everything. Do anything.<sup>SM</sup>



### *Hello, friends!*

I am thrilled to present the 2023 College of Arts & Letters Senior Thesis book, highlighting the 226 students who devoted a significant portion of their final year at Notre Dame to producing an original work of research or creativity.

While reading these synopses, I've been delighted to see that a number of students were again able to travel — throughout the state and around the world — to inform original research and enrich their experience. I hope that you enjoy perusing these yearlong projects. They showcase the academic and innovative skills, as well as the wide-ranging talents and interests, of the Class of 2023.

For instance, students visited the Peace Walls in Ireland, translated a portion of the *Odyssey* into the Hawaiian language, staged a late-night comedy show, analyzed the function of the coxsackie-adenovirus receptor, tested the accuracy of predicting commodity spot prices, designed sustainable dental floss, examined political rhetoric, performed a recital that included *Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps: III. Abîme des oiseaux*, and studied minimal surfaces within differential geometry.

As is the case every year, I'm grateful for the faculty members who have so generously shared their expertise and provided support to students undertaking this invaluable undergraduate academic experience.

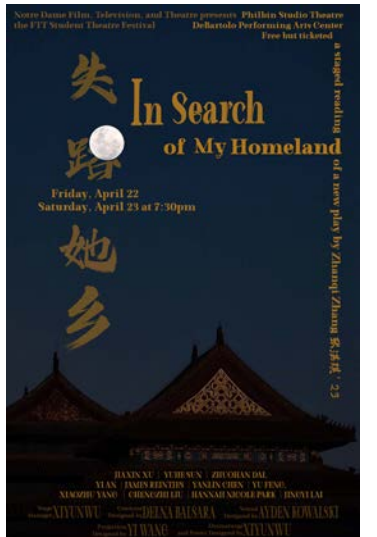
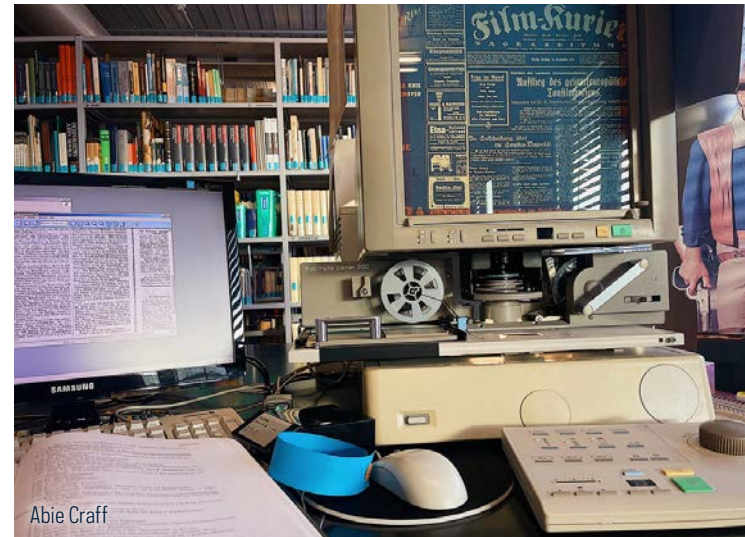
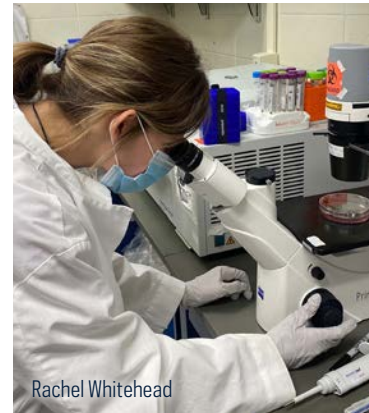
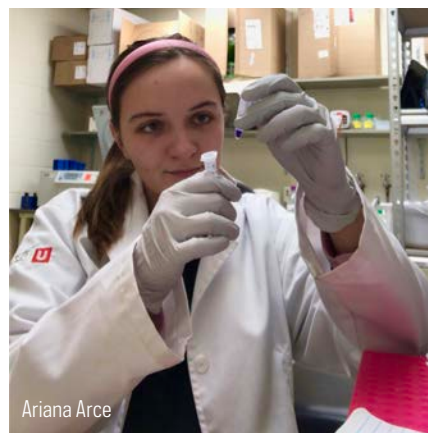
While I will miss these seniors, individually and collectively, I am heartened that they'll continue to follow their dreams, contribute to scholarship, and serve their communities. Just as they've made the University of Notre Dame a better place, I'm confident they'll make the world a better place.

*Sarah A. Mustillo*

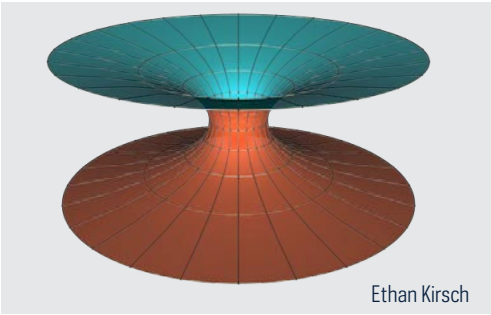
Sarah A. Mustillo

I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean  
College of Arts & Letters









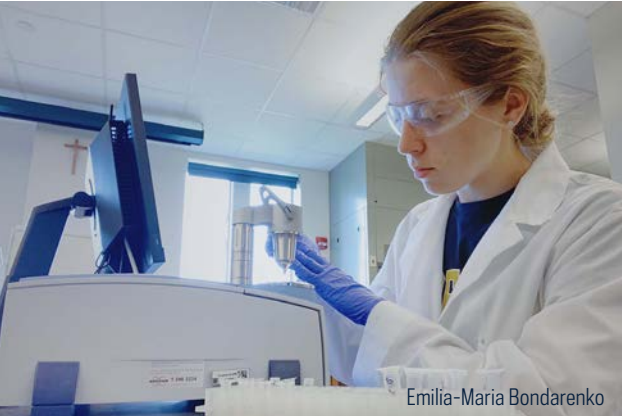
### How to Sing

By Hannah Tonsor

Listen for the scent of summer rain,  
Hanging among the trees,  
Sturdy with soil and bone marrow,  
Drenching each cell in solitude,  
The kind of a tall, sovereign willow  
Humming among its sisters,  
Lucky to be struck  
Twice, and satisfied to be struck  
Not at all.  
The earth spills itself over into near  
Agony—pulsing with a feverish  
Joy, alit with unvoiced  
Consonants and hushes.  
Cradled in its arms  
A hand-woven basket  
Overflowing with ocean wind  
Swollen with baby's breath, from  
Small lungs and flower gardens:

There is so much sighing  
All at once  
So much tumbling over  
Oneself to discover an extra  
Birthmark, elbow, dusty earthy bit,  
Crusted over with mud,  
Made wet by our own  
Tear ducts—  
The space where sound collapses back into  
Water.

Hannah Tonsor



Formulations of the Poincaré Series of a Coxeter Group

Fix  $(W, S)$  a Coxeter system of finite rank, and denote  $W(q)$  its associated Poincaré series. By definition,

$$W(q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n q^n = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{q^{d_i} - 1}{q - 1}, \tag{1}$$

where  $a_n := |\{w \in W : \ell(w) = n\}|$  and  $d_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  are the *degrees* of the basic invariants of  $W$ .

When  $W$  is *finite*:

$$\sum_{K \subseteq S} \frac{(-1)^{|K|}}{W_K(q)} = \frac{q^{\ell(w_0)}}{W(q)}. \tag{2}$$

When  $W$  is *infinite*, we can still compute  $W(q)$  with finite data:

$$\frac{1}{W(q)} = - \sum_{K \in \mathcal{N}'} \frac{\mu_{\mathcal{N}'}(K, S)}{W_K(q)}, \tag{3}$$

where  $\mu_{\mathcal{N}'}$  is the *Möbius function* of the *nerve*  $\mathcal{N}' := \mathcal{N}(W, S)$ .

Bailee Zacovic





**Lucy Adams**

Hometown: Summit, New Jersey

- Majors: American Studies and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisor: Peter Cajka

## Guilt, Innocence, and Shame: Exploring Four Decades of Representations of HIV/AIDS in TV Medical Dramas

My thesis examines various representations of HIV/AIDS in prime-time medical dramas over the past 35 years. I use a combination of analysis of the writing itself, frame-by-frame visual analysis, and the context in which these media were created and aired/streamed. My aim is to show how televisual representations of HIV/AIDS, specifically its associations with guilt and innocence, have changed since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in the United States. I ask what these representations indicate about American culture and what they suggest about representation in general.

I developed a deep and personal interest in the study of HIV/AIDS, memory, and representations after learning that a relative passed away from an AIDS-related illness. I wanted to explore how discussions of HIV/AIDS are frequently laced with ideas about guilt, innocence, and shame, and I wanted to combine this with the educational and transformational abilities of television. I went to the Power of Children exhibit at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis to learn more about Ryan White, a young white hemophiliac who contracted HIV/AIDS from a blood transfusion. He changed the perception of HIV/AIDS in the United States and, thus, was a valuable addition to my research and the context of all representations of HIV/AIDS.

*Traveled to Indianapolis and received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**John Adkins**

Hometown: Williamsburg, Virginia

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Terrance Brown

## The Writing Packet: Late-Night Comedy Writing in the Pandemic

Through research, interviews, and my own comedy writing, I have seen firsthand how late-night comedy helped the general public process and understand events during a turbulent time for the world. My studies and comedy writing practice will culminate in a live-taping of my own late-night comedy show. I have always had a passion for late-night comedy and hoped to study how the genre helps us process the world around us and provides a new communal lens for understanding.

I'm incredibly grateful for the Glynn family and the opportunity to study a topic that means a great deal to me and will surely influence my career. I traveled to New York City to attend tapings of *The Daily Show* and *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, interview a producer at *Saturday Night Live*, and meet with other industry professionals.

***Traveled to New York City and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.***

**Conrado Alcantara**

Hometown: Metro Manila, Philippines

- Majors: Economics and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Minor: Asian Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Manuel Alejandro Estefan Davila

## Human Capital Losses from Enhanced Community Quarantine in the Philippines

My aim is to address the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) policy that was instituted by the Philippine government through human capital loss. My line of thinking stems from a policy proposal from the World Bank, which stressed the importance of Early Childhood Development (ECD). Ultimately, I examine how the pandemic has affected ECDs and I quantify the loss of human capital, if any, through each extension of the ECQ. In Sarangani, Philippines, I conducted research and met with school administrations in Indigenous and urban regions.

I chose this topic due to my previous work with Indigenous people in the Philippines filming a documentary in the region. I hope my proposals shed light for the Department of Education to integrate new measures to improve learning outcomes and welfare gain in these communities, and I hope to foster relationships I've built.

*Traveled to Sarangani, Philippines, and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Sophia Alles**

Hometown: Glen Ellyn, Illinois

- Major: English
- Advisor: Ernest Morrell

## Playing in the Dark with the Goon Squad: A Morrisonian Analysis of Race, Alternative Narratives, and Reified Language in the Contemporary American Fiction of Jennifer Egan

I analyze Jennifer Egan's 2010 novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad* through a Toni Morrison-inspired lens, applying *Playing in the Dark*'s critical framework to evaluate the successes, shortcomings, and significance of Egan's 21st-century literary fiction as it engages with perceptions of and issues surrounding race in modern American society. Further, I argue that Egan's novel participates in Morrison's project of forging a more capacious, shareable language for American literature, highlighting Egan's reliance on alternative narrative constructions and ways of knowing while centering the role of music in both authors' works.

I chose this topic to connect two of my favorite authors of American fiction, along with my interest in the interplay of language, narrative, and oppression/liberation. I utilized Morrison's generous yet critical readings of race in classic American literature to look forward instead of backward and consider the trajectory of American fiction in the years since her passing in our distinct post-9/11, post-Obama cultural context.



**Laurel Ammond**

Hometown: Saint Charles, Missouri

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Irish Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Diarmuid Ó Giolláin

## Teanga Bheo: The Evolution of Modern Irish in Media in the 20th and 21st Centuries

My thesis explores the presence of Irish in media from the 20th century onward. The explosion of new technology that preceded the 21st century has sparked new opportunities for languages. Through this analysis, I aim to characterize the current state of the Irish language and to argue that the minority language's usage is growing, not shrinking.

I chose this topic after taking an Irish language immersion course in the Gaeltachts. Native speakers communicated their concerns over the declining usage of Irish. I decided to examine these concerns through my research with a focus on modern forms of media.

**Ariana Arce**

Hometown: Cedar Lake, Indiana

- Majors: Biological Sciences and Anthropology
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program
- Advisor: Xin Lu

## The Role of FOXA1 Mutations in Prostate Cancer Aggressiveness

This project explores the role of a mutant FOXA1 pioneer transcription factor in prostate cancer. It focuses on filopodial structures that are present in FOXA1 mutants and how that phenotype contributes to increased rates of metastasis, higher rates of cancer recurrence, and an overall increase in cancer aggressiveness. The project looks to identify specific cancer pathways involved in this process, with the hope of identifying potential therapeutic targets.

Twelve percent of all prostate cancer patients possess a mutant FOXA1 transcription factor, which makes their prostate cancer more aggressive and harder to treat. Individuals typically have high levels of metastasis, which drastically decreases prognosis, so identifying potential causes and therapeutic targets are essential in increasing survival rates of individuals.

*Received funding from the College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships and the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



**Keila Astono**

Hometowns: Jakarta, Indonesia,  
and Orange County, California

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Digital Marketing
- Globally Engaged Citizens  
Program and Deloitte Scholars  
Program for Ethical Leadership
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

## The Greenwashing of Sustainability in the Fashion and Beauty Industries

Supranational oversight on toxicity and supply chain in the chemical and textile industries is pioneered by European Union standards. This research began by evaluating best approaches to consumer protection against greenwashing. The term “sustainable fashion” itself, I now realize, is an oxymoron. Given consumerist culture, sustainability tests the apathy and desires of our global civil society down to the individual. Transnationally, beauty and fashion are political — these industries and governments perennially intertwine through identity, economic interests, and globalism.

Studying political science and digital marketing, I’ve found a passion point at the intersection between government regulation and corporate marketing: the scrutiny of greenwashing. The framework merges research I conducted for my junior seminar on toxic beauty chemicals and a Retailing Applied to Fashion course I had in Rome. Traveling to Rome and Copenhagen allowed me to enhance this self-directed project by the incorporation of field research directly on the grounds of the entities at play and to examine closely whether publicized commitments are actualized.

*Traveled to Italy and Denmark and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*



## John Babbo

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: James Otteson

## Economics and Eudaimonia in the City of Man

I examine the role of economics in the classical conception of the city as described by Aristotle, Aquinas, and Augustine. I conclude that a system of cooperative exchange accords with this conception and best effectuates man's dual citizenship in the earthly and heavenly city.

This topic comes at the intersection of my passion for political philosophy and economics.



**Ian Baker**

Hometown: Chester, Virginia

- Majors: Chemical Engineering and Studio Art (Concentration in Photography)
- Reilly Dual Degree Program
- Advisor: Martina Lopez

**talking to myself**

My thesis seeks to characterize the process of reflection and action regarding mental health through combining different photographic techniques. By using long-exposure photography and high-speed flash photography together, I hope to encapsulate an emotional portrait using the physical figure in a true expression of humanity.

My work asks the question: How do I talk to myself in situations where I'm feeling unheard, unseen, or unwell? By first learning how you talk to yourself in these moments, you open yourself to discussing these struggles with those around you. With this project, my desire is to encapsulate the emotions that accompany this recognition, reminding the viewer that there is beauty in struggle, and that struggle offers an opportunity to grow — for yourself and for those around you. This is not just my project; it's a collective conversation that lacks concluding remarks. More than anything, though, it's a reminder that you are not alone.

The journey through mental health is a long one that has no true ending. I find myself in the midst of my personal travel through this space, though this is not something I've always been comfortable discussing. I hope to normalize this conversation through my work, and encourage those around me to assist me in that process.

*Received funding from the Reilly Dual Degree Program.*

**Aidee Barajas**

Hometown: Arlington, Texas

- Majors: Sociology and American Studies
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Balfour-Hesburgh Scholars Program and QuestBridge Scholars Program
- Advisor: Steven Alvarado

## The Power Our Words Hold: An Analysis on How Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric Fuels Hate Crimes

My thesis addresses the ways in which our words impact and promote negative/positive action. In the case of anti-immigrant rhetoric in this country, they have a direct correlation to motivating people to perpetuate hate crimes against immigrant communities. I focus on the El Paso Massacre as one of many anti-immigrant hate crimes in which the perpetrator left behind a manifesto confirming how rhetoric played a role in motivating him to commit that atrocity.

As an immigrant and someone who wants to go into immigration law, I am constantly aware of the harm words can provoke. However, there haven't been many publications directly linking rhetoric to action, although anti-immigrant hate crimes continue to rise. I want to help people understand that the words they use have an impact.



**Camryn Barnett**

Hometown: Noblesville, Indiana

- Majors: Biological Sciences and English
- Advisor: Barry McCrea

## Reconciling *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* Through Evolutionary Theory

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë is an unruly and animalistic novel, which suits it well for an evolutionary analysis. Brontë's charming bildungsroman, *Jane Eyre* is not as readily viewed this way. I argue that *Wuthering Heights* informs a scientific reading of *Jane Eyre*, which ultimately reveals that both novels are literary laboratories, and both sisters are author-scientists who experiment with characters and setting to demonstrate evolutionary concepts in a poetic way.

As a biology and English major, this topic is the perfect combination of my scientific education and my literary education. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the exciting way that science and the arts can influence one another.

**Margaret (Maggie) Barrett**

Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Art History
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Notre Dame Scholars Program, and the Suzanne and Walter Scott Scholars Program
- Advisor: Eva Dziadula

## Climate Change, Agriculture, and Migration in Mexico

My thesis aims to isolate the impact of changing agricultural yields due to climate change on international migration from Mexico. My results suggest that a 10% decrease in crop yields results in a 0.66% increase in household migration. However, in the period from 2000 to 2020, Mexico showed increasing average corn yields and fewer international migrants. This suggests that Mexico is in an initial period of beneficial temperature rise, although continued changes in climate are likely to result in long-term losses.

I chose this topic because climate change and migration are fundamental global issues with strong implications for the world's poorest and most vulnerable. It is important for policymakers to understand the connections between climate and migration in order to effectively create policies that recognize the human dignity of all involved.



**Michael Barrett**

Hometown: Pelham, New York

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: History
- Advisor: A. James McAdams

## A Comparative Analysis of the Freedom of Speech in the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany in the Digital Age

My project seeks to analyze why certain liberal democracies adopt regulation of speech on social media while others do not. I conducted interviews in London and Berlin and am specifically analyzing the Online Safety Bill in the United Kingdom and NetzDG in Germany.

I chose this project because I am interested in the concept of freedom of speech and, at the same time, am concerned about the threat which social media poses to democracy.

*Traveled to London and Berlin and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Lucy Barron**

Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisor: Anne García-Romero

## What is True 'Self-Care'?: An Exploration of Mental Health Trends through Comedic Television Writing

This project features two episodes of an original half-hour television show which follows a depressed college woman struggling on the path to "self-care," with the help of her only friends, a number of sentient household objects. This show explores social media's depiction of "self care" for young people through the narrative of a young woman trying to overcome her own mental health issues.

Mental health is an issue that has always been important and personal to me, and I strongly believe in the power of humor as a coping mechanism. This project is the perfect union of the two ideas.



**Emma Bartley**

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minors : Art History and Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisor: Kristin Valentino

## Effortful Control in Maltreated and Nonmaltreated Youth During the Puzzle Box Task

My research investigated the impact of reminiscing and emotion training (RET), a brief relational intervention that targeted emotionally supportive parenting behavior among mothers with histories of maltreatment perpetration, on effortful control (EC). The study measured EC as cheating behavior during the “puzzle box task” five years post-intervention. Although there were no significant differences between the maltreated-intervention, maltreated-non-intervention, and nonmaltreated control groups, age was a significant predictor of EC.

Effortful control (EC), defined as the efficiency of executive attention, is integral to healthy development. However, maltreatment is associated with lower levels of EC, resulting in difficulties with self-regulation. It is important, then, to consider interventions that might mitigate the effects of maltreatment on children's developing EC.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Angela Betz**

Hometown: Hicksville, Ohio

- Majors: Classics and Anthropology
- Sorin Scholars Honors Program
- Advisor: David Hernandez

## Athens Under Augustus: A Merging of Cultures

This project evaluates how the major building projects constructed under Augustus changed Athens' physical and socio-cultural landscape. An analysis of the Roman Agora, the Temple of Roma and Augustus, the Odeon of Agrippa, and the Temple of Ares demonstrates how the Romans emphasized their own interests over Athenian tradition and agency to further their imperialistic agenda, although Hellenistic ideals were still bolstered through the Roman province in other ways.

Ancient Greece has had a piece of my heart since I was a kid, running around performing skits about the gods and reading every mythology book I could get my hands on. Now, as I look toward a future in classical archaeology, Athens feels like the perfect city to explore.



**Elizabeth Blume**

Hometown: Allison Park, Pennsylvania

- Majors: Finance and English
- Advisor: Colleen Taylor

## The Marriage of Author and Reader and the War for Creative Agency in Austen

My thesis examines how an author surrenders aspects of her narrative agency through the very act of writing, entering into a power dynamic with her reader that continually oscillates. Jane Austen exemplifies this principle, yet uses it as a mirror for 18th-century matrimonial structures. The author and reader become the husbands and wives of her novels, struggling to assume autonomy within a relationship of creative love.

I am fascinated by the idea that one must give up control in order to create something new. This notion is central to all forms of art, yet through literature it takes on new forms, as this art piece can tell entire narratives of mirroring self-sacrifice. By engaging with art, we change it in different ways. I thought by writing my thesis through this lens, I could attempt to do justice to Austen's beautiful surrender.

**Joonhee Bock**

Hometown: Torrance, California

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Minor: Korean
- Advisor: Cora Bennett

## Teacher Incentives and Retention: Evidence from the Best and Brightest Program

I focused on the effectiveness of the Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program, a statewide teacher incentive program employed in Florida. I aim to measure teacher retention in response to receiving the financial incentive. The distinct qualifications for the award provide a unique opportunity to gauge what incentivizes teachers to continue teaching.

The ongoing shortage of teachers nationwide calls for better approaches to increasing teacher retention. However, the differences across programs like Best and Brightest necessitate specific analysis to guide future incentive programs.





**Emilia-Maria (Emily)  
Bondarenko**

Hometown: Buffalo Grove, Illinois

- Major: Biochemistry
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Holly Goodson

## Identifying High-Affinity Aptamers for Zidovudine

Confirming the presence of zidovudine is difficult outside a laboratory setting. This project seeks to contribute to the development of zidovudine biosensors for field use by identifying high-affinity ssDNA aptamer sequences through SELEX, which could then be harnessed in an aptamer-based biosensor. Identifying high-affinity sequences for zidovudine also contributes to the growth of the aptamer field, as this project works with a small-molecule target and includes techniques that simplify SELEX and make it less expensive.

The antiretroviral drug zidovudine is an important drug for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and is on the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines. Global drug quality reports have found counterfeit and substandard quality formulations of AZT, which deteriorates trust between patients and their health care system and actively harms HIV/AIDS treatment efforts.

*Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Noah Bongiovanni**

Hometown: Erie, Pennsylvania

- Majors: Music (Concentration in Performance) and Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisors: Berthold Hoeckner and Stephen van Hedger (Western University — London, Ontario)

## Generalizing across tonal context, timbre, and octave in rapid absolute pitch training

After I read a ground-breaking paper in which my now-advisor discovered that absolute pitch (AP) can be learned by some adults, I contacted him to pursue research in music cognition and worked with him during summer 2021 in Chicago. My thesis aimed to examine factors that contributed to successful AP learning; specifically, I analyzed whether influencing the tonal context in which subjects were asked to identify note names influenced their performance. I found that subjects were able to show rapid learning regardless of tonal context or instrumental timbre. However, subjects were not able to generalize to a novel octave. While my paradigm did not produce AP learning, it did point us in the right direction. Additionally, my paper exposes several implications that call into question the validity of famous pitch-learning paradigms going back as far as 30 years. As such, my thesis calls for ground-breaking standardized data measurements for the entire field of AP research going forward.

I have perfect pitch myself, and I knew the Glynn Program was providing me with the unique opportunity to synthesize my areas of interest. Executing this project required knowledge in coding, music theory, production, statistics, technical writing, and the scientific process, so it was really neat to use both my majors in completing it. My thesis was recently published internationally in the prominent Psychonomic Society Journal: *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*. It can be accessed at: <https://rdcu.be/c32X1>

*Traveled to Chicago and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Noah Bongiovanni**

Hometown: Erie, Pennsylvania

- Major: Music (Concentration in Performance)
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisor: Daniel Schlosberg

## Chroma: An Interdisciplinary Study of Music and Its Perception

The first part of my senior thesis was the technical paper that I recently published, which studies how the brain conceptualizes pitch color. I also completed a senior recital, which represents a creative exploration of pitch color through performance. I performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Debussy, showcasing my classical training. Additionally, I paid homage to prominent Black jazz pianists like Jon Batiste and Oscar Peterson, as well as Brazilian guitarist and Bossa Nova icon Luiz Bonfá, by presenting my own arrangements of their works. Through a carefully selected program with depth and variety, I demonstrated that every imaginable feeling and conviction can be painted with the same 88 keys of the same grand piano.

I have been in love with the piano since I started taking lessons at age 4. As the pinnacle of my academic music career and 20 years of training, I knew I wanted to create and share something special.



**Emily Braun**

Hometown: Evansville, Indiana

- Major: Sociology
- Advisor: Steve Reifenberg

## Program Completion Rates of Peace Corps Volunteers in the Philippines

I researched program completion rates of Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines to discern what factors influence volunteers' likelihood of completion. Though I originally hypothesized that definitions of success would be the strongest factor, I found that relationships with host families, communities, and other volunteers were a strong determinant of completion for many of the volunteers interviewed.

I have been interested in international development and service trips for many years, and I was curious to discover what factors accounted for a greater likelihood of completion. I was lucky enough to be connected with a returned Peace Corps volunteer from the Philippines — thanks to my advisor — while I was still discerning my thesis topic. My discussion with this person spurred my decision to study Peace Corps experiences there.

**Daniel Brennan**

Hometown: Strongsville, Ohio

- Major: History
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: James Lundberg

## 'For Church and Country': Father William Corby and Catholic Memory of the American Civil War

In the late 19th century, as sectarian tension arose throughout the United States, Fr. William Corby, C.S.C., actively promulgated a Catholic memory of the Civil War, whereby he used national memorialization methods to defend the patriotism of his faith. Given his wartime service, he was later made into perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the Catholic memorialization efforts that he worked for during his lifetime.

I have long been fascinated by the history of the American Civil War and its memorialization. I wanted to utilize the fantastic resources housed at Notre Dame to see if I could add to this history, and I settled on the role of Catholicism in Civil War memory. I looked particularly through the lens of Fr. Corby, a wartime chaplain who later became Notre Dame president, and whose actions and legacy used traditional memorialization tactics to demonstrate the patriotism of his Catholic faith.

**Maura Brennan**

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Theology
- Certificate in International Security Studies
- Advisor: Daniel Philpott

## To Write the Right: An Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy's Hand in the Religious Freedom of Constitution-Making

I sought to investigate if religious freedom was present or absent in the U.S. foreign policymaking process of constitution-building in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as what explains this presence or absence, and the consequences of this presence or absence in building a sustainable peace in the two nations. I examined these questions by interviewing U.S. government officials, former international government officials, journalists, consultants, and ambassadors involved in the constitution-building of Iraq and Afghanistan. I found the U.S. neglected an involvement of religious freedom in the process, even though it is included officially in the language of the constitutions. This was due to an ignorance of factions and decentralization in the region, an ignorance of what could be perceived as Western-imposed equality and what it could look like for power-sharing, a furthering of competition between traditionalists and modernists in the judicial system, swift exits from the countries for domestic political reasons, and the radioactivity of the topic. This caused instability in the nations, hurt human rights in those nations, and furthered issues of U.S. national security.

Religious freedom is one of the most basic individual rights and one upon which nearly all others hinge. And yet, according to the State Department, nearly 74 percent of the world lives with serious restrictions on their religious freedom. Even so, this freedom has not been integrated enough into U.S. foreign policy and is more often than not forgotten. I wanted to investigate policymaking decisions that can lead to this neglect of human rights and provide recommendations for improvement.



**Annabeth Briley**

Hometown: Grand Prairie, Louisiana

- Majors: History and Greek and Roman Civilization
- Minor: Irish Studies
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Kevin Whelan

## The Origins of the Peace Walls in the Troubles

The peace walls of Northern Ireland, particularly those still standing in Belfast, are seen today as a major tourist attraction and a physical expression of the history of the Troubles and Northern Ireland as a whole. My project focuses on their inception and the understanding of them as initially temporary structures, highlighting the distinct shift to their permanence within the Belfast landscape and the minds and hearts of the residents of the city.

The Troubles have been a fascination of mine at Notre Dame, and I find the peace walls have not been given the attention they deserve within the historical narrative of the Troubles. Their continued existence and impact on Belfast's landscape intensified my desire to research their origins and development. I searched the archives at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast for documents pertinent to the walls and their construction, and I also contacted RTÉ Archives in Dublin and sought out television programs where the construction of the "peace line" was videoed and discussed.

*Traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Dublin, Ireland, with funding from the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.*

**Annabel Briody**

Hometown: Ridgefield, Connecticut

- Majors: Marketing and History
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Daniel Graff

## The Perception of Child Labor in the New York City Newsboy Strike of 1899

My history thesis explores the public perception of children and child labor in New York City through the lens of the newsboy strike of 1899. It specifically looks into how the newsboys and their strike efforts were reported in the newspapers, how social reformers responded to the condition of the newsboys, and how the perception of children at this time set the stage for progressive era child labor reform.

I was initially drawn to exploring this strike because of my love for the Disney musical *Newsies*. I found it to be a compelling story about the agency of young children at that time, and I wanted to further explore the historical truths behind it.

**Melissa Brown**

Hometown: Gainesville, Florida

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Joseph E. O'Tousa

## The Effects of Phospholipase C Mutation on Mosquito Vision

My thesis analyzes the effects of mutations to the phospholipase C protein in the retina on mosquito vision. Specifically, I am looking at histological and electrochemical changes in the retina that indicate the ability to perceive light or lack thereof. This exact phospholipase C mutation is a novel one, and the results of my experiment will be compared to mosquitos with different mutations to the same gene.

Genetics have always been a topic of interest to me. Since joining the O'Tousa Lab at Notre Dame, I have had the opportunity to work on projects involving novel genetic mutations. Writing my thesis on this research gives me the opportunity to share my long-term work.

*Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



**Sydney Brown**

Hometown: Roy, Utah

- Majors: Sociology and Psychology
- Transformational Leaders Program
- Advisor: Calvin Zimmermann

## The Crossroads of Cross-Racial Friendships: The Formation of Interracial Friendships and Communication Styles

Students were interviewed to understand what is important in forming interracial friendships. Information collected implies that misunderstanding and miscommunication, perceived status differences, and division in University organizations hinders the formation of interracial friendships. Shared experiences and willingness to learn from other groups facilitates these friendships. More effort should be made for students to learn about other racial groups' experiences, and student organizations that foster community between different racial/ethnic groups need to be created.

I have loved making friends of all races and ethnicities but am devastated to see that cross-racial friendships are often rare at Notre Dame. Recognizing the value of these friendships, I hope that this thesis will help form more long-lasting bonds between communities of every color.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Timothy Bukata**

Hometown: Valparaiso, Indiana

- Majors: History and Political Science
- Advisor: Darren Dochuk

## Foreign Policy of Ross Perot

My thesis sketches the political career of Ross Perot throughout the 1990s, with a focus on his foreign policy. The first chapter examines foreign policy in the leadup and process of his 1992 third-party presidential campaign; the second looks at his involvement in the 1993 NAFTA ratification debate; and the third explores his decline and legacy. A true understanding of Perot requires looking at his views through his view of the United States in the world. I traveled to the H. Ross Perot Political Collection at the University of Texas at Arlington, where I reviewed primary sources.

The recent crises in international politics, especially the Russian invasion of Ukraine, sparked my interest in foreign policy alternatives that have been rejected, especially in the crucial period of the 1990s. Perot was a fascinating political figure who advocated a foreign policy vision outside the mainstream.

*Traveled to Arlington, Texas, with funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Isabella (Bella) Byler**

Hometown: Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Art History
- Advisor: Heather Hyde Minor

## A Summa of Stone: Analyzing Guarino Guarini's Cappella della Sacra Sindone

My thesis examines the polymath Guarino Guarini's Chapel of the Holy Shroud in Turin as a kind of "summa," a summation in stone of all of the architect's diverse interests and beliefs. I was captivated by an image of the Chapel's dome and desired to understand what it meant. I traveled to Turin, Italy, to visit the chapel and now believe it cannot be interpreted by a single discipline alone, but rather that it expresses Guarini's interest in mathematics, cosmology, natural philosophy, theology, astronomy, and geometry.

*Traveled to Turin, Italy and to Monteverdi, Tuscany, and received funding from the Monteverdi Prize from the Program of Liberal Studies.*



**Nicole Campbell**

Hometown: Fairfield, Connecticut

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisor: Nicole McNeil

## Exploring the Role of Cognitive Reflection in Middle School Students' Mature Number Sense

Mature number sense refers to one's ability to understand mathematical concepts and apply them to flexibly solve math problems. This thesis explores the role that students' cognitive reflection, which is their ability to engage in analytical thinking, plays in their mature number sense. We have found a correlation between students' ability to engage in analytical thinking and their mature number sense, particularly in their understanding of rational numbers.

I am interested in the underlying cognitive mechanisms behind learning. Strong number sense is related to student success in mathematics. By deepening our understanding of what is cognitively involved in it, we can continue to work to improve mathematics instruction and our ability to develop student understanding.

**Corrinne Carlson**

Hometown: Huntington Beach,  
California

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Constitutional Studies,  
Medieval Studies, and Theology
- Advisor: Jason Baxter

## Breathing Narnian Air: C.S. Lewis' Medieval Cosmology for a Modern World

In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis describes modern children entering into a medieval world. My thesis explores his use of literature to provide a model for what it is like for the modern reader to experientially encounter the medieval worldview through his story, and what he may learn about God, himself, and his place in the world through this experience.

I have always loved Lewis, and wanted to incorporate the academic interests I began exploring in my minors, as well. This thesis allowed me to compare the medieval worldview with modern democracy and touch upon the theological implications of the two models while drawing upon Lewis' writing.

**Nicholas (Nick) Carter**

Hometown: Sudbury, Massachusetts

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Certificate in International Security Studies and Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Daniel Lindley

## Measuring Mercenaries: Private Military Companies, Contract Theory, and a Novel Regulatory Regime

My thesis probes the operation and function of private military companies (PMCs). In particular, I develop a causal theory that explains operational outcomes for mercenary PMCs in counterinsurgency contexts. I suggest the nature of PMC contracts is an important determinant of battlefield outcomes. Leveraging a congruence procedure and process tracing case study design, I evaluate my contract theory and further compare it to competing theoretical frameworks of battlefield victory and defeat.

The topic blends international security and economic market analysis to address an emergent threat to enduring international norms. The ubiquity of PMC activity allowed me to cast a broad geographical net in my case selection process — which improved the explanatory power of my theory, made my conclusions more compelling, and kept the research process engaging.

*Traveled to present the project as a working paper at a conference in Portugal and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Alexander Cattaneo**

Hometown: Winthrop, Massachusetts

- Majors: Medieval Studies and History
- Advisor: Christopher Abram

## The Conversion of Iceland and the Norse Pagan and Christian Ethos in the Íslendingasögur

My thesis is about the conversion of Iceland as presented within the Icelandic sagas, in particular the portrayal of paganism, pagan ethical and religious beliefs, and magic, in contrast with post-conversion Christianity. I also am looking at the difference in the portrayal of pagans before the time of conversion, and those who cling to pagan religion or practices after the country converts. I am examining the way in which the Christian scribes of these sagas portray the old way of life. Sometimes they admire it, and sometimes they condemn it, while ultimately still affirming both their pride in the Icelandic cultural history and the importance of the Christian worldview.

I chose this topic because I was interested in the Norse conversion from paganism to Christianity, in particular the medieval Christian view of their pre-Christian ancestors, and because it allowed me to engage with religious and ethical ideas, alongside literary analysis.



**Alyson Chin**

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

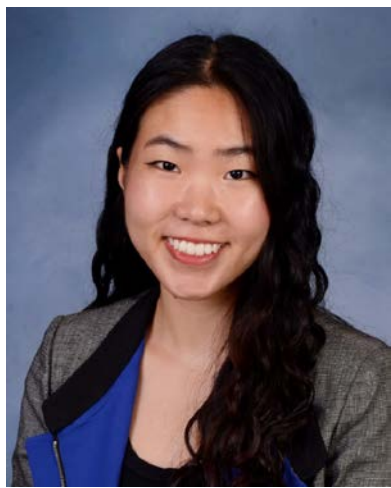
- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Transformational Leaders Program, and Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Jenny Padilla

## Faith, Family, and Coping with Chronic Health Conditions

Chronic illnesses often present as major life stressors for both the ill person and their close relations. In this study, I investigate how individuals cope with the reality of having a family member with a chronic illness or having one themselves. I've been grateful to have interviewed participants at different life stages, and I am learning a lot about how identity is shaped and challenged by illness typology and how family members can help navigate new realities.

After having a conversation early in September with my dad, who has cancer, I learned about the inner peace that he had attained. And I became interested in studying how people use family and faith as support structures in times of physical and mental suffering. My thesis topic went through a drastic last-minute change that month, and I'm grateful for the support I received and all the conversations I had with Arts and Letters faculty, especially my former and current advisors.

*Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Michelle Cho**

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Majors: Psychology and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Jason Colquitt

## Greater Good, Lesser Evil: Promotion and Prevention Focus in Diversity Advocacy

This study proposes a novel framework to conceptualize diversity advocacy such that some people are more promotion-focused (oriented toward pursuing positive outcomes such as inclusion and representation), while others are more prevention-focused (oriented toward avoiding negative outcomes such as discrimination and bias). This study empirically shows that this motivational difference is systematically based on identification with a privileged majority group or a disadvantaged minority group, which provides implications for organizations implementing diversity-fostering policies and practices.

Given the recent surge of interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion in organizations and the consistent disagreement over which diversity-related issues to prioritize, I sought to investigate why this conflict persists and create a more comprehensive foundation for organizations to create better diversity policies. I presented findings at the 2023 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Atlanta.

*Traveled to Atlanta and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, and DaVinci Multidisciplinary Grant.*

**Sarah Chong**

Hometown: Chattanooga, Tennessee

- Major: Russian
- Minor: Compassionate Care in Medicine
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Cindy S. Bergeman

## The Relationship Between Perceived Clinical Compassion and Health Outcomes Across Population Subgroups in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan

This project investigates the relationship between perceived clinical compassion and health outcomes across population subgroups in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. It evaluates trends in clinical compassion and health outcomes scores across different demographics, the relationship between clinical compassion and health outcomes, and the potential modulating effects of demographics on this relationship. Differences in clinical compassion scores and health outcomes were predicted between ethnicities due to understanding of variances in social support and access to medical care.

Last summer, I traveled to Kyrgyzstan — a diverse multi-ethnic country due to its history as a country of the Soviet Union and its borders with many culturally distinct countries. For six weeks, I lived with a host family and attended a Russian language school, which helped me complete my research project.

I chose this topic because understanding trends of perceived clinical compassion and health outcomes scores across all demographics is important to guiding and informing low-income multi-ethnic countries about improving the quality of health care, especially for vulnerable populations. I hope to continue researching this topic in medical school and afterward to contribute to global health care.

*Traveled to Kyrgyzstan and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**John Clancy**

Hometown:

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

- Major: Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Advisor: Michael Pries

## Creating Equitable Incentives for SPAC Sponsors and Investors

Despite rising in popularity in recent years, special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) have received scrutiny for the outsized returns they give to sponsors over common shareholders. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed regulations to level the playing field, but its proposed methods of regulation have prevented sponsors from forming SPACs altogether. My thesis investigates what drives SPAC returns for founders versus common investors in order to reveal regulatory possibilities that encourage fairness but do not discourage formation.

Researching differing incentives for SPAC sponsors and investors afforded me the opportunity to work at the intersection of my interests in finance, economics, and law. It also enabled me to contribute to the literature supporting the fairness of the public markets before I begin my career in finance.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*



**Nicholas (Nick) Clarizio**

Hometown: Arlington Heights, Illinois

- Major: Anthropology
- Advisor: Susan Blum

## 'Swallow'-ing Change: African Immigrants' Food-Based Identity Formation in South Bend, Indiana, and Rome, Italy

I probed African immigrants' food-based identity formation through a multi-sited ethnography of West Africans in Rome and Southern African immigrants in South Bend, Indiana, paralleling the two to uncover commonalities and differences. Employing participant observation and semi-structured interviews, I discovered the two groups simulate home through similar means — namely, frequenting African restaurants and ethnic markets or food importers, as well as by engaging in traditional foodways and food habits at home and at community events. However, the groups varied in how their simulations were influenced by the host culture. In Rome — where I conducted fieldwork while studying abroad — West Africans' simulations of home were inflected by cultural pressures. In South Bend, Southern Africans' simulations of home were influenced by cultural contrasts.

I've been fascinated with African cultures and societies since I began studying French language and culture. (More than 47% of Francophones in the world live in Sub-Saharan Africa.) During the pandemic, I began cooking and eating a variety of cuisines as a way to travel while staying home. I became curious about identity when I started my studies in anthropology. This topic is a marriage of all these things.

*Traveled to Rome, Italy.*

**Sean Cleary**

Hometown: Durham, North Carolina

- Majors: Political Science and Theology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

## How Social Movements Affect Policy Change in Democracies

My two case studies are about a non-governmental organization (NGO) at which I interned at during my sophomore year and a protest movement that I observed while studying abroad in Chile.

I wanted to write about something I had a personal connection with, and I was interested in synthesizing something out of two very different experiences that I had during my time here.

*Traveled to Chile.*

**Annika Coberly**

Hometown: Upton, Wyoming

- Major: Irish Language & Literature
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Advisor: Brian Ó Conchubhair

## Irish Language in Long-Term Patient Care

My thesis looks at current societal constructs surrounding the minoritized Irish language and the importance of its use in patient care, especially for nursing home residents in rural Irish-speaking regions. Utilizing questionnaire responses from patients and providers, I seek to better understand current clinical practices and roadblocks to providing optimal person-centered patient care within the Irish-language context. Taking into account Irish-language and medical education models in Ireland, I examine strategies to achieve higher-quality patient care through the patient's native language.

While studying abroad in Galway, Ireland, in fall 2021, I traveled to Inis Mór (Aran Islands) to interview residents at the Áras Ronáin Community Nursing Unit. The following summer, I visited the Áras Mhic Dara Community Nursing Unit in An Cheathrú Rua (Connemara Gaeltacht) to interview residents with the same questionnaire. (I was in Ireland that summer to complete an Irish language immersion course in An Cheathrú Rua.) As an aspiring health care provider, I am especially interested in learning the best practices to maintain the dignity of the human person in providing patient care. This project has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to synthesize the two main foci of my undergraduate education in a way that will continue to influence the service I give to others throughout my life.

*Traveled twice to Ireland and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Andrew Coffey**

Hometown: Morristown, New Jersey

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisor: Gretchen Reydam-Schils

## Freedom Within: An Analysis of Stoicism from Ancient Thought to the Modern Age

Stoicism acknowledges that people have little control over the external forces that affect the body; in turn, it calls man to accept a life in accordance with nature. For many, such a justification seems to hold a restrictive view on the power of the human being. However, this thesis intricately explores the insights from the philosophy's main contributors in connection with analyses of contemporary scholarship to support how Stoicism truly affirms the agency in humans. This thesis centers around providing the foundation of Stoicism through the works of Epictetus; it then proceeds to unpack the aphorisms of Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations*. It closes with a discussion on the modern revival of Stoicism and evaluates the consistency of contemporary practitioners to the original ideas of the Ancients.

An instructor prefaced my first exposure to Stoicism stating, "This philosophy can potentially save your life." Upon reading the works of Epictetus and Aurelius, I soon became fascinated with the ubiquity of these philosophers' insights in modern life. It almost seemed like everyone knew how to think in this way, but could not trace back to the conception of the ideas. Casual conversations about the complexities of Stoicism with the professor, who would soon become my advisor, turned my curiosity into an obsession. Progressively, these texts enraptured me to the point where I knew I had to explore this topic further in writing.



**Rachel Colligan**

Hometown: Kansas City, Missouri

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisor: Eric Bugyis

## Wendell Berry's Agrarian Metaphysical View of the Human Person in Creation: The 'Placed' Good Life

I explored Wendell Berry's view of the human person in the material world. I argued that in response to a widespread dualism in Western culture, and informed by his personal experience of settled life in a rural place, Berry posits that life in a set place — and the material engagement necessary to build a home there — is most conducive to the good life for humans, and to healing humanity's broken relationship with the Earth.

This interest arose from working on organic farms in Europe a few years ago, which I found both fascinating and personally transformative. Soon after, I came across Berry's writings, which approach organic farming from a theological and philosophical lens. I knew I wanted to spend more time with his work.

**Maximilian Cook**

Hometown: Beaverton, Oregon

- Major: Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Jennie Grillo

## The Face of Eternity: What It Means to See God in the Psalter

I performed an exegetical analysis on psalm verses which describe “seeing” God. My primary source is the Hebrew Bible, with which I compare the Septuagint and various scholarly material. I conclude that all “seeing” psalms involve the Ark and themes of justice, vengeance, and deliverance. What is actually seen varies depending on the psalm.

I love praying with the psalms and appreciate the fact that Judaism and Christianity share these ancient, yet deeply relevant, prayers. I have several questions about them (including my thesis topic), and finding little scholarly material on “seeing” God in just the Psalter, I decided to contribute my own efforts.

**Abigail (Abie) Craff**

Hometown:

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Majors: German and Economics
- Cathy and Jack Brennan Family Scholars Program, Glynn Family Honors Program, and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisor: Mark Roche

## Early German Cinema as a Model for Hitchcock's Pure Cinema

My thesis explores the impact of Weimar-era German cinema on Alfred Hitchcock, who spent many of his early years working in Germany and learning from great German film directors like Fritz Lang and F.W. Murnau. The German expressionist techniques had a deep impact on Hitchcock's style and films. I traveled to Berlin to conduct research in the Deutsche Kinemathek (German Film Museum). I viewed documents in the archives pertaining to the films I am writing about, and used the microfilm machine to look through film magazines from the 1920s and 1930s.

I chose this topic because I took a class my sophomore year titled The Cinematic World of Alfred Hitchcock. I fell in love with Hitchcock films and later took several German classes with the same professor, Mark Roche. In these classes, I learned about German cinema and how Hitchcock got his start in Germany. Professor Roche suggested this topic for my thesis, as it connected with my interests in German, Hitchcock, and cinema.

*Traveled to Berlin and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program and Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Caroline Crawford**

Hometown: Flower Mound, Texas

- Majors: English and Economics
- Minor: Italian
- Advisor: Colleen Taylor

## The Impact of Colonialism on the Production of New Women

My thesis argues that the colonial setting of Olive Schreiner's *The Story of an African Farm* and Emily Lawless' *Grania* impacts, and in some ways allows for, the development of the female protagonists into New Women figures. The identities of the protagonists are shaped by their positions within colonialism as well as by their removal from the imperial metropole, resulting in New Woman characters who both merge and challenge British imperialism and national traditions.

When I first learned about the New Woman in an English class, I was fascinated by it. Since a great deal has been written on New Women characters, I wanted to take a new approach, so my thesis advisor suggested I incorporate colonialism into my study of the New Woman.



**Aidan Creeron**

Hometown: Garden City, New York

- Majors: Economics and History
- Advisor: Daniel Graff

## The New Testament and the New Deal: Catholics and the Labor Question During the Great Depression

My thesis documents the Catholic Union of Unemployed, a group established by the Catholic Worker movement in the late 1930s to organize and minister to the jobless of New York City. Historians tend to view the political alliance between Catholics and New Deal politicians as especially strong, yet studying this group allows me to highlight how the Great Depression exposed the tensions that existed between New Deal liberalism and Catholicism. I traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to consult the Dorothy Day Papers and the Catholic Worker Collection archives housed at Marquette University.

This topic has allowed me to apply my interests in labor history and public policy to questions of politics and religion. Additionally, labor historians have largely overlooked the role of religion in shaping the American labor movement, and this topic enabled me to contribute to this growing literature.

*Traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Benjamin (Ben) Cuga**

Hometown: North Aurora, Illinois

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Robert Collinson

## Real Estate Prices and Fertility Rates: Evidence from the U.S. in the 21st Century

My research looks at U.S. counties during the 2010s to measure the relationship between housing prices and fertility rates. I find that rising real estate values were associated with a decrease in fertility rates during this period. Even counties with high home-ownership rates experience a decline in fertility following a housing price boom.

I am entering the real estate industry after graduation, so I knew I wanted to research housing from some angle. I feel the social and political aspects of housing are under-discussed, and I thought that fertility was an interesting dimension to look into.

**Bethany Cummings**

Hometown: Spokane, Washington

- Majors: Sociology and Italian
- Minor: Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Questbridge Scholar and Transformational Leaders Program
- Advisors: Charles Leavitt and Kathleen Boyle

## Technopopulism in the Era of Media Sensationalism: Mahmood and Matteo Salvini

This paper interrogates the rise of social media populism through Italian politician Matteo Salvini. I use a case study of Salvini's reaction to the musician Mahmood's victory at the Sanremo Music Festival to explore anti-migrant sentiments in Italy as promoted by far-right populist ideologies. While studying abroad, I attended a Mahmood concert in Rome.

I chose this topic because of my love for Italian music and my interest in the experience of the children of refugees in Italy.

*Traveled to Rome and received funding from the Rome International Scholars Program.*

**Nadine Daboub**

Hometown: San Salvador, El Salvador

- Major: Design (Concentration in Industrial Design)
- Advisor: Jim Rudolph

## Deconstructing the Primacy of Plastic

As an industrial designer, we are often used to feeding into the cycles of consumerism. My thesis, however, strives to steer away from this by redesigning dental hygiene floss in a more sustainable way. I was motivated to create a more sustainable and aesthetic floss to create healthy habits when I learned that 2.5 billion floss dispensers are thrown out each year — which is enough floss to wrap around Earth three times.

I decided as an industrial designer with a concentration in sustainability that I could help fix this issue. Thanks to the amazing guidance from the design department, I was able to come up with a concept project to tackle this issue.

*Received funding from the William and Connie Greif Art Award.*



**Noelle Dana**

Hometown: Hampden, Maine

- Major: Classics
- Minors: Business Economics and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Ted Warfield

## On Causality and Moral Responsibility

This project seeks to draw conclusions about the assignment of moral responsibility depending on the causal ancestry of an action. After establishing a causal dichotomy, namely that all things are either caused or not caused, the project walks through each possible relationship between moral and causal responsibility, as well as conclusions drawn from each possibility.

This endeavor started with the question, “Why do people do bad things?” When an individual makes a decision, it must either be caused by something or not. Either way, conclusions can be drawn on the assignment of moral responsibility for the action.

**Charles (Charlie) Dapp**

Hometown: Carmel, Indiana

- Majors: Finance and Economics
- Minor: Theology
- Advisor: Michèle Müller-Ippen

## Eliciting Access Costs to Stock Market Data

I apply an experimental method to elicit a subject's willingness to pay to avoid learning information on stock prices and mortgage rates with varying degrees of information access hurdles. Based on subject responses, I can calculate the costs of accessing information and compare these costs across the different stock price and mortgage rate conditions to determine whether subjects are responsive to the varying degrees of access hurdles.

I chose to conduct my thesis on information costs in a financial setting because I am particularly interested in how costs associated with accessing financial information might affect an individual's ability to generate long-term gains in wealth through making sound investment decisions.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Alexandra DeAngelis**

Hometown: Whippany, New Jersey

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program, Glynn Family Honors Program, and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Tamara Kay

## Addressing Health Inequities: How Project ECHO Reduces Disparities in Access to Specialized Medical Care

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a collaborative global health model that enables medical experts, such as physicians, to serve as mentors for community health care workers. My thesis explores ways in which this single model has been able to adapt to the specific needs of local communities in more than 180 countries to increase access to specialized medical care while maintaining fidelity to the original ECHO guiding principles.

I have been working with Professor Tamara Kay on Project ECHO since my sophomore year. My experiences shadowing physicians in Mexico and participating in a virtual global health project in Uganda made me realize just how greatly health care needs vary across different parts of the world.

*Traveled to Mexico.*

**William (Will) Dieterich**

Hometown: South Paris, Maine

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program and the Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisor: Erin Rossiter

## Conservatives' Response Rates to Polling

I am looking at what motivates different types of conservatives to respond to polls and the effect that their lack of response rates had on recent national and state elections.

This topic combines my two majors, and I am interested in the results that could be socially beneficial.

**Mary Do**

Hometown: Columbus, Georgia

- Majors: Political Science and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

## When Soft Law Finds Success: Analyzing the Conditions by which UNHRC Member States Comply with Ratified International Human Rights Law

My thesis delves into the conditions by which the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) member states comply with international human rights laws. I present my theories on the independent variables that might affect compliance: political regime type, economic development level, and religious freedom score. Then, I conduct four case studies on current or former member states of the UNHRC — Qatar, China, Eritrea, and Finland. (Case study countries may be subject to change.) I elaborate on each country's respective history with human rights and the Council. I also analyze each independent variable within the countries to see if it affects their relationship with compliance under the UNHRC. The goal is to determine the factors that encourage ratified member states of the Council to comply with international human rights law given its "soft law" status.

The atrocities in the world, especially in Ukraine, piqued my curiosity with regard to the role of international institutions in preventing human rights abuses. As world leaders from the United States, United Kingdom, France, and others expressed their condemnation of Russia's invasion, the country has yet to retreat amid backlash. I wanted to study the efficacy of international institutions in preventing human rights abuses and enacting consequences for those who commit violations to these rights.



**Allison Doctor**

Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

- Major: Spanish
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Joshua Lund

## Entre la Violencia y la Reclamación: la Paradoja del Merengue (Between Violence and Reclamation: The Paradox of Merengue)

My thesis explores the history of merengue, the national dance of the Dominican Republic, by tracing its origins to the clash between European, African, and Indigenous cultures. I explore its origins during colonization, its rise to national significance under dictator Rafael Trujillo during the 1930s, and today. Additionally, the paper highlights how individuals and communities have reclaimed their bodies, cultures, and histories through the style that oppressed and marginalized them, illustrating the power of merengue today.

During my junior year, I took Raza y Violencia with Professor Joshua Lund, in which I researched violent and racialized histories of various dances for my final paper. The course inspired me to examine the popular social dance merengue, especially its various perceptions during slavery, the Trujillato, and today.

**Clarkston (Clark) Doman**

Hometown: Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

- Majors: American Studies and Economics
- Minor: Chinese
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisors: Korey Garibaldi and Forrest Spence

## 'Look for Me, Ma, I Won't Be There': Climate, Migration, and the End of the California Dream

My thesis explores the complex relationship between climate and migration in California. Although California's climate has historically been idealized to promote immigration, various factors like social inequality, racist native backlash, unsustainable housing development, and natural disasters have consistently harmed many Californian migrants. Additionally, I propose that as California's climate worsens, the Golden State will further lose its golden standing as America's premier migrant paradise and instead become a producer of American climate refugees. I visited historical sites in Bakersfield — a city where many Dust Bowl migrants settled in the 1930s — and I conducted archival research at The Huntington Library in San Marino.

I was interested in American climate migration, and California seemed like the perfect case study given its frequency of natural disasters and slowing population growth. I enjoyed comparing California's idealized climate that attracted many migrants in the 1930s and the modern reality of climate catastrophe.

*Traveled to California and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Timothy Dorn**

Hometown:

Horse Shoe, North Carolina

- Majors: Music (Concentration in Music Theory and History) and Economics
- Cathy and Jack Brennan Family Scholars Program, Glynn Family Honors Program, and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisor: John Liberatore

## Analysis of Historical Classical Guitar Technique and the Use of Picking-Hand Fingernails

The classical guitar, unlike other instruments, is affected by the physiology of the player. Namely, the use of fingernails on the plucking hand has been contested in technique manuals over the past 400 years. Early guitarists openly condemned the use of nails on the basis of diminished tone, but modern (20th-century) players established the use of fingernails as the standard due to increased projection and timbral color. I am studying the hypotheses for these divergent practices and their impacts on repertoire.

I am a classical guitarist and am interested in the history of the instrument and the techniques associated with it. From an anecdotal point of view, I can see that modern repertoire heavily utilizes extended techniques that could only be achieved with fingernails, and modern instruments are different from historic ones.



## Solomon Duane

Hometown: Chesapeake, Virginia

- Major: Architecture
- Minor: Musical Theatre
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Suzanne and Walter Scott Scholars Program
- Advisor: Matt Hawkins

## *Dawn's Early Light: A New Musical*

*Dawn's Early Light* was workshopped and produced by the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre as a part of its New Works Program. The original musical follows the true story of the Zucchiattis, an Italian-American family struggling with generational conflict during World War II.

I began creating this musical in March 2020, and was inspired to tell a story reflective of another time in American history when a young generation was faced with overcoming a worldwide tragedy on a global scale.

**Grace Ducat**

Hometown:

Kernersville, North Carolina

- Major: Science Preprofessional Studies
- Minors: Anthropology and International Development Studies
- Advisor: Catherine Bolten

## Inclusion of Disabled Children in Education in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone

My senior thesis looks into the inclusion of disabled children in education in Sierra Leone. It highlights instances of symbolic, structural, cultural and, in some cases, direct violence, toward children with disabilities. It also looks at the intersectionality of challenges faced both by children and their teachers, surrounding their inclusion into primary and secondary schools, specifically in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone. I traveled to Makeni, Sierra Leone and lived for seven weeks at the University of Makeni. I focused my research in the city of Makeni and five surrounding villages, all in the Bombali District of the Northern Province. Additionally, I spent a weekend in the capital city of Freetown.

My anthropology and international development studies courses have fostered my interest in education in Africa. Additionally, in 2021, I worked at a summer camp, Victory Junction, for children with serious medical conditions, special needs, and other forms of disability. I chose this topic to combine these interests. In addition to my yearlong anthropology thesis, I have written my international development studies capstone paper, "Challenges with Inclusive Education of Disabled Children in Mainstream Schools in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone" on the research I conducted this past summer.

*Traveled to Makeni, Sierra Leone, and received funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.*



**Ryan Duppler**

Hometown: St. Charles, Illinois

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Fr. William Dailey, C.S.C.

**'Egregiously Wrong': *Casey*'s Flawed Application of Stare Decisis**

This thesis analyzes two landmark abortion decisions: *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* and *Dobbs v. Jackson*. More specifically, this thesis looks at both decisions through the lens of how they employ the doctrine of stare decisis. By using legal literature, court history, and precedents, I show that *Dobbs* appropriately employed the five pillars of the doctrine, while *Casey* erred. I ultimately concur with the *Dobbs* decision in saying that *Roe* was deserving of invalidation.

Abortion has grown to be the most salient issue in our political and legal landscapes. Furthermore, I felt that stare decisis arguments in *Dobbs* (being a massively important doctrine for our common law) were overlooked and seldom understood by the public.



## Quinlan Earley

Hometown: Wheaton, Illinois

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisor: Terrance Brown

## The Importance of Intersectionality in Television and *The W*

This project researched the importance of representation and intersectionality in television characters. The project was accompanied by an original pilot screenplay called *The W* about women who play in the Women's National Basketball Association.

I chose this topic because of how important representation in media has been proven to be. I want to create entertainment that makes people feel validated in their identities, even if the environment they are surrounded by is insistent on telling them it's not. For me, that starts with this screenplay.

**Luis Elizondo Gracia**

Hometown: Monterrey, Mexico

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Italian
- Advisor: Alejandro Estefan

## Why Should I Pay? Nudging for Utility Payments in Mexico

My honors thesis — which I presented at this year's Human Development Conference at Notre Dame — analyzes some drivers of payment for water utility bills in Mexico. Finding out what the government can do to reduce delinquent customers is of critical value to public finance. Using data provided by the government of Mexico, I find using a difference-in-difference regression that not all government policies are effective at inducing citizens to pay.

I am from Monterrey, Mexico, a city that experienced months of water rationing last summer. Many citizens were desperate for water and there was nothing the government could do; there was none left. Being able to prepare for such situations is of extreme importance, and underfunded utility companies will never be able to get it right.

**Dylan Rose Elledge**

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Majors: Marketing and Spanish
- Advisor: Juan Vitulli

## How a Sport Formed a Nation: Political and Social Impact of Soccer in Argentina

My thesis investigates the impact that sport has had in South America, with a specific focus on soccer in Argentina. It is guided by the overarching question: How has soccer been used as a political and social tool to impact Argentina's national and international identity? I take an in-depth focus on the idea of soccer as a political weapon and a form of social resistance.

I love soccer, and when I traveled to Argentina last year, I saw the enormous role that soccer plays in the country's identity and day-to-day life. I wanted to investigate further how soccer has shown up throughout the country's history and development, especially in cultural, social, and political aspects.

*Traveled to Argentina.*

**Peter Emanuelli**

Hometown: Montclair, New Jersey

- Major: Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Advisor: Drew Creal

## Banking on Capital: The Effect of Capital Ratios on Bank Performance

Strict capital holding requirements for banks were implemented after the Great Recession and, since then, CEOs of the largest banks have complained about capital requirements hurting their performance. I look at whether a bank's capital ratio can help predict its stock performance and how portfolios of banks with different capital ratios perform. I learned about this topic during an internship and I thought it would be interesting to learn more.



**Cristina Escajadillo**

Hometown: Darien, Connecticut

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Collaborative Innovation
- Advisor: Jennifer Martin

## The Art of Friendship

This thesis explores the transition from classical friendship, as defined by Aristotle and Cicero, to spiritual friendship, as defined by Aelred of Rievaulx and Thomas Aquinas, and compares it to the transition from Renaissance to Baroque art. The thesis suggests that friendship is an act of creation, emerging wholly from the radical uniqueness of each individual. And it examines how the implications of the created essence between self and other serves as a representation of the Trinity. I traveled to Rome to augment my research on Renaissance and Baroque art.

I grew up moving around internationally, so making new friends has been an omnipresent experience in my life. This thesis gave me the opportunity to delve into the philosophy of friendship and intertwine it with my deep love of art history.

*Traveled to Rome and received funding via the Diana M. Sciola Grant.*

**Christine (Tina) Farnberg**

Hometown: Rochester, Minnesota

- Major: History
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Fr. Bill Miscamble, C.S.C.

## Success or Failure: An Analysis of Reagan and Gorbachev in Reykjavik

The Reykjavik Summit was a series of meetings between General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan. My thesis analyzes the evolution of their diplomatic relationship in Iceland. I researched government documents for four days at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in Simi Valley, California. Using transcripts, advisors' notes, and memoirs, I discuss how their personal interactions within these meetings affected the success of the Reykjavik Summit.

I am interested in Russian history and America's relationship with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. I believe the personalities of world leaders affect policy decisions and the future of nations. There was an intersection of big personalities at the Reykjavik Summit, so I was intrigued to research further.

*Traveled to Simi Valley, California, and received funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.*

**Eoghan Fay**

Hometown: Dublin, Ireland

- Major: History
- Minors: German, Italian, and European Studies
- Advisor: Ian Ona Johnson

## **'More of the Fugitive than of the Scarlet Pimpernel:' Hermann Goertz and Irish Neutrality & Sovereignty in the Second World War.**

My thesis investigates the mission of Nazi operative Hermann Goertz to Ireland during World War II as German liaison to the Irish Republican Army. Goertz's work with the Irish Republican Army drove one of the largest national security operations in Irish history. His intrigues undermined Irish neutrality and sparked panic of a German invasion. Eventually, the counterintelligence efforts to capture Goertz succeeded and, ultimately, demonstrated how Ireland defended its still-new sovereignty in World War II. During summer 2022, I traveled to Dublin to conduct archival research on the Goertz mission. I reviewed records from the National Archives of Ireland, the Archives of University College Dublin, and the National Library of Ireland. I also had the fortune to become the first researcher to access the fully cataloged military intelligence files on Goertz at the Irish Military Archives in Cathal Brugha Barracks.

The Goertz mission was a natural choice for my thesis, as it combined military history, Irish history, and my family's past. My great-grandmother's neighbors, the Farrell sisters, harbored Goertz. My great-grandmother maintained there was "something funny" about them. Imagine my delight when I found a police report calling the sisters "central to the conspiracy [to assist Goertz]."

*Traveled to Dublin and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Nanovic Institute for European Studies, and the Department of History Dingens Research Award.*

**Madeline Foley**

Hometown: New York, New York

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Notre Dame Scholars Program and Stamps Scholars Program
- Advisor: Lee Gettler

## Social and Structural Determinants of Adverse Maternal and Birth Outcomes in Northern Indiana

My project evaluates adverse maternal and birth outcomes in the Northern Indiana hospital region from a social and structural perspective.

I chose this topic because the Northern Indiana hospital region has a significantly higher rate of infant and maternal morbidity than the rest of Indiana. I wanted to research why this might be occurring in the community that surrounds Notre Dame.

**James (Will) Forsen**

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisor: Denis Robichaud

## The Humanist Exercise and Ironic Presentation of Epicureanism in Thomas More's *Utopia*

Thomas More's *Utopia* is a fascinating work, yet complicated in its contradictory presentation of various philosophies and religious beliefs. One of the more prominent philosophies the Utopians adhere to is Epicureanism, an ancient Greek school famous for its hedonism and emphasis on nature. In my thesis, I argue that More sets Epicurean doctrine in conversation with Christianity to further a contemporary humanist practice of investigating the compatibility between seemingly exclusive beliefs.

After reading *Utopia* in the Program of Liberal Studies, I became interested in the variety of possible interpretations of the text. I wanted to explore why More would obscure his meaning and complicate the nation of Utopia, and what that might mean for the ideas he presents in the book.



**Grace Franco**

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Advisor: Josh Kaplan

## The Coalition Building Playlist: Analyzing Music as a Tool to Understand Trump's Appeal

In this project, I offer another tool to understand Donald Trump's appeal — more specifically, how he is able to attract such a broad coalition and how voters and counties that went for Obama twice could be drawn to Trump. His approach to music is emblematic of his more general approach to winning elections. Understanding that will allow us to understand his appeal. This project seeks to analyze the music of Trump during his 2016 and 2020 campaigns, with specific examination of his current Save America rallies and how they have facilitated his allure to such a wide array of voters. I attended a Trump rally in Michigan to listen to the music that was played and engage in casual conversations with voters.

Typecasting Trump voters doesn't allow for a holistic portrayal of them. Political scientists are trying to understand Trump's support in terms and forms they know. However, everything about Trump suggests he has always gone against the norm and, as a result, it is important to explain his appeal beyond traditional metrics. Although Trump does not come out of nowhere and there is still value in traditional modes of explanation, a new approach is needed.

*Traveled to Michigan and received funding from a Department of Political Science Strake Grant.*

**Rebecca Fried**

Hometown: Rogers, Arkansas

- Major: Joint Major in Philosophy and Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: John Betz

## Thomas Aquinas and Greg Bahnsen: A Synthesis of Apologetic Methods

Classical approaches to apologetics like that of Aquinas are often viewed as incompatible with, or even antagonistic to, presuppositional approaches like that of Bahnsen and Van Til. My thesis argues that, contrary to this common assumption, there are deep symmetries between Bahnsen and Aquinas' apologetic approaches. From this, I argue that presuppositional and classical apologetics are compatible with, and can even complement, each other.

I chose this topic because I am interested in Christian apologetics. I appreciate both presuppositional and classical approaches and thought that their complementarity was an area warranting further development.

**Katherine Fynes**

Hometown: Chevy Chase, Maryland

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Advisor: Robert Goulding

## The Eternal Conversation: An Exploration of the Index Librorum Prohibitorum, Notre Dame's Program of Liberal Studies, and the Great Books

This examination considers what it means to be a great book, and how the Great Books Movement resulted in the establishment of the Program of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Furthermore, it investigates which of these great books were on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum — the Vatican's banned books list — and why and how that played a role at Notre Dame. The project culminates in a discussion on the Great Conversation.

Originally, I was supposed to have a research project on Zahm, Dante, and the Vatican while in Rome, which was going to support my thesis. Due to COVID, however, there was no Rome trip and no research project. I got to my final topic by tracing various threads from my original ideas.

**Margaret (Maggie) Gallagher**

Hometown: Goshen, Indiana

- Majors: Gender Studies and Psychology
- Minor: Italian
- Advisor: Pam Butler

## Where Can We Turn? Community-Based Mental Health Support at the University of Notre Dame

My thesis project is an examination of mental health crisis response models through an abolitionist lens. I consider student mental health and the role of the police in mental health care, as well as different alternative mental health crisis response models in action today. I am also looking into pod mapping as a tool/resource that can help create community and reduce reliance on the police.

The idea for my thesis came about in spring 2022 in a prison studies course. A class discussion on student mental health made it clear that mental health care and mental health crisis response, particularly on college campuses, needed to be addressed from an abolitionist perspective.

*Received funding from the Gender Studies Program's Genevieve D. Willis Research Grant.*

**Lingxiao (Linda) Gao**

Hometown: Beijing, China

- Major: History
- Supplementary Majors: German and Asian Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Greater China Scholars Program, and Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Mark Roche

## American, German, and Chinese Rip Van Winkle: The Transnational Tale of an Anachronistic Traveler

I trace the transnational travel of the Rip Van Winkle archetype — an anachronistic long sleeper, a “refugee” from another historical reality — from its German folktale origin to post-revolutionary America, to late 19th-century China. I illustrate how the story’s internal logic became replicated in its cross-cultural reception history, where configurations of alternative spaces and times served to resist the lineal, progressive temporality and to lodge experiences of anachronism, displacement, and nostalgia.

Based on my studies of German (I traveled to Germany to study the German language), Chinese, and American literature, this project reflects my interest in transnational literary encounters and human experiences of temporality, especially during times of dynastic changes, discontinuities, and traumas. The project also prepares me for my future Ph.D. studies in comparative literature. The project’s initial idea and inspiration came from my conversation with Professor Nan Z. Da in the Department of English. I also received generous help regarding translations of classical Chinese texts from Professor Xiaoshan Yang in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

*Traveled to Germany and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



**Nathalie Garcia**

Hometown: Lawrence, Massachusetts

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Latino Studies Scholars Program
- Advisor: Karen Richman

## Cafe con Chisme: Traditions of Gossip In Dominican Descent College Students

I posit that chisme constitutes a verbal genre with its own recognized rituals and rules, which helps consolidate cultural closeness by keeping alive communal practices integral to Latin American and Caribbean cultures, like that of the Dominican Republic. By conducting interviews with college-aged Dominican-American youth, I hope to gain a clearer image of what chisme means to them, how they engage in it, and what role it plays in their lives.

As a Dominican American, I have always adored the oral aspect of my cultural experience, including storytelling, traditions of greetings and goodbyes, and norms of exchanging information. I chose to indulge this interest by exploring patterns of chisme, the Spanish word for gossip, among peers who share my identity.

**Grace Gasper**

Hometown: Playa Del Rey,  
Los Angeles, California

- Majors: Theology and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisors: Tarryn Chun and Carys Kresny

***A Little Princess***

My thesis project is a children's stage adaptation of *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The play seeks to give space for the grief, pain, and other big emotions that children feel just as much as adults. It also explores what happens when kindness knows no social norm and imagination knows no age limit.

The book *A Little Princess* spoke to me as an undiagnosed neurodivergent child. My play re-examines the main character, Sara, through a neurodivergent lens. My hope in creating this piece is to show Sara's differences not as obstacles to overcome, but as beautiful, integral parts of who she is. This play demonstrates a boundless kindness that I wish our world were more familiar with. Sara ignores the social norms of class in her attempts to care for others, unintentionally upsetting the social order. I hope this play reminds us all that we all have the power to disrupt the status quo in favor of kindness and love, and everyday we can choose to do so.

**Dominic Gaziano**

Hometown: Newton, Massachusetts

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Davin Raiha

## The Effect of Physical Education on Student Health Outcomes

I examine whether the different levels of physical education required by each state have a causal effect on the students' health outcomes in their respective states. I begin with mental health outcomes and move on to explore other outcomes and factors in later models.

I wanted to choose a topic that combined my two majors as a way to culminate my schooling in both of these fields. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened student health, especially mental health, so this particular topic is relevant.

**MyKayla Geary**

Hometown: Houston, Texas

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Minors: Africana Studies and Computing and Digital Technologies
- Advisor: Cora Bennett and Anna Haskins

## Communities on ICE: The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Student Discipline

Estimates suggest that 1 in 4 American children are born to immigrants. This means that approximately 12.8 million American children have been impacted by U.S. immigration policy. In my thesis, I examine the relationship between immigration enforcement and student discipline using discipline data reported by local education agencies (LEAs) to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. I find that increased immigration enforcement at the county level leads to worse disciplinary outcomes for Hispanic students. More research would need to be conducted to determine the mechanisms through which immigration enforcement influences disciplinary action; however, it could be a result of increased negative behaviors by students because of heightened stress related to immigration enforcement and/or teacher stigma.

As an economics and education student, I have long been interested in how policy influences and contributes to disparate disciplinary outcomes for students of color. While there has been extensive study on the white/Black discipline disparity, my literature review on student discipline highlighted a gap in how undocumented students and students from mixed-status families experience school discipline policy, as well as how community factors can influence discipline in schools. With the help of my advisors, we identified the 287(g) program — in which state and local law enforcement agencies collaborate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enforce federal immigration laws — and thought that exploring this program's impact could provide critical insight in this area.

**William Geoffroy**

Hometown:

Colorado Springs, Colorado

- Majors: Biological Sciences and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Alexander Jech

## Worldview Formation in the History of Medicine: Applying Thomas Kuhn's Philosophy to the Medical Sciences

Following in the intellectual footsteps of philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn, I demonstrate how scientific theories of medicine in different eras of history have led practitioners to develop worldviews that are centered around theoretical assumptions, disciplinary matrices, and examples that effectively constitute the limits of their reality. More specifically, I demonstrate the applicability of Kuhnian philosophy to the development of Hippocratic medicine, the Anatomical Revolution, 19th century Germ Theory, and contemporary health care.

A large portion of my undergraduate career has been focused on studying the philosophy of science and the history of medicine. While studying in London as a part of Notre Dame's study abroad program, I participated in an Oxford-style class dedicated to studying the history of medicine through the museums and libraries of London, the Wellcome Collection, and The Royal Society. After becoming fascinated with Kuhn and his historical approach to the philosophy of science, I decided to apply his theories to the biological sciences and especially medicine.

*Traveled to London.*



**Marie Gerges**

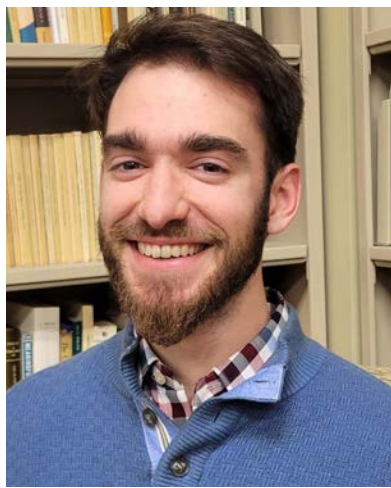
Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Majors: Physics and Chinese
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Stamps Scholars Program
- Advisors: Aravind Cherukuri and Crislyn D'Souza-Schorey

## Do Patients with Kidney Transplant Rejection Show Elevated Levels of Non-HLA Autoantibodies?

My thesis is related to kidney transplant rejection. The goal is to determine whether there is a correlation between serum antibody levels and the incidence of kidney transplant rejection. We utilized an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to measure the levels of different human leukocyte antigen (HLA) antibodies in patients' serum samples. The results of this project could be used to improve physicians' ability to diagnose different types of kidney transplant rejection.

I selected this project because I am interested in the physiology of the renal system, as well as immunology. I wanted to learn more about how kidney transplant rejection is diagnosed and treated, and what challenges researchers face in terms of improving kidney transplant outcomes.

**Joshua (Josh) Gilchrist**

Hometown: Chantilly, Virginia

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Robert Goulding

## The Poetic Attempt: Language and Competition in T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* and Dante's *Commedia*

My thesis analyzes the image of the song and the dance in T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*. Defending Helen Gardner's claim that the Quartets are "moving toward meaning and not starting from it," the paper treats song and dance both as an internal image and an external structural metaphor for poetry itself, tracing its development in the poems through the lens of Dante's *Paradiso* and Sir Thomas Elyot's *The Book of the Governor*, both of which Eliot uses in the *Four Quartets*.

Dante and Eliot are two of my favorite authors that I've read in the Program of Liberal Studies, and *Four Quartets*, as Eliot's major work after his conversion to Christianity, interests me greatly. I get to think deeply about poetry, which I love.

**Luisana Gonzalez DiTillio**

Hometown: New York, New York

- Major: English
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Barry McCrea

**Race Relations in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace***

My thesis is a literary examination of the philosophical point of view regarding race relations in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*.

The novel *Disgrace* provoked a lot of intellectual and moral reflection; its point of view compelled me to take a closer look at the mechanics within and throughout. I went to The University of Texas at Austin and looked at archives of Coetzee and his influences in the Harry Ransom Center.

*Traveled to Austin, Texas, and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Jonathan Goodloe**

Hometown: Buffalo, New York

- Major: Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Pedro Aguilera-Mellado

## Fascismo Reinventado: la Supervivencia Duradera del Franquismo en la España Contemporánea a Través de Principios Neoliberales en la Política y la Economía Española

I am examining dictator Francisco Franco's legacy as it currently stands in Spain with a focus on its lasting power in the economy and in politics due to its incorporation into the neoliberal Spanish democracy post-dictatorship. In addition, there is a dive into the political party Vox, how it attempts to emulate Francoist policies, and recommendations to officially disrupt Franco's legacy in Spanish society.

I took Professor Aguilera-Mellado's Fascism in Spain class my first year. When I studied for a semester in Madrid, I saw how intact Franco's legacy is firsthand through my host parents and how they perceived Franco as someone who "stumbled" into power and not as a dictator.

**Jack Griffiths**

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Advisor: Essaka Joshua

## Enfreaked Bodyminds: Decoding the Unheimlich in Dickens and Collins with Critical Disability Theory

For my thesis, I analyze Victorian literature through the lens of critical disability studies. Specifically, I argue that Charles Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop* and Wilkie Collins' *The Law and the Lady* depict disability in an "enfreaking" manner, regarding it as a marker of difference that elicits fear, paternalistic pity, or both at once.

My identity as an autistic individual heightened my interest in how disability is represented in various contexts. Furthermore, my class with Professor Essaka Joshua about disability in Romantic and Victorian literature inspired me to research the topic more thoroughly.

**Gabriela Gunka**

Hometown: Burbank, Illinois

- Majors: Biochemistry and Anthropology
- Questbridge Scholar
- Advisor: Eric Haanstad

## Polish Highlanders or Górale : Adapting Folk Culture and Identity to Changing Times and Global Influences

My thesis explores the culture and identity of Górale from the Podhale region and how they were perceived and portrayed, especially in the period between the late 18th century and today. It describes the impact the outsiders had on “creating” the culture of the Podhale region, from the early interests in Tatra Mountains, up to modern times. It also includes the analysis of the portrayal of Górale in modern media, as well as the significance of the culture for those who have emigrated.

As a Polish highlander myself, I wanted to explore how Podhale became such a popular tourist destination and how Górale adapted their cultural practices to accommodate said tourists. I also wanted to see how the perception of Górale has changed over time, and where the modern-day negativity comes from.



**Anna Guzman**

Hometown: Lake Zurich, Illinois

- Majors: Neuroscience and Behavior and Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: David Watson

## Everyday Sadistic Tendencies: The Role of Personality Traits and Intelligence

This exploratory study analyzed sadistic tendencies in a noncriminal sample to further research into subclinical sadism and its relation with intelligence and manipulateness. This will facilitate a better understanding of subclinical sadistic personality and the ability to compare sadistic tendencies between subjects. We predict sadistic tendencies are associated more with a combination of extreme personality and intelligence than when lacking either of the two, or both.

The psychology of everyday sadism is fairly novel and thus ripe for study. Additionally, I have always been interested in deviance, dark personality traits, and criminal behavior. My study is a part of a larger study in the Center for Advanced Measurement of Personality and Psychopathology, focused on autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and extreme personality disorder. This project is unique and aligns with my research interests.

**Paige Haeflinger**

Hometown: Elmhurst, Illinois

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and English
- Advisor: Gretchen Reydam-Schils

## On the Communal Ascent to Salvation: the Necessity and Function of the Guide in *The Divine Comedy*

My thesis revolves around the relationship between the pilgrim and guide in *The Divine Comedy*. I ultimately found that our ascent to salvation is communal. The pilgrim encounters the paradox that in abandoning worldly relationships, he will find unity with all life through the divine.

I enjoyed reading *The Divine Comedy* and knew that I wanted to write my thesis on this text. I was especially struck by the moments of transition between the guides and wanted to understand Dante the poet's choice to include a multiplicity of guides and the essential function of each.

**Emily Hannon**

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina

- Major: History
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Rebecca McKenna

## Changing Textbooks, Changing Stories: The Development of *The American Pageant* from its Inception to the Present

I studied the development of the popular high school history textbook, *The American Pageant* by going through each edition at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. I focused on the change in the textbook's discussion of women in the latter half of the 20th century, and paired that study with research on the development of women's history as an academic discipline. I found that *The American Pageant* changed substantially in the 1970s due to the rise of women's liberation, but that these changes did not fully integrate women into history in the way that women's historians wanted.

I believe that the way that schools teach history profoundly shapes the way that Americans understand their national identity. A quick glance at the news today puts debates over education and what it truly means to be American to the forefront. I wanted to go to the root of where students learn American history and research how and why the content that they learn has changed over time. In doing so, I am able to better articulate how powerful history is.

*Traveled to Washington, D.C., and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Kelly Harris**

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, Florida

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Musical Theatre and Digital Marketing
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: David Campbell

## Freedom of Speech in the Digital Age: An Exploration of the Impact of Social Media on the First Amendment

Social media has created a paradigm shift in the legal field. My project aims to fill a gap in constitutional studies by analyzing the effects of this new digital medium. To gain greater insight into the role that social media has played in shaping free speech, I conducted a national survey. Respondents played the role of Supreme Court justice, opining on the outcome of scenarios that address classical exceptions to free speech.

Through gauging public opinion on social media's impact on free speech, I aim to provide a reference for when constitutional questions come to a head in the digital realm.

*Received funding via a Kennedy Scholars Fellowship.*

**David Haungs**

Hometown: Manlius, New York

- Major: Chemistry
- Supplementary Major: Political Science
- Sorin Scholars Honors Program
- Advisor: Mary Keys

## A Natural Law Theory of Equity in Patent Infringement Remedies

My thesis articulates a theory of patent infringement remedies — particularly injunctive relief — in light of the classical natural law tradition. I trace the development of natural law philosophy in ancient sources like Aristotle, medieval theologians like Saint Thomas Aquinas, and modern thinkers like John Finnis. Translating the tradition's insights on property law and the judicial equity power to the present yields an approach to patent infringement remedies that would justify and augment the Supreme Court's current jurisprudence.

For a chemistry major fascinated with the technological implications of law, patent law is a natural field. My interest in the classical natural law tradition, stimulated by Mary Keys' Theories of Law seminar, provided a basis for a novel intervention in the patent law literature.

**Julia Hawthorne**

Hometown: Saratoga, New York

- Majors: Biological Sciences and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Wendy Angst

## The Impact of a Women's Health Education and Menstrual Cup Program on Menstrual Health Management Among Young Adult Students in Kalongo, Uganda

Improper menstrual health management (MHM) can negatively affect one's health, education, and work. In Uganda, a lack of resources, knowledge, and services can make proper MHM difficult. I lived for two months with students at Saint Bakhita's Vocational Training Center in Kalongo, Uganda. After listening to their perspectives about the impacts of menstruation on their lives and education, and the barriers they faced to proper MHM, I was better able to design a program to improve MHM. An initial survey assessed the impacts of menstruation on student life and factors influencing a student's response to menstruation. I used this information to develop a program, including women's health education and menstrual cups, which resulted in improvements in several MHM quantifiers six months post-implementation.

I chose this topic because my passions lie at the intersection of health care and education access. After learning many girls in Uganda miss school regularly due to menstruation, I wanted to research programs that lessened the burdens of menstruation and design a new program for the students of Kalongo.

*Traveled to Kalongo, Uganda, and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



**Nora Hayes**

Hometown: Avon, New York

- Majors: Film, Television, and Theatre and History
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisors: Pamela Wojcik and Terrance Brown

## The Life and Career of Marilyn Monroe

My project is a screenplay exploring the life and career of Marilyn Monroe. I am specifically interested in the ways in which she fought for control in a male-dominated industry and grappled with double standards regarding female sexuality versus male sexuality.

Well-known films about Monroe (*Blonde* and *My Week with Marilyn*) paint her as a victim of her circumstances and focus largely on traumas she endured throughout her life. I want to bring a new depth to these representations of Monroe by calling attention to her self-advocacy within the industry.



## Corrine Hays

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

- Majors: Psychology and Gender Studies
- Minor: Health, Humanities, and Society
- Advisors: Katharine McCabe and Pam Butler

## The Role of Mental Health Professionals in Accessing Gender-Affirming Care

This study seeks to understand the self-defined role of mental health providers in a transgender individual's ability to access gender-affirming care (hormones or surgery). Historically speaking, people seeking gender-affirming care are required to present at least one letter of approval from a mental health care provider. I conduct interviews to ask providers for professional information about how they navigate and potentially hope to improve this system.

I chose this topic because I am passionate about and interested in the intersection between psychology and gender studies. I was curious: How can mental health providers help gender-diverse individuals receive the care they deserve? How do they navigate this system of gatekeeping?

*Received funding from the Gender Studies Program's Genevieve D. Willis Research Grant.*



## Jack Heatherman

Hometown: Newnan, Georgia

- Majors: Biological Sciences and English (Concentration in Creative Writing)
- Advisor: Xavier Navarro Aquino

## *Liebestraum*: A Novel

*Liebestraum* is a novel written in seven parts with three rotating first-person voices. This collection of vignettes paints a picture of the modern deep South through the eyes of three brothers whose everyday experiences as children and adults show how we can never fully escape our home and past.

Tone, vignette length, and dialogue style were heavily inspired by the short story collections of Raymond Carver and *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan. Structure and novel assembly owe influence to *Dubliners* by James Joyce, and short stories by Carmen Maria Machado, Flannery O'Connor, and Giada Scodellaro. Thematic arcs were largely influenced by Southern, African, and African American authors, including O'Connor, William Faulkner, J. M. Coetzee, Chinua Achebe, NoViolet Bulawayo, Octavia Butler and Toni Morrison. The importance of home and the draw toward accurate setting imagery were inspired by *In Patagonia* by Bruce Chatwin and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to study African authors as they thematically relate to African American and white authors in the South.

*Traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Matthew (Matt) Heilman**

Hometown: Carmel, Indiana

- Majors: Neuroscience and Behavior and Gender Studies
- Advisor: Katherine Walden and Julia Kowalski

## **'Queering Care by Queering Data': A Mixed-Methods Analysis of LGBTQ+ Health Data Production**

This thesis utilizes ethnographic fieldwork conducted within community health organizations serving LGBTQ+ populations to explore how data about LGBTQ+ health and well-being is collected and transformed as it moves between different stakeholder groups. The information I have learned about each unique "philosophy of data collection" highlights various aspects of LGBTQ+ health literacy often neglected by traditional approaches to the concept, and challenges health care providers to develop new norms of data transparency in their pursuit of better care for LGBTQ+ populations.

This project emerged in its earliest form during the fall semester of my junior year. I took a class with one of my current advisors, Katherine Walden, called Data Feminism, during which I brainstormed what a potential thesis project about LGBTQ+ health data might look like due to my interest in the topic. I traveled to area community health organizations that serve LGBTQ+ populations, or under-resourced communities more broadly. I connected with organizations based in South Bend, Mishawaka, and Goshen, Indiana, and Benton Harbor, Michigan. This allowed me to connect with many local health care professionals and build relationships with South Bend and the surrounding area that I would not have had the opportunity to otherwise.

*Traveled throughout South Bend, Mishawaka and Goshen, Indiana, and Benton Harbor, Michigan, and received funding from the Gender Studies Program's Genevieve D. Willis Research Grant.*

**Elizabeth Heldt**

Hometown: West Chester, Pennsylvania

- Major: Political Science
- Advisor: Joshua Kaplan

## How Did Donald Trump Rise and Remake the Republican Party? Does He Fit into a Top-Down or Bottom-Up Party Structure?

Donald Trump's rise through the Republican Party leading up to the 2016 presidential election proved to be an enigma that many political science scholars have attempted to understand. I explain his rise through the perspective of top-down and bottom-up party structures. While it appears that Trump only had a bottom-up rise through the GOP, that is not the case. Trump required at least some support from the Republican elite to win the 2016 party nomination.

If Trump was not elected in 2016, I would most likely not be a political science major. I find it so interesting how such a controversial candidate could grasp the GOP nomination in today's society, and I wanted to find an explanation that has not been largely focused on.

**Kathryn Heyser**

Hometown: Des Plaines, Illinois

- Majors: Aerospace Engineering and History
- Reilly Dual Degree Program and Certificate in International Security Studies
- Advisor: John Deak

## Wartime Trauma and Recovery: Bridging the Gap Between Soldiers' and Civilians' Experiences

My thesis takes a deep look into the Western European allies' experiences of World War I from both the soldiers' and civilians' perspectives. I am hoping to show that these two experiences are more connected than current historical literature suggests, and that they are primarily connected through a shared war-related trauma. The thesis also explores attempts at communicating this connection through the sharing of stories between the two groups. I traveled to France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom to conduct archival research and to visit museums, military cemeteries, preserved trenches, and local sites of remembrance.

I began exploring the impact of war on society and memory in high school. World War I drew my attention because its scale of death and destruction came as a surprise to those who witnessed it and shaped the physical and emotional landscape for decades to come.

*Traveled to France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom, and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*



**Maura Hogaboom**

Hometown: Arlington Heights, Illinois

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Advisor: William Evans

## Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Death and Cesarean Delivery: Evaluating the Role of Hospitals and Physician Effects

Using hospital census data, multiple linear probability models exploit variation in race and ethnicity to estimate the rates of maternal death between racial and ethnic groups. The results show that differences between hospitals treating patients of different races explain a significant portion of the differential rate of cesarean delivery for Black patients. How patients are matched to physicians for treatment does, in fact, contribute to the racial disparities in maternal mortality and cesarean delivery.

The U.S. performs poorly on measures of maternal mortality and cesarean delivery in comparison to all peer countries. The rates for Black patients are differentially greater. With the identification of the level at which these disparities emerge, opportunities arise for eliminating the preventable deaths of Black mothers.

**Carolyn Homolka**

Hometown: Avon Lake, Ohio

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Anthropology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Lee Gettler

## Marital Conflict, Parental Well-Being, and Hormone Reactivity During the Post-Partum Period for U.S. Mothers and Fathers

This project investigated how marital conflict was associated with psychosocial well-being and hormone reactivity among couples with young infants in Indiana. I analyzed survey data about parents' mental well-being, parenting behaviors, and relationship conflict, in addition to salivary hormone data collected before and after a contested marital interaction. The study provided valuable information about differences between mothers' and fathers' conflict-related physiological profiles and mental health in a Euro-American social context.

I chose this topic because parental well-being can have wide-reaching effects on an entire family's health. I hope to better understand the combination of biological and psychosocial factors that contribute to the greater prevalence of relationship conflict and poor mental health for many parents during the postpartum period.

*Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Tristan Huo**

Hometown: Monterey Park, California

- Majors: Design (Concentration in Visual Communication Design) and Psychology
- Minor: Chinese
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Neeta Verma

## Ugly Truths: Beauty as the Benchmark for Good Design

Graphic designers are centrally concerned with the organization of information in a visual fashion, but the aesthetic norms they abide by are deeply rooted in hegemonic beauty standards. Within a global visual culture, design is stratified by these beauty standards. Consequently, that which is beautiful is more likely to be manipulated and embellished to seduce and pull focus, and that which is ugly is more likely to be authentic and worry less about its optics.

I have long been interested in the politics of beauty — what deserves visibility, beauty as a weapon, and the aesthetic surface as a medium. My studies have implicated design in this question, namely, how do designers shape our future, and how are they prey to upholding existing powers using visual narrative?



## Mireille Marie Ibrahim

Hometown: Old Bridge, New Jersey

- Major: Spanish
- Minors: Linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Advisor: Ben Heller

## A Selection of Translations from García Ruiz's *Poemas bíblicos*

I translated a selection of poems from the book *Biblical Poems* by Máximo García Ruiz. He is a Spanish theologian and poet who challenges the stereotypical Christianity of Spain. He uses his poetry to bridge the distance between people and God that has been created through tradition and lack of teaching. I found his poetry to explain the Bible in a relevant way to Spaniard readers, and my translations invite English speakers to enter the audience.

The religious atmosphere in Spain is unique due to its history of religious oppression and dictatorship, and it is sad that the country is moving away from faith. I love the work that García Ruiz is doing to make the Gospel more accessible to Spaniards, and I love being a part of that.

**Aaron Jalca**

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Minors: French and Philosophy
- AnBryce Scholars Initiative and Questbridge Scholar
- Advisor: Jim Sullivan

## In Search of Brighter Futures: How the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Affects High School and College Graduation Rates Among First- and Second-Generation Americans

Education costs in the United States have increased dramatically within the last 40 years, coinciding with many states' shift from need-based to merit-based financial aid. Current literature has shown that effects of merit aid on different population heterogeneities or outcomes vary. Since immigrants and their children have unique experiences, I seek to answer the question: What effect does the Florida Bright Futures program have on high school and college completion for first- and second-generation Americans?

I chose this topic because of personal experience. I am a third-generation American and my grandparents are immigrants from Puerto Rico and Ecuador. My sister is receiving Florida Bright Futures funds to pay for college, but I wondered what effect the program has for people like my parents and grandparents.

*Received funding from a Research and Materials Grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Joseph (Joey) Jegier**

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina

- Major: Philosophy
- Supplementary Majors: Education, Schooling, and Society and German
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Maria McKenna

## Exploring, Deciding, Becoming: Discernment at the University of Notre Dame

This thesis investigates the nature of discernment at the University of Notre Dame. Research, including interviews and focus groups, center around questions of how students decide upon careers and courses of study. After speaking with 18 faculty members and more than 30 students, several themes emerged. People, time to reflect, and experiential learning are important parts of the discernment process. Factors that hinder discernment include fear of the unknown, social pressures, and lack of time.

I chose this topic because I experienced an unusual discernment journey. I began my undergraduate studies as an engineering major. After one year, I switched to philosophy and added an ESS supplemental major. For my thesis, I want to discern the common factors that lead students to make wise decisions about their futures.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*



**Mitchell Johnson**

Hometown: Tampa, Florida

- Majors: Accountancy and English
- Beta Gamma Sigma
- Advisor: Barry McCrea

## Success, Self-Worth, and the American Dream in 20th-Century American Literature

My thesis considers the dream of success in business as the characteristic American dream of the 20th century. By analyzing and comparing literary works such as Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, I explore the way in which professional success represents a powerful proxy for self-worth in the American consciousness. My paper argues that the American obsession with success is driven by something far simpler: the fear of failure.

As an English and business major, I am interested in the portrayal of capitalism and the workplace in American literature. A striking characteristic of the Mendoza College of Business at Notre Dame is the extent to which its students — myself included — tend to consider professional success as a kind of existential imperative. My thesis attempts to trace the literary roots of this phenomenon.

**Julia Johnston**

Hometown:

Colorado Springs, Colorado

- Major: Anthropology
- Advisor: Susan Sheridan

## Bioarchaeological Evidence of Care Through Analysis of Antemortem Cranial Trauma: A Case Study of Two Individual Crania from EBA II-III Bab edh-Dhra's Skeletal Collection

This research aims to look deeper into the site of Bab edh-Dhra's high frequency of trauma to specific portions of the skull, such as the frontal bone and the occipital bone, creating a bioarchaeology of care in order to analyze the prospective consequences and the possible long-term effects of antemortem cranial depression fractures (CDFs) on two individuals as case studies.

I am interested in bioarchaeology as a field and its ability to aid in the anthropological understanding of past cultures through biological analysis.

*Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Mariko Jurcsak**

Hometown: Waipahu, Hawaii

- Major: Greek and Roman Civilization
- Supplementary Major: Japanese
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Aldo Tagliabue

## Odysseus as the Christian Hawaiian Hero: The Emergence of the *Odyssey* in the Pacific

This thesis argues that the translation of the *Odyssey* by the Rev. H.H. Paleka into the Hawaiian language was part of a missionary agenda to convert the Hawaiian population to Christianity. I examine the episodes of Polyphemus, Circe, and the murder of the suitors in the epic, which show how Paleka “translates” Odysseus into a native Hawaiian and Christian hero through his use of Christian diction and principles of native Hawaiian leadership.

I chose this topic because Rev. Paleka’s translation of the *Odyssey* has never been published outside the original newspaper serial edition and never translated before now. This analysis of the *Odyssey* contributes to the classical reception scholarship and illustrates a Christian repurposing of the *Odyssey* by removing moral ambiguity in Odysseus’ actions. With the help of a Hawaiian language teacher from my high school, I produced a translation for the three above-mentioned episodes.



## Emily Kane

Hometown: Summit, New Jersey

- Majors: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics and Music (Concentration in Performance)
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisor: Andrea Christensen

## Gender in Postsecondary Music Education

This project examines gender ratios at postsecondary institutions across America at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and faculty level.

I want to find out if the gender ratios I am seeing in my music education are indicative of a broader trend.



## Emily Kane

Hometown: Summit, New Jersey

- Majors: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics and Music (Concentration in Performance)
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisor: Chris French

## Senior Recital

I played the clarinet and bass clarinet for my senior recital. Here's my program:

Jonathan Russell (1979-) — *Sonata for Bass Clarinet and Piano*

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) — *Grand Duo Concertant, Op. 48*

### **Intermission**

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) — *Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps: III. Abîme des oiseaux*

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) — *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen*

*Received funding from the Department of Music and Boehnen Scholarship for Summer Study in Music.*

**Nancy Kane**

Hometown: Oak Lawn, Illinois

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Computing and Digital Technologies
- Advisor: Annie Coleman

## The Hidden Truth of Sexual Abuse: An Exploration into The Power Dynamics of American Sports Culture that Coerce Female Athletes into Silence

My thesis investigates three high-profile sexual abuse cases involving female athletes. The three cases expose sexual abuse allegations involving USA Gymnastics, USA Soccer, and USA Volleyball. When all three cases are examined together, similar themes illuminate the fact that female athletes do not have complete control over their bodies. My thesis concludes with the media and the legal system's roles in exposing sexual abuse to help create positive changes within women's athletics.

I chose this topic to share information regarding the prevalence of sexual abuse among female athletes. I investigated ongoing sexual abuse and coverups of that abuse. I hope this thesis inspires others to work to create change that will protect female athletes and all who are sexually abused.



**Alexis Kelly**

Hometown:

Newport Beach, California

- Majors: Art History and Psychology
- Minor: German
- Sorin Scholar Honors Program
- Advisor: Tatiana Reinoza

## Framing Graciela Iturbide: Representations of Indigeneity in Mexican Photography from the 19th Century to the Present

In this project, I frame the work of contemporary photographer Graciela Iturbide with a historical lens, using comparisons to Hugo Brehme and Paul Strand, and I consider how she perpetuates and subverts anthropological representations of Indigenous people from early Mexican photography.

I chose this topic after I saw an exhibition of Iturbide's work in Paris. (While studying abroad in Heidelberg, Germany, I went to Paris to see Heliotropo 37 at the Fondation Cartier.) I was struck by the way she engages with the history of Mexican photography in her work, which I was able to recognize due to my role as a research assistant in the photography department at the Snite Museum of Art. Over fall break, I also went to Chicago to see more of Iturbide's work at the National Museum of Mexican Art.

*Traveled to Paris and to Chicago, and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*



## Spencer Kelly

Hometown: San Anselmo, California

- Major: History
- Minor: Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Advisor: Jon Coleman

## Politics, Print Media, and Progressivism in the San Francisco Plague of 1907–1908

My thesis is on the San Francisco Plague of 1907–1908, during which citizens organized a movement to eradicate the plague themselves. I am researching how politics, print media, and progressivism intersected in this extraordinary social movement. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, where public denial of the disease was rampant, I hope to shed light on this piece of history in which people not only accepted their role in public health, but embraced it.

This topic offered a way to learn more about the history of my hometown while researching salient dynamics of public health during disease outbreaks.

**Emma King**

Hometown:

Basking Ridge, New Jersey

- Major: Economics
- Advisor: Kirsten Cornelson

## Does 'Fitspiration' Lead to Exasperation? The Impact of Social Media on Women's Time Use and Mental Health

This paper analyzes an online survey that asks women to follow specific Instagram accounts and traces those accounts' impact on their body esteem, depression, anxiety, and time use.

Fitness is a large part of my personal life, and I am passionate and curious about its impact on other women, especially in the field of behavioral economics.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Ronan King**

Hometown: Beverly, Massachusetts

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Civil and Human Rights
- Certificate in International Security Studies, POLS Departmental Honors
- Advisor: Michael Desch

## What Realistic Threats Do Undocumented Immigrants Pose to US National Security?

I investigated the perpetuation of nationalist sentiments, specifically against illegal immigration, to conclude where their definitive risks of deteriorating civil safety lie. Through analyzing the notable threats often associated with illegal immigration — namely drug smuggling, human trafficking, and gang affiliation — I examined the true degree of danger imposed by people entering a country illegally to be predominantly absent beyond the initial crime of unlawful entry. By uncovering the circumstances in which benign migrants without proper identification are malleable with their intentions when transitioning to criminal activity, I conclude a vital delineation between victimized undocumented migrants and the overbearing cartel syndicates through which many migrants are forced to rely upon when attempting to cross into the United States.

With more than 420,000 undocumented migrants encountered in the first two months of 2023 by U.S. Customs & Border Patrol, in addition to estimates stating ~12 million unaccounted migrants reside within the U.S., today's immigration debates press the "nation of immigrants" harder than ever before. Given the ever-increasing annual resource allocation to the Department of Homeland Security — eclipsing \$60 billion in discretionary funding for FY24 — the threats posed at American borders and who exactly poses them are presumed to be conspicuously apparent. Yet, despite the directed focus on people who enter the country illegally, why do U.S. national security efforts along its borders continually prove inadequate?

**Ethan Kirsch**

Hometown: Terre Haute, Indiana

- Major: Mathematics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Marco Radeschi

## Minimal Surfaces

The thesis provides an introduction to minimal surfaces, generally a topic only discussed after a year of graduate school, from the starting point of an advanced undergraduate. It has a "goal theorem" of Bernstein's Theorem to provide direction and a powerful result to the thesis.

I have a soft spot for differential geometry, which is a larger field that contains minimal surfaces. The actual selection of minimal surfaces came from its utility in applications to differential equations, as well as a fascinating interplay between local and global conditions resulting from minimality.

**Alexander (Alex) Klincewicz**

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

- Majors: Science Preprofessional Studies and Spanish
- Advisor: Juan Vitulli

## Curanderismo in Mexico and Peru

My thesis is a cultural and psychological analysis of the practices of curanderos (Indigenous healers) in Mexico and Peru. Through compiling various contexts and studies done on the benefits of curanderos practices, I sought to demonstrate that the value of Indigenous folk medicine shouldn't be so easily dismissed. My goal was also to highlight the parallels I saw between Mexican and Peruvian Indigenous medicine.

As a pre-med student and aspiring doctor, I am interested in different perspectives on healing and medicine. I wanted to do a deep dive in the world of Indigenous healing in Latin America to see what deep-seated truth could be found in this common, nonscientific practice.



**John Klym**

Hometown: Rocky River, Ohio

- Majors: Political Science and Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Jeffrey Harden

## Bipartisan versus Partisan: Extralegislative Outcomes Stemming from Partisanship in the Legislative Process

I examine whether bipartisan or partisan bill development increases the success or failure of public policy. Using a dataset covering crime rates and state bills permitting the DNA collection of felony arrestees, this study estimates the impact of a bipartisan- or partisan-developed DNA collection bill on crime rates. I find strong indications that partisan bills are more successful at lowering the crime rate than bipartisan bills.

Many Americans and politicians claim that a bipartisan bill is a better bill. Public opinion polling confirms the salience of this belief among voters of both parties, but is the belief true or is it a myth? My findings can help voters and policymakers consider how partisanship in the legislative process can affect policy outcomes.

*Received funding from an Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Research and Materials Grant.*



### Lucie Kneip

Hometown: North Bend, Ohio

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Kellogg International Scholars Program, and Diplomacy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Steve Reifenberg

## Co-Creation with Private Partners in Development Work: The Case of The Vines of Mendoza

I conducted field research for two months in Mendoza, Argentina, on the role of private partners in international development. I worked with a private vineyard to establish a charitable foundation to combat food insecurity, expand opportunities for local youth, and work with the community to create pathways for realizing their aspirations. My thesis provides key insights into promoting community participation and feedback mechanisms in development work conducted by private partners by constructing a theory of co-creation which, cognizant of their operating model, can enhance their ability to carry out development work.

The development sphere is saturated with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with expertise and whose work is geared toward carrying out development projects. However, it is much rarer to engage with non-development focused partners, such as a private vineyard. I was impressed by The Vines, which not only wanted to create a charitable foundation, but also has invested in taking ownership of the projects by working directly with the community.

*Traveled to Mendoza, Argentina, and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and Emily and Art Monaghan.*

**Kaylan Knott**

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

- Major: Sociology
- Questbridge Scholar
- Advisor: Mim Thomas

## The Fallacy of Ethical Consumption

"What do people think they can do, what can they actually do, and how do they feel about it?" I have sought to understand how college students reconcile personal needs with ethical convictions while shopping (if at all). This study assesses participant ideals concerning "consumer power" in the market, product advertising transparency, as well as the average consumer's ability to find meaningful details about how staple goods are made.

Consumer ethicality is frequently heralded as a meaningful way to combat everything from climate change to labor trafficking. However, if current market conditions do not actually empower consumers to make informed choices, then "bottom up" systemic change is largely illusory.

**Branden Kohnle**

Hometown: Olathe, Kansas

- Majors: Political Science and Spanish
- Minor: Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Advisor: Joshua Lund

## De Machismo a Modernidad: la Evolución de la Representación Diversa de la Masculinidad de los Hombres Adolescentes en el Cine Mexicano

I explore how masculinity and sexuality are portrayed in Mexican cinema, particularly with respect to adolescent narratives. I look to the past and the construction of a paradoxical “machismo” throughout the film landscape, then focus on recent films with more nuanced representations of queer and nontraditional masculinities. I seek to highlight the ways this representation has changed over time to create progress, as well as where heteronormative or ideas of machismo may still pervade the narratives.

The idea for my topic emerged from my experiences studying abroad, as well as my passion for film. In Puebla, Mexico, I took a class about the history of Mexican cinema and found myself particularly reflecting on the different depictions of masculinity on screen. Representation matters, and I wanted to see how these films portray journeys that men go through during adolescence.

**Caroline Kranick**

Hometown: Jessup, Pennsylvania

- Majors: English and Political Science
- Advisor: Matthew Kilbane

## Girls, Interrupted, Observed, and Obsessed Over: The Authenticity and Appropriation of Female Mental Illness and Suicide in Late Twentieth-Century Literature

Through consideration of Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* and Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*, my thesis seeks to discern how literature can approach the topics of female mental health and suicide with a sense of authenticity and without appropriating this serious subject matter for the sake of shock value or mere intrigue. I investigate, in particular, how each work avoids appropriation and contributes to the cultural dialogue through vastly different narrative means.

Plath's *The Bell Jar* is a hallmark of literature about female mental health. As *The Virgin Suicides* confronts similar subject matter in a very distinct fashion, I was interested in parsing whether these differences lead to problematic ends or else merely a new angle of analysis on this topic.

**Henry Langbo**

Hometown: Columbus, Georgia

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Minor: Computing and Digital Technologies
- Advisor: Patrick Turner

## The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program and Public School Graduation Rates

I used a synthetic difference-in-difference regression to examine the impact of the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program on public school graduation rates. I found graduation rates rose at public schools after the introduction of school choice policy, compared to a synthetic comparison group of the weighted averages of states that did not implement school choice policies.

I chose education and school choice policy for my senior thesis because of the impact that education and high school graduation have on a person's life. School choice is also rapidly expanding across the United States and it is important to understand how policies impact all involved parties, not just the students who switch schools.





## **Caroline Lavender**

Hometown: Arlington Heights, Illinois

- Majors: Neuroscience and Behavior and Philosophy
- Minor: Musical Theatre
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Christopher Patzke

## **The Elucidation of the Cell Biological Function of the Coxsackie-Adenovirus Receptor**

My project focuses on determining the exact function of the coxsackie-adenovirus receptor (CAR), with special focus on whether this protein is overexpressed in Down syndrome and if it contributes at all to DS pathology. We have created knockout lines that demonstrate a characteristically abnormal morphology in HeLa cells, and colocalization functional assays identify certain proteins that tend to bind to CAR. We are working on creating a knockout line in iPS cells in order to create human neurons that are CAR-deficient.

I have focused my undergraduate research on CAR, which was the protein on which my thesis advisor worked as a postdoc. I am particularly interested in Alzheimer's disease; individuals with Down syndrome are severely predisposed to getting Alzheimer's later in life. I am interested in whether this protein could be responsible for this or other phenotypes of Down syndrome.

*Received funding from a College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



### Alyssa (Love) Lee

Hometown: Warner Robins, Georgia

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Gender Studies
- Questbridge Scholar and Transformational Leaders Program
- Advisor: Jennifer Huynh

## From Hawai'i to Okinawa: Settler Colonialism and its Cultural Memory

My project creates a framework on the immense violence the U.S. military has placed upon both Hawai'i and Okinawa as colonies of the United States. After World War II, the military strategy in Hawai'i formed a long-term U.S. military occupation that became the underlying power in forming institutions and identity on the islands. Hawai'i holds the largest ethnic population of Okinawans abroad and, as a result, the transnational solidarity during the post-war period, exacerbated by military influence and power, is integral to the founding of the long-term military occupation in Okinawa, similar to Hawai'i. Both nations still feel the consequences of U.S. occupation and control, seen in the degradation and occupation of the environment, loss of Indigenous identity, racism, classism, and neoliberal politics, among many reasons. My thesis outlines the history of both nations, analyzes how their histories intersect, and concludes with a call to the future wherein both nations can be decolonized and more justly led.

As a second-generation Okinawan, I wanted to learn more about my family's history. In order to do so, I knew the retelling of Okinawa and its history would be tied into Japanese and U.S. imperialism, military occupation, and violence. As Okinawa is its own nation, currently colonized under Japan, I wanted to bring agency to our history and bring analysis and hope toward a more peaceful future, to a world of Okinawan sovereignty.

**Anna Lee**

Hometown: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Kennedy Scholars Program and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Rahul Oka

## Tiger Mom Network: Stressors of Asian American University Students and Parental Networks

The purpose of this project is to understand the role of parental aspirations and peer pressure within the parental networks in the Asian American community. I explore how inter-parental rivalries and peer competition within parental networks affect the stress levels of their children. I hypothesized that more extensive networks of parents result in higher stress levels in their parents, and the source of the stress for many Asian American college students is the parental network rather than the parent specifically. This topic was something that was personal to me due to my experience as an Asian American.

*Received funding from a Kennedy Scholars Fellowship.*

**Margaret (Maggie) Lenhart**

Hometown: Defiance, Ohio

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Data Science and Sociology
- Advisor: Kirk Doran

## DNA Methylation Mediates the Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Chronic Disease Risk in Retired Americans

There is a significant body of research on the relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the onset of chronic disease in adulthood. Much less is known, however, about the mechanisms by which this association occurs. This project uses medical, genetic, and survey data from the University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study to estimate the proportion of the association between ACEs and chronic disease that can be attributed to differential DNA methylation patterns.

I believe integration of social and biological sciences is essential for reducing health disparities. I think this research can contribute to a conversation challenging biological determinism and Social Darwinism — theories that argue one's health and financial challenges are caused by one's intrinsic shortcomings, rather than their environment.

**Xinqi (Kayle) Liao**

Hometown: Chengdu, China

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Greater China Scholars Program
- Advisor: Eric Sims

## Does Political Pressure Undermine the Efficacy of Monetary Policy in the US?

Central bank independence has been proven to correlate positively with achieving macroeconomic objectives. I derived a political pressure index on the Federal Reserve from conducting text mining on approximately nine decades of presidential speeches. Then I examined the effect of political pressure on macroeconomic output. I found the more the president talks about the Fed, the more the Fed deviates from targeting inflation to the unemployment rate.

With persistent inflation and sluggish gross domestic product growth post-COVID pandemic, the current market conditions have given the Fed a difficult task and made the role of monetary policy more imminent. I'm interested in providing insight into how we can better implement monetary policy to achieve its macroeconomic objectives. I'm greatly indebted to Eric Lease Morgan in the Center for Digital Scholarship at the Hesburgh Library for the construction of my political pressure index. Without his generous help on text mining, my regression wouldn't have been possible.

**John (Jack) Ligon**

Hometown: Oxford, Mississippi

- Majors: Science Preprofessional Studies and History
- Advisor: Fr. Robert Sullivan

## The Invention of Conservatism: Edmund Burke's Influence on John Randolph of Roanoke and Prince Klemens von Metternich

My project focuses on Edmund Burke's career of writings, including those on the French Revolution, in building a conservative movement against Jacobinism and liberalism through reliance on local anti-national power and aristocratic privilege. I read letters, diaries, and the transcribed speeches of John Randolph of Roanoke in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections at the University of Virginia and Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. And I used Metternich and Randolph's writings to show the use of these ideas in rebuilding Europe after the fall of Napoleon, in the case of Metternich, and writing and orating as a Virginia planter-statesman, in the case of Randolph.

I chose this topic because I am interested in the origins of conservative thought as well as the ideas of early conservative thinkers. As a Southern Catholic, I wanted to compare Catholic Europe and the Old South, two aristocratic societies that I believe have an array of similarities.

*Traveled to Charlottesville, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*



**Jack Loesch**

Hometown: Westlake, Ohio

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Advisor: Ethan Lieber

## The Cost-Effectiveness of Rebalancing

Using state expenditure data from 1981–2014, I will determine if increased spending on Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services is cost-effective — whether states see a reduction in nursing facility spending.

I chose this project because as a pre-medical student, I want to apply my economics background to a topic relevant to health care.

**Kendall Lubkeman**

Hometown: London, United Kingdom

- Majors: Art History and Psychology
- Minor: Digital Marketing
- Advisor: Heather Hyde Minor

## What Does it Mean to be a Woman Artist in Italy in 1500–1600?

I am looking at a selection of Renaissance and Baroque female artists from 1500–1600, and seeing how their gender influences the topic matter they chose to depict or was available to them. I am also looking at how they approached being an artist while female and what was available to them or restricted.

Women artists are experiencing a resurgence in art history. Looking at the steps they took in the creative realm is important to understand how they were “trendsetters” and innovators in their works, influencing future art in both genders.

**Emily Lugg**

Hometown: Wilmington, Delaware

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Certificate in International Security Studies
- Advisor: Aníbal Pérez-Liñán

## Memory Reparations in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Many of the reparations ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights involve memorializing victims of major human rights violations. This thesis proposes a conceptual framework, “memory reparations,” for understanding and analyzing these decisions. This framework is used to answer three questions: How has the Inter-American Court of Human Rights utilized memory as a reparative tool? How are victims requesting to be remembered before the Court? And, how does the Court respond to victims’ requests?

This project combines my prior research on international human rights tribunals with my passion for the philosophy and politics of art and history.

**Jordan Lydon**

Hometown: Hopewell, Pennsylvania

- Major: Political Science
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Christina Wolbrecht

## 'Mommie Fascist': Understanding the Effects of Maternal Appeals Used by the Far-Right

In the past several years, women's roles in far-right movements, both as leaders and supporters, have grown dramatically. From the "Save the Children" and "PizzaGate" conspiracy theories to the rise of bloggers on social media utilizing platforms to spread vaccine and election misinformation, maternalistic appeals are becoming increasingly prevalent in far-right movements. I work to understand if these maternal appeals are more effective than other appeals in mobilizing women in support of far-right movements.

I chose this topic after listening to the *American Radical* podcast from MSNBC and learning more about Rosanne Boyland, an insurrectionist who died in the Jan. 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol. In addition, I have witnessed women from my small hometown in Pennsylvania adopt far-right politics over the past several years.

In fall 2021, I participated in the Kennedy Scholars seminar, directed by Alice Tyrell and Charlotte Parkyn, who were influential in helping me to think about thesis research for my senior year. In addition, this year, I have been advised by Christina Wolbrecht, who has been an invaluable resource in helping to promote my learning through this thesis-writing experience.

**Adler Maher**

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

- Major: International Economics (Concentration in Spanish)
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Patrizio Piraino

## The Inequality of Opportunity Index in South Africa Before and After the Pandemic

I analyze the degree to which the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the inequality of opportunity index (IOp) in South Africa. The IOp measures the degree to which inherited circumstances (such as race, gender, parental education and occupation) influence outcomes (income and employment). The effects of the pandemic were likely inconsistent across socioeconomic groups, and this paper seeks to quantify the potential degree to which the pandemic affected the transmission of inequality in South Africa.

After a summer in South Africa with the Center for Social Concerns' International Summer Service Learning Program, as well as Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in South Africa, I wanted to research what I observed there through the scope of my economics degree.

*Traveled to South Africa.*

**Benjamin Malloy**

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

- Majors: French and Political Science
- Minor: Russian
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Alison Rice

## The Influence of French Colonialism on the Legal Systems of the Maghreb: A Comparative Analysis of Personal Status Law and the Death Penalty

The Maghreb, consisting of the countries of Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, were formerly under French colonial rule and incorporated numerous aspects of French culture and law into their society. My thesis examines laws that came from the French tradition and the legal convergence and divergence from traditional Islamic systems. Tracing the colonial history of the Maghreb, my thesis reports the extent these nations “Westernized” under French rule or turned more toward Islamic traditions after independence.



**James Mancini**

Hometown: Woodstock, Georgia

- Major: International Economics (Concentration in French)
- Advisor: A. Niles Fernando

## Building Confidence: A Case-Study Analysis of the Impact of African Hydroelectric Development on Household Trust in Government

With the development of Chinese and state-funded hydroelectric power in Sub-Saharan Africa, many worry that negative consequences to freedom will result. In response, I evaluate the unintended, socio-political effects of this development on the household. Using the 2017 Soubré Dam in Côte d'Ivoire as my case, I employ a difference-in-differences strategy on survey response data to determine the effects of dam infrastructure and electrification on households' perceived economic conditions, faith in democracy, and trust in government.

My studies in international economics and Francophone studies have revealed to me the complexities of development, particularly in culturally and politically fractured areas. With my tangential interests in renewable energy and transportation, a topic on infrastructure development seemed perfect, and African investment in hydropower stood out as most relevant.

**Rebecca (Becca) Marino**

Hometown: Delaware, Ohio

- Major: Science Preprofessional Studies
- Supplementary Major: Classics
- Minor: Theology
- Advisor: Aldo Tagliabue

## The Art of Rhetoric: Personal Relationships in Book 9 of the *Iliad*

My thesis discusses techniques of persuasion that are prevalent in Book 9 of the *Iliad*. I detail the varying success of the three men in the embassy to Achilles and investigate why this may be the case. I argue that the emotional components of the argument regarding paternal and familial relationships are more persuasive to Achilles, rather than the logical, paradigmatic arguments.

I chose this topic because I took a Homer course my junior year and became interested in the themes that span the *Iliad*. I was particularly drawn to the utilization of inset stories and para-narratives and how they serve the author and function in the epic as a whole.

**Elizabeth Maroshick**

Hometown: Depew, New York

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Minor: Musical Theatre
- Advisor: Mary Kearney

## Costume Design Adaptation in Disney Princess Narratives

My thesis involves researching the role of adaptation in Disney costume design as classic narratives move from animated film, to live-action film, to Broadway musical formats. The final project will consist of a video essay that visually tracks my research process, as well as a series of four original and modernized costume renderings for classic Disney princesses.

In September, I traveled to see dozens of Disney live-action film costumes at the Heroes & Villains: The Art of the Disney Costume exhibit at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan. Seeing the garments firsthand and taking photographs of the pieces provided incredibly valuable primary sources for my project. I also spoke with the renowned costume designer Ann Hould-Ward, as well as Disney scholar Susan Ohmer. As a film major with a passion for musical theatre and costume design, this project was the intersection of all of my interests. It allowed me to hone my video editing skills while also exploring multifaceted angles of Disney media.

*Traveled to Dearborn, Michigan.*

**Annika Marshall**

Hometown: Happy Valley, Oregon

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Joseph Rosenberg

## Joyce's Dante Stories: The Convergence of Inferno and Purgatory in *Dubliners*

I examined James Joyce's engagement with Dante's *Divine Comedy* in his collection of short stories, *Dubliners*. After identifying a group of particularly Dantean stories, I explored how Joyce converges Inferno and Purgatory into one city, Dublin. Like Dante the Pilgrim, who travels through Inferno with a purgatorial purpose, Joyce's *Dubliners* live infernal lives while progressing toward a distant hope of redemption.

While reading Joyce's "Araby" my sophomore year, I noticed echoes of the *Divine Comedy*, one of my favorite Program of Liberal Studies texts. Hoping to learn more about Joyce, I received a grant to do summer research in Dublin. I conducted archival research in the National Library of Ireland, attended an academic conference on Joyce, and recreated the walking routes in *Dubliners*. While there, I discovered a love of Irish literature and culture, especially after experiencing Bloomsday, a Dublin holiday that celebrates Joyce's *Ulysses*. I love how Joyce engages deeply with the Irish spiritual condition and how I notice more details every time I re-read his stories. Over spring break, I traveled to Cornell University to conduct additional archival research, and to Boston College to interview an expert in Joyce's use of the Dublin landscape.

***Traveled to Ireland, New York, and Massachusetts and received funding from a Kennedy Scholars Fellowship and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.***



## Elizabeth (Lizzie) Martin

Hometown: Oswego, New York

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisor: Clark Power

## Morality, Education, and Justice in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*

My thesis explores modern and classical frameworks of morality and how they function in Donna Tartt's novel *The Secret History*.

As someone who is familiar with classical Greek philosophy and modes of morality, I was interested in exploring the morality of the characters in the novel, which follows a college Greek class and what it learns of the classical world.

**Anabel Martinez**

Hometown: Larchmont, New York

- Majors: Economics and Spanish
- Minor: Studio Art
- Advisor: Juan Vitull

## Agencia de la Mujer en Teatro Barroco

My thesis focuses on the role that women played in Iberian Baroque theatre. This includes female characters and female playwrights. I analyze the agency that female playwrights give their characters and how it differs from the agency that male playwrights give their female characters.

I chose this topic because of a class I took on Iberian Baroque literature in Toledo, Spain. I found the plays to be the most interesting because of the way they mix social sentiment with a desire to be entertaining.



**Beau Martinez**

Hometown: Henderson, Colorado

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Sustainability
- Certificate in International Security Studies
- Advisor: Debra Javeline

## Reforestation Without Freedom: How Reforestation Efforts are Successful in Non-Democratic Nations

I analyze the difference of reforestation rates between democratic and non-democratic nations, based on Freedom House scores. Using data on forest area from multiple sources, I found non-democratic nations are more likely to experience an increase in forest area between 1990-2020. My thesis also explores the causal mechanisms (such as land-tenure policies and community-based forest management) behind greater reforestation success within non-democratic states over others through four case studies: Vietnam, Ethiopia, China, and Argentina (the last being a democratic status for comparison).

Anthropogenic deforestation not only threatens biodiversity and contributes to climate change through the release of stored carbon dioxide, it also has a direct impact on rural communities around the world that depend on forests for economic stability. Moreover, a lot of research has focused on the intersection between deforestation rates and democracy levels, but not about how regime type can impact reforestation efforts.

**Santiago Martinez**

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

- Majors: Physics and Economics
- Advisor: Drew Creal

## An International Evaluation of Random Forest Inflation Forecasting

Using monthly macro data for 12 countries from January 1980 to January 2018, I forecast inflation for these countries using a random forest machine learning model and two classic benchmark models (auto-regressive and random walk). I compare the results from these models, then compare results from the random forest model across countries to see where it performs the best. I then analyze why the model works better in some economies over others.

I chose this topic because I am interested in machine learning and wanted to gain experience with forecasting. I chose inflation as the forecasting variable since we have recently felt the effect of large inflation in our economy. I am conducting an international evaluation since single-country analysis is well documented.

**James Masanek**

Hometown: Liberty Township, Ohio

- Majors: Political Science and English (Concentration in Creative Writing)
- Cathy and Jack Brennan Family Scholars Program and Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Orlando Menes

***Far as We Run: A Novel Excerpt***

My thesis consists of a realistic-fiction novel excerpt that focuses on a single working mother, her three children, and their southern Ohio town. The novel considers how recession, economic inequality, war, religion, and racism can impact the social dynamics of a community. The novel also analyzes individual interiority and familial dynamics, as the characters encounter societal changes in gender and sexuality norms. Set from 2003 to 2022, the plot focuses on the loss of innocence, the bitter or justified destruction of old ways of life, and the emergence of convoluted sociocultural realities and individual identities.

I chose this topic due to my intellectual interest in and passion for studying American modernist literature; writing realistic fiction; and describing the lives, struggles, perseverance, and hopes of Americans from diverse backgrounds.

**Elizabeth (Liz) May**

Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Russian
- Certificate in International Security Studies
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

## Oil in International Relations

This project investigates the connections between oil and conflict on the international stage. More specifically, it investigates the different conditions under which petroleum net-exporting and net-importing states will instigate conflict in connection to oil.

I took a great class with Professor Rosemary Kelanic on the Geopolitics of Energy and the discussions about oil and conflict were of particular interest to me. Combined with my Notre Dame International Security Center thesis requirement, this topic stood out to me as an obvious choice.

**Paolo Mazzara**

Hometown: Stamford, Connecticut

- Major: Philosophy
- Minor: Theology
- Advisor: Wiebke-Marie Stock

## A Plotinian Approach to Aristotle De Anima III.5: 'Is Nous Human or Divine?'

Rivers of ink have been poured by both ancient and modern commentators dealing with Aristotle's brief and enigmatic remarks about the Nous Poietikos (Productive Intellect) in his work *On the Soul*. Interpreters fall broadly into two camps: Aristotle is read as describing human thinking, or as characterizing divine thinking. Following the insights of the Platonic philosopher Plotinus (3rd century), my thesis offers an approach that hopes to bridge the gap between the human and the divine interpretations.

I chose this topic because it crowns four years of studying philosophy and learning about oneself. The issues raised in interpreting Aristotle's account of thinking (whether human or divine) are analogous to the beautiful questions about which we wonder: Who am I? Who is God?

**Jane McAvoy**

Hometown: Potomac, Maryland

- Major: Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Advisor: Jasmine Xiao

## To What Extent do Futures Prices of Crude Oil and Gasoline Forecast Their Future Spot Prices in the New York Mercantile Exchange?

To test the accuracy of predicting commodity spot prices, I leveraged Bloomberg data to calculate regressions from a basis equation (the commodity's futures price equals its future spot price with a constant equaling zero). I study crude oil and gasoline futures from 1983 to 2022 for month-end prices at the 1-, 3-, 6-, 12-month horizons. In conclusion, the basis regression model generates better forecasting properties of future spot prices than a random-walk model for all horizons.

Recent events (the Russia-Ukraine War, the energy crisis, and COVID-19) have challenged economists' predictability to forecast energy commodities precisely. Policymakers closely analyze aggregate energy market pricing because of its significant impact on the macroeconomy. This model can facilitate decisions for fiscal policymakers and investors as well.



**Brendan McFeely**

Hometown: Orinda, California

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Classics
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Christina Wolbrecht

## 'Aroused their Sleeping Hate': Elite Rhetoric and Political Violence

My thesis seeks to explore and better understand the connection between rhetoric from prominent political elites and politically motivated violence from their supporters. I explore the gubernatorial election of 1876 in South Carolina, where the Democratic Party encouraged violence against Republican voters. And I explore the violence surrounding the 2020 presidential election. My work aims to show that the types of rhetorical devices used to motivate violence in American history are still used today.

Following the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, I was disturbed and curious about how political violence occurred in the United States, when we typically view our democracy as consolidated. Exploring why this violence happened, as well as other historical occasions of violence, helped me better understand it.

**Mannion (Manni) McGinley**

Hometown: New City, New York

- Majors: American Studies and Sociology
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Peter Cajka

## Pushing Back on the Patriarchy: Women in Sports Journalism and the Roles They Created in the Field

My thesis investigates how second-wave feminism affected the roles women fulfilled in sports journalism. I am completing a historical analysis of the women who fought to be a part of this field and how their efforts mapped onto the larger efforts of second-wave feminism as a whole.

I chose this topic because I have been a sports journalist since I arrived on campus. I was sports editor at *The Observer* my junior year and I wanted to research the women who came before me. American studies gave me the lens and the foresight to do that successfully.

**Gregory (Greg) McKenna Jr.**

Hometown: Brookfield, Connecticut

- Majors: History and Economics
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Advisor: Joshua Specht

## Armies and Advocates: F.C. Barcelona, Athletic Club and Regional Nationalisms During 'La Transición'

My thesis explores how F.C. Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao influenced Catalan and Basque nationalist movements during Spain's turbulent transition to democracy from 1975–82. Using press clips, club documents, court records and other materials, I show how players engaged in bold activism, how politicians used their region's biggest club to stir support for their policy agendas, and how both clubs supported the recovery of their respective regional cultures while helping immigrants assimilate. I conducted research at the Spanish National Library in Madrid as well as at the official archives of Athletic Club and F.C. Barcelona.

When I visited Athletic Club's award-winning museum while studying abroad in Spain, I was wowed by the archival material on display. Pleas to "keep politics out of sports" have become commonplace, but this topic shows how the intersection of the two realms is constant, important and makes for riveting history.

*Traveled to Spain and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Jacqueline McKenna**

Hometown: London, England

- Major: Art History
- Minor: Classical Studies:  
Civilization
- Advisor: Heather Hyde-Minor

## Femininity, Heroism, and the Classics: Elisabetta Sirani's Antique Heroine Paintings

This thesis analyzes Elisabetta Sirani's antique heroine paintings and their function and symbolism within the context of Bologna's progressive social ideals about women during the 17th century. These paintings push back against sexualized portrayals of the female figure in art while also elaborating a female-centric approach toward figures of classical legend, with particular attention toward Sirani's *Cleopatra* (c.1663) and *Timoclea of Thebes Throws the Captain of Alexander the Great into the Well* (1659). I traveled to the Flint Institute of Arts to visit Elisabetta Sirani's *Cleopatra*, and view the museum's files relating to the painting.

The inspiration came from a desire to understand more about Bologna's artistic scene which produced the most women artists in the Italian Peninsula during the 17th century. Sirani, one of Bologna's most prominent female artists, became a clear focus, as well as the message she conveys of antique heroines.

*Traveled to Flint, Michigan, and received funding through the Diana M. Sciola Grant.*

**Julia McKenna**

Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: Data Science and Linguistics
- Advisor: Kraig Beyerlein

## Overwhelmed and Underwater: Exploring the Relationship between Climate Change and Mental Health

My senior thesis utilized a public-facing survey experiment to capture data on how climate change and environmental disasters impact people's mental health and social well-being. By analyzing how threat-framing and the level of personal impact of a disaster shapes the population's response to said disaster, this project hopes to provide insight into how we might expect to cope with the effects of climate change, both immediately and in the future.

I hope to contribute to the growing body of literature interested in how society is shifting due to the impacts of climate change. While there is extensive research on the ecology of climate change, less is known about how these changes are impacting the mental health of people across the globe.



## Quinn McKenna

Hometown: North Palm Beach, Florida

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Education, Schooling, and Society and Poverty Studies
- Advisors Clark Power and Maria McKenna

## An Ethic of Care in Teacher-Student Relationships: Addressing Childhood Adversity in High-Poverty Classrooms

My thesis addresses the significance of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in high-poverty classrooms and how teachers ought to infuse engrossment and care into their relationships with students, subsequently ensuring a decrease in the negative repercussions of ACEs later in life.

For as long as I can remember, I have had a passion for education and have seen the ways positive relationships with teachers have impacted my character formation and self-image. I wanted to study the ways these relationships can greatly impact students, particularly those facing adversity, as they are the students who need these relationships most. I wish to take what I've learned into my future practices as a teacher and hopefully be one who impacts others the way mine have impacted me. There needs to be a paradigm shift in the philosophy of education and school culture where teachers are empowered to care deeply for their students and simultaneously provided the environment where they are able to do so.



**Hattie Meehan**

Hometown: Houston, Texas

- Major: Spanish
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Advisor: Marisel Moreno

## La Religión y el Migrante Latino: Cómo Influye, Moldea y Humaniza la Psique del Migrante en su Viaje a los Estados Unidos (Religion and the Latino Migrant: How it Influences, Molds, and Humanizes the Migrant's Psyche in their Journey to the United States)

My senior thesis focuses on the Central American/Mexican migrant's journey to the United States and investigates the role that religion plays on that journey. I detail three important steps of migration: the decision to leave, the journey itself, and arriving in the U.S. Within each step, I analyze how religion — through religious iconography, encounters with church leaders/affiliates, biblical stories, etc. — shapes the migrant's psyche and contributes to the process of migration as a whole.

Much of my research came from my personal experience during my 10-week Summer Service Learning Program at Annunciation House, a safehouse for recent refugees located 5 minutes from the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. The migrants I met were extremely religious and attributed their success in crossing the border to God. Because I am not very religious, I wanted to investigate why these migrants were so adamant in their faith in God despite the difficulties many of them faced.

*Traveled to El Paso, Texas.*

**Mark Mehochko**

Hometown: Morris, Illinois

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Musical Theatre
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Gretchen Reydam-Schils

## Artificial Intelligence and Kantian Ethics

This project examines the question of whether artificial intelligence (AI) can be moral according to a Kantian framework, and what the ramifications of a moral AI would be.

I am fascinated by science fiction, especially the work of Isaac Asimov. I wanted to do a project that reflected that interest in a practical way.

**Elizabeth Messman**

Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

- Majors: Philosophy and Political Science
- Minor: Computing and Digital Technologies
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Suzanne and Walter Scott Scholars Program
- Advisor: Ted Warfield

## The Immoral Internet: The Ethical Implications of True Crime Reporting in the Digital Age

Does the digital revolution fundamentally alter the ethical implications of true crime reporting? My thesis considers this question. I use four case studies — Jack the Ripper, O.J. Simpson, JonBenét Ramsey, and the Delphi murders — to examine the evolution of true crime reporting and its accompanying moral dilemmas. Ultimately, I argue the internet does not present a new ethical consideration, but a change in the degree of the same considerations.

I am passionate about the intersection of ethics, technology, and public policy. My work on this thesis has allowed me to explore the relationship between these fields. Through my project, I have learned about how these fields relate to crime and criminal justice.

**Audrey Miles**

Hometown: Brunswick, Ohio

- Major: Chemistry
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Amy Hixon

## Hafnium-Mediated Manipulation of Uranium Speciation in Pyrophosphate-Bearing Uranyl Polyoxometalate Systems

Uranyl polyoxometalates (UPOMs), a class of large uranium oxide nanoclusters, are ideal for investigating f-block bonding and the behavior of actinide-bearing compounds in engineered and naturally occurring systems. Envisioned applications of their chemistry include alternatives to energy-intensive and wasteful techniques currently used during the recycling of nuclear fuel. My thesis aims to better understand the stability of specific UPOMs in environmentally relevant systems in order to work toward more efficient f-block separations techniques.

The heavy elements are relatively unexplored compared to other parts of the periodic table, leading to a number of fascinating unanswered questions in actinide chemistry. I am also interested in harnessing f-block chemistry to minimize the environmental impacts of nuclear power generation, making nuclear a feasible avenue for clean energy.

*Received funding from the College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships.*

**Elizabeth (Lily) Miller**

Hometown: Arlington, Virginia

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisor: Jennifer Newsome Martin

## The Art of Conversion: Re-Reading Dante through Fra Angelico's *Giudizio Universale*

This thesis undertakes a close analysis of Fra Angelico's original *Giudizio Universale*, and discusses it as a theological gloss on Dante's *Divina Commedia*. It suggests final judgment is freely chosen and marked by self-consumption rather than being divinely ordained (thus safeguarding divine goodness).

I traveled to Rome, Florence, Pisa, Berlin, Orvieto, and Bologna, looking at Italian Judgment Day art and specifically focusing on the work of Fra Angelico. Through comparison with other works in the rich tradition of Florentine art influenced by Dante, I suggest that Fra Angelico's departure from and hyperboles of the artistic tradition he inherited underscore both the sense that damnation is the result of the exercise of free choice as well as self-consciously heightens that dramatic element which invites the beholder to deeper and more profound conversion. In my Program of Liberal Studies Seminar III, we read Dante's *Commedia* and theologians like Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Ávila, who have seemingly conflicting conceptions of God's judgment and mercy. I wanted to investigate the theology of sin and salvation, particularly hell, and chose to look at this through the lens of art.

*Traveled to Rome, Florence, Pisa, Berlin, Orvieto, and Bologna, and received funding from the Diana M. Sciola Grant and the Program of Liberal Studies' Monteverdi Prize, supported by the Cioffi Family Endowment for Excellence.*

**Margaux Miller**

Hometown: Lake Forest, Illinois

- Majors: Science Preprofessional Studies and Sociology
- Advisor: David Sikkink

## Contemporary Rap Lyrics as Critical Social Theory

The goal of this project is to show that rap artists are capable of expressing real sociological experiences that are consistent with sociological literature. Beyond theory, they are able to express real experiences of trauma, hardship, distrust, and pain that exists within the Black community. My paper then delves deeper into the (predominately white) listeners of this music and analyzes the complacency and lack of action of the white audience listening to these social critiques.

Growing up, I (secretly) used my dad's iPod to listen to rap music. When I later matriculated at a predominantly white institution (high school), I knew these songs as well as the nature of the lyrics, and was confused when students would play songs with extreme social critique while partying. This project was my attempt to analyze the hypocrisy between admiring a Black art form while simultaneously not advocating for Black rights.



**Samuel (Sam) Miller**

Hometown: Perrysburg, Ohio

- Majors: Finance and Economics
- Advisor: Matthias Hoelzlein

## The Premium Grocery Store Premium? The Impact of Whole Foods Market and Trader Joe's on Gentrification in their Surrounding Communities

I investigate the effect of a Whole Foods Market or Trader Joe's entering a community on gentrification in the surrounding area. Throughout my time here at Notre Dame and my studies in economics, I have become passionate about the economics of housing and the issue of gentrification. I'm particularly enamored with the problem of how we can make communities better for low-income residents without pricing them out of their homes. I was inspired by the arrival of Trader Joe's and Whole Foods in South Bend to take a look to see if they have any impact on this.

This has been an amazing culmination to my time at Notre Dame and truly the first opportunity I've had in my academic career to have an idea, research it, and see it through the entire academic process to try to add to the conversation.

**Madison Nemeth**

Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

- Majors: Africana Studies and Political Science
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisors: Maria McKenna and Jodene Morrell

## Evaluating Literary Texts Used in International Baccalaureate (IB) English Literature Classrooms

I am collecting syllabuses from IB English Literature courses and examining the diversity of texts selected to be taught. The English/Language Arts curriculum has remained largely the same by privileging "classic" literature. However, some schools appear to be adapting the literary canon to include more diverse texts. I argue that texts that are taught should offer diverse and authentic perspectives to develop more critically engaged readers.

I chose this project because I am interested in how school curriculum has traditionally privileged one dominant culture over others. I want to explore how the traditional curriculum may have changed or stayed the same since I completed K-12 studies, and understand what this means for students.

**Tessa Newman**

Hometown: Mentor, Ohio

- Majors: Business Analytics and English
- Advisor: Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal

## Gaslight, Gatekeep, Girlboss: White Neoliberal Feminism and Calls to Inaction

I analyze the discursive and cultural movement surrounding the word “girlboss”; investigating its common usage to argue these movements showcase a tendency in contemporary neoliberal feminism to valorize overwork through the use of rhetorical techniques in the public sphere and in written work, such as self-help literature. I argue the growing trivialization and ridicule of the girlboss movement is indicative of a separate feminist anticapitalist subculture characterized by its exhaustion.

I chose this topic because I am fascinated by societal consumption and observation of women’s bodies and opinions and how this is magnified on social media. By analyzing social media posts, one can gain an understanding of cultural consciousness in the U.S. and how communities respond to significant events.

**Thien (Thanh) Nguyen**

Hometown: Lawrenceville, Georgia

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies

## From the Margins to the Center: Investigating the Settler-Colonial Paradigm Shift in Palestine/Israel

I explored the recent deployment of the settler-colonial paradigm in Palestinian resistance, with an emphasis on Palestinian scholarship and Palestinian Christian spaces. By paradigm, I refer to a comparative analytic framework used by Palestinians to view the situation in Palestine/Israel. I first traced the paradigm's iterations through spaces of Palestinian knowledge production. Second, through my first analysis, I find the current iteration of the settler-colonial paradigm and its decolonial prism is currently being developed in secular feminist circles which do not generally think of religious spaces as partners. At the same time, Christian civil society spaces deploy decolonial and anti-colonial frames. By identifying these double myopias, I ask in what ways religious civil society deploys the settler-colonial paradigm in its own resistance and whether the myopias identified limit the horizons for decolonial political imagination.

Given that the discourse on the paradigm has only accelerated in the last 20 years or so, I found an opportunity to contribute and theorize as an activist in both "secular" and "religious" spaces within Palestinian society. My thesis gave me the opportunity to work in the nexus of religion, gender, and decolonization. Through my research, I was able to have invaluable conversations with the first and second generations of Palestinian Christian theologians and record intergenerational shifts in the Palestinian Liberation Theology Movement.

**Daniela (Dani) Obringer**

Hometown: San Jose, California

- Majors: Business Analytics and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisor: Christine Becker

## Sports Betting & Television: How the Betting Industry is Changing How Viewers Engage with Sports

Research has found that people who bet on sports are more likely to watch and be engaged in sports broadcasts. As states continue to legalize sports betting, the betting industry continues to grow and establish its connections to sporting events. This project delves into the dynamics between traditional television networks and how they are engaging with sports betting companies, and how sports betting companies are creating their own media platforms to compete with traditional channels.

The rise of sports betting has allowed my interests in sports, data, and media to interact in unique ways. Exploring the connections between the three allowed me to have a deeper appreciation of the television and sports industries and how data can empower each respective industry.

**John (Jack) O'Leary**

Hometown: Palm City, Florida

- Major: International Economics (Concentration in Spanish)
- Minor: Data Science
- Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Matthias Hoelzlein

## Changing Commuting Costs to Determine the Value of Public Transportation as Capitalized by Home Values

My project aims to understand the value of access to public transportation as capitalized in home values. Exogenous shocks to the relative value of car travel and public transportation (medium-term fuel price fluctuations) and spatial variation in the relative access to both modes are used to estimate how these shocks are capitalized differently depending on relative transit access. The differential response can then be translated into a causally identified monetary valuation of public transit access.

Consumer behavior regarding geographic sorting (where people live) and commuting decisions (how they get to work) interest me. This study has the potential to explain the value of investment in public transportation, which has social and environmental implications for policymaking. This study combines my interests with prominent issues (climate, fuel consumption, and traffic).



**Michael O'Loughlin**

Hometown: Norfolk, Massachusetts

- Majors: Political Science and Economics
- Supplementary Major: German
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: A. James McAdams

## Surprise, Surprise: Explaining the Unexpected Persistence of the Alternative for Germany

In my senior thesis, I offer an explanation of the unexpected persistence of the Alternative for Germany (AfD), Germany's largest populist, radical-right party, and the first far-right party to enter German parliament since World War II. I examine several points during the party's 10-year history, at which many could have predicted the party's extinction. I evaluate key hypotheses which may explain the continued success of the party despite the challenges it has faced.

During my semester abroad in Germany, I witnessed the 2021 federal election firsthand and visited Dresden, Leipzig, and Berlin to interview journalists, political scientists, government officials, and politicians. Through conversations with friends and peers, I became fascinated by the rise and persistence of the AfD. After returning to Notre Dame, I felt motivated to write my senior thesis about the often-surprising story of the AfD.

*Traveled to Germany and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Aidan O'Malley**

Hometown: Wheaton, Illinois

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Minors: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy, and Digital Marketing
- Advisor: Ted Barron

## 'Bro, You Just Filmed Cringe!': Cringe Cinema and So-Bad-It's-Good in the Internet Age

My thesis explores the rise of cringe culture in online ecosystems and applies the spirit of internet irony to movies: "So bad, they're good." Drawing from scholarship on camp, trash, and historical badfilm, I advance a 21st-century canon of "cringe cinema," divided into films that encourage our compassion or provoke our contempt. Finally, I interrogate the infrastructure of cringe communities, debating if they're mere schadenfreude or a challenge to politics — and taste itself.

The go-to pastime of my friends from high school was to scroll through the bowels of Netflix in search of a "funny-bad" film (there was not much else to do). Admittedly, I still enjoy this. But why? My thesis is a form of self-reflection, combining my interests in film and internet culture to chart a new history of so-bad-it's-good and analyze my fascination with cringe.

**Ese-Onosen Omoijuanfo**

Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minors: Philosophy and International Development Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, Notre Dame Scholars Program, Questbridge Scholar, and Transformational Leaders Program
- Advisor: Nathan Berger, Case Western Reserve University

## Disparities Education Strategies in the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center STEM-Focused Youth Enjoy Science Program

The Youth Enjoy Science/Scientific Enrichment and Opportunity Program at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio is an intensive Research, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program targeted at engaging underrepresented minority high school students to better understand and pursue careers in cancer research and health care. Based on my experience with this program, and through an evaluation of its educational techniques, a series of recommendations are provided for incorporating disparities education into intensive research and STEM programs.

I am extremely passionate about the importance of education for furthering the world of research, medicine, and STEM. Representation matters, and education plays a large role in combating disparities found in health care, education, etc. I believe early educational interventions can have long-term positive community impacts and dramatically affect individual lives for the better. I did my research work in my hometown of Cleveland, at Case Western Reserve Medical School. It was a wonderful experience as I was able to see real-time impacts of my research, as my policy recommendations were enacted in real time. It was personally impactful to see how valuable research can change lives for the better.

*Traveled to Cleveland, Ohio.*



## Brian O'Neill

Hometown: Williston Park, New York

- Major: Joint Major in Philosophy & Theology
- Advisor: John Cavadini

## Freedom and Grace in St. Augustine's Later Works

I researched the later developments of Augustine's theology of grace and freedom in his response to critics in a monastery in Gaul. In the paper, I demonstrate the main emphases and arguments which Augustine promotes in this controversy, and explain why these arguments are relevant for Catholic students to pay attention to.

I chose this subject because St. Augustine is one of my favorite theologians and I wanted to study his ideas on topics such as predestination and freedom.

**Chloe Onorato**

Hometown: New Milford, Connecticut

- Major: English (Concentration in Creative Writing)
- Minor: Studio Art
- Advisor: Dionne Irving Bremyer

**'Sonder': A Story**

My thesis is a story that emerges from a familiar reality, enhanced by characters and elements that are somewhat human, or not human at all. What makes the story compelling is how the characters (human or magical) experience relatable emotions. Sonder embraces the fantasy genre as literature that speaks directly to our essential ambitions.

My own experience in college has been one of self-discovery, and I felt the need to convey that excitement through a character who cannot be comfortable with his independence until he understands himself and his place in the world.

**Christina Onorato**

Hometown: New Milford, Connecticut

- Major: Design (Concentration in Visual Communication Design)
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisor: Clinton Carlson

## Ecopass

Ecopass is a design intervention whose purpose is to activate an interactive and educational experience for visitors to zoos and aquariums. It prompts interesting activities and adventures throughout the exhibits, helping visitors learn about the wildlife — their habitats, life cycles, diets, sounds, tracks, and special features. Ecopass forges a connection between visitors and animals in zoos and aquariums, fostering greater conservation efforts worldwide.

After visiting many zoos and aquariums last summer, I realized that making meaningful progress in protecting natural habitats requires shifting people's perspectives by developing visual cues in zoos and aquariums that communicate a broader understanding of animals as complex organisms that form integral parts of our ecosystem.

*Received funding via the William and Connie Greif Art Award.*



**Macy Owens**

Hometown: Mandeville, Louisiana

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Advisor: Kasey Buckles

## Effects of Texas Fiscal Policy on Access to Prenatal Health Care

In 2011, Texas reduced state and federal funding for family planning services by 67%. This policy resulted in the closure of 25% of the state's family planning clinics, and reduced hours and staffing at some remaining clinics. These publicly funded clinics provide family planning services to many women, many of whom are underinsured or uninsured. My thesis examines the effect of these clinic closures on access to prenatal health care and infant and maternal outcomes.

I chose this topic because I am hoping to attend medical school and am interested in working in the field of women's health care. Many women in the United States face economic, social, and geographic barriers in accessing care. Understanding and removing these barriers is necessary for improving women's health outcomes.



### Kenzie Phillips

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- International Security Studies Certificate
- Advisor: Eugene Gholtz

## Understanding State Behavior Toward Cyber Threats to Defense-Critical Infrastructure During a Conflict

Cyber has completely changed the landscape of international relations, yet there is very little understanding of how states perceive, process, and respond to cyber threats. The gap of threat perception in cyber literature limits our understanding and ability to advise policymakers on how best to approach cyber threats, specifically threats to defense-critical infrastructure. These infrastructures are vital to the success of military missions where any disruption of a component within the framework could severely impact a military's ability to deploy, support, and sustain its forces and operations. The heart of this thesis lies in how great powers perceive and respond to a cyber threat that aims to exploit vulnerabilities in military mission infrastructures during a conflict. Pulling from traditional frameworks of international relations and our conventional understanding of threat perception, this thesis explores whether states could use deterrence, balancing, institutions, or negotiations when responding to these emerging cyber threats.

The emergence of cyber capabilities has transformed the idea of threat by joining the fifth domain of warfare after land, sea, air, and space. So, more attention has been given to better understanding cyberspace as it continues evolving into an important realm of interstate conflict. Cybersecurity issues continue to be relevant within international relations theory with parallels between cyber and the traditional world of international relations. I wanted to explore how great powers perceive and respond to a cyber threat that aims to exploit vulnerabilities in military mission infrastructures during a conflict.

**Renee Pierson**

Hometown: Scottsdale, Arizona

- Majors: Psychology and Political Science
- Advisor: Tatiana Botero

## ¿Como se dice? An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Language Accessibility of Public Services in South Bend

The purpose of this thesis is to explore the language accessibility of emergency, health, and safety services in South Bend, specifically with regard to accessibility for Spanish-speakers with limited English proficiency. I will formulate a recommendation for the City of South Bend regarding how to improve in this area.

I chose this topic because I wanted to make a positive change in the South Bend community and advocate for the underserved population that experiences barriers to access to public services. I have learned a lot from the vibrant Latinx community of South Bend since arriving at Notre Dame and am passionate about making a difference in the lives of these individuals.

**Joseph (Joey) Queen**

Hometown: Dublin, Ohio

- Majors: Biological Sciences and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Don Howard

## It's the Same Patient: Why Not Just Share the Data?

My thesis is a critical analysis of digital data exchange in the field of health care through the lens of the four principles of biomedical ethics. Ultimately, I conclude that the current systems in place don't always have the best interest of the patient in mind, and thus should be reevaluated and improved upon.

I chose this topic because it allowed me to synthesize my interest in philosophy with the field of health care, which is where I intend to work professionally. As the field continues to rely more and more on technology, it is imperative that ethical considerations in health care are able to keep up.

**Brenden Quirk**

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

- Majors: Medieval Studies and Theology
- Minor: Latin
- Advisor: Christopher Abram

## Coping with Loss in Old English and Old Norse Poetry

I am investigating the way in which Christianization has impacted the application of the gnomic wisdom poetry in the Anglo-Saxon and Norse elegiac poetic traditions. I am focusing on the Old English poem "The Wanderer" and the Old Norse poem "Sonatorrek." These poems are emblematic of the broader genre, and follow a similar pattern of loss, grief, and acceptance through the use of the gnomic poetry.

I chose this topic because it allows me to work directly with the languages of Old English and Old Norse, as well as explore another area of interest to me, namely the interaction between Christianity and paganism in the early Middle Ages.

**David (Zane) Reeb**

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

- Majors: Finance and History
- Advisor: Rebecca McKenna

## The Moonshine Capital of the World: Crime, Change, and Power in Franklin County, Virginia

My thesis explores “The Great Moonshine Conspiracy” of Franklin County, Virginia, a criminal enterprise that produced millions of gallons of liquor during and after Prohibition. I traveled to Ferrum College in Franklin County, Virginia; the college library houses a special collection of primary sources on the conspiracy. My trip enabled me to develop a better understanding of the local environment and its history. By studying the conspiracy’s organization, power dynamics, and legacy, I hope to contribute to a more holistic understanding of the rise of organized crime and federal authority in the 1920s and ‘30s.

A legend claims that my grandmother’s family changed the spelling of its last name to distance itself from relatives who were moonshiners. While this family is not the focus of the thesis, its lineage traces back to Western Virginia. I looked into the region’s history and discovered “The Great Moonshine Conspiracy,” and my interest took off from there.

*Traveled to Virginia and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*



**Sarah Reidy**

Hometown: Brentwood, Tennessee

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Advisor: Bradley Gibson

## Follow Your Heart: The Impact of Cardio-Visual Integration in Attention and Perceived Agency

This neuroscientific study seeks to answer how matching someone's heart rate to an onscreen attention cue impacts their perceived agency in a visual search task.

I am fascinated by perception, especially interoception — the interpretation of our internal state and body status. The impact of our perception of our own heartbeats can affect how we perceive the world around us, which is pretty amazing.

**Trinity Reilly**

Hometown: Houston, Texas

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Italian
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Julia Marvin

## Our Response to Ugliness: An Exploration of *Frankenstein*

I explore the unique frame narrative that Mary Shelley employs in *Frankenstein*, and specifically examine how it affects sympathetic reactions in readers versus the reaction that characters have to the same event.

I chose this topic because I wanted to explore the area where people's rational capacity comes into tension with aesthetic response.



### Lindsey Reina

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Karen Richman

## Lita: A Colombian Woman's Cultural Navigations in Pursuit of the American Dream

My thesis tells the story of my grandmother, Lita, and her journey navigating both Colombian and American cultures. Beginning in the mid-20th century in rural Colombia and concluding in present day Atlanta, Georgia, I walk through each stage of her life to analyze how kinship, gender roles, authority and discipline in the domestic sphere, faith, love, immigration, and acculturation processes have changed, advanced, regressed, or remained constant over time and across different cultures.

I traveled to Bogotá and Vianí, Cundinamarca, Colombia, to conduct open-ended interviews with five of my family members. These interviews took place over the course of five days, and I asked my relatives a series of questions to understand more about their upbringing and personal experiences in rural Colombia. After conducting interviews, I explored my grandmother's hometown and family farm. I chose this topic because this is a passion project of mine. I have yearned to learn more about my grandmother and the experiences of my transnational extended family. My thesis allowed me to do this while also applying scholarship in anthropology, political science, and Latino studies to conduct an even deeper analysis on her life.

*Traveled to Bogotá and Vianí, Cundinamarca, Colombia, and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Sadie Richardson**

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minors: Hesburgh Program in Public Service and Peace Studies
- Advisor: Ricardo Ramírez

## Nativism and Faith: The Role of Organized Religion in White Americans' Opinions on Immigration Policy in 2012, 2016, and 2020

My thesis addresses the role of organized religion in the formation of white Americans' views on immigration policy. My primary research question seeks to understand under what religious conditions white Americans favor restrictionist immigration policy and what causes shifts in these attitudes. Which religious groups trend toward restrictionist policies? How have these groups evolved from 2012 to 2020? Through data from the Cooperative Election Study, I examine these questions throughout the past three American general elections.

I chose my topic because I am passionate about immigration advocacy, and I find religion's role in the formation of public opinion especially important in the study of politics and public policy.

**Gabriela Rivera**

Hometown: Clinton, New Jersey

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Advisor: Alejandro Estefan

## An Antithesis: The Lack of Intergenerational Links of Female Labor Force Participation in Post-NAFTA Mexico

In Europe and North America, daughters of working mothers are more likely to work. In this paper, I focus on the shock of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in Mexico and see if the same theory of intergenerational links applies. Using data from the Mexican Family Life Survey, the empirical analysis shows that, contrary to Eurocentric and North American economic theory, intergenerational female labor force participation (LFP) does not seem to be present in post-NAFTA Mexico.

I was inspired by my advisor's research on female LFP in Mexico. There is a gap in economic literature about the next generation of women following NAFTA. Filling that gap is important for policymakers to understand how to increase female labor force participation in future generations in Latin America.

**Grace Rozembajgier**

Hometown: Carmel, Indiana

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Korey Garibaldi

## Deliberating Civil Rights in the 21st Century

My thesis analyzes changes in the rulings and political landscapes of landmark Supreme Court cases. I investigate the cultural movements coinciding with the *Roe v. Wade* and *South Carolina v. Katzenbach* decisions, focusing on how feminist and civil rights advocates championed Fourteenth Amendment rights. Following the recent cases of *Merrill v. Milligan* and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, I determine how reinterpretations of voting and reproductive rights affected the 2022 midterm elections.

Inspired by the recent acquisition of my grandfather's accounts of the 1965 Natchez boycotts, I wanted to study the role legal advocates played in the civil rights and feminist movements. As an American studies major, I value focusing on individual Americans to understand how popular political movements create legislative change. I conducted archival research at Harvard University's Schlesinger Library, studying the Pauli Murray Papers and the collection of the National Organization for Women (NOW) records. I also attended Harvard Radcliffe Institute's Age of Roe exhibit, which provided me with valuable information and images for my thesis.

*Traveled to Massachusetts and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*



**Edward (Eddie) Samowitz**

Hometown:

Port Washington, New York

- Majors: Science-Business and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Davin Raiha

## The Effect of the 421-a Real Estate Tax Exemption on Rent Levels in New York City

Critics say the highly controversial real estate tax exemption policy 421-a gave unfair handouts to developers, but developers claim it was necessary to fund multi-family construction sustainably and profitably in New York. I look to isolate the policy's causal effects and its inclusionary housing provisions on rent levels across the five boroughs to provide insight on whether it was a necessary tax expenditure during its tenure as binding legislation.

Working in commercial real estate in New York City, 421-a is a key discussion point due to its recent expiration and because of its history of spurring badly needed residential construction. It seemed interesting to analyze the policy's economic impacts while we await its anticipated renewal or replacement. This project combines financial and economic empirical methods to disentangle it from confounding trends in the New York City housing market, and isolate 421-a's impact on rent levels due to its provisions from the period of 2008–2015.

**Lauren Sanderson**

Hometown:

Kensington, New Hampshire

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisor: Lee Anna Clark

## Maladaptive Personality Traits and Poly-Substance Use Disorder

There is evidence to suggest that certain personality traits may be risk factors for developing a substance use disorder (SUD). I'm looking at ways in which different classes of SUDs (e.g. alcohol use disorder, drug use disorder, poly-substance use disorder) vary in their scores on maladaptive personality trait scales.

I chose this topic because I'm interested in the relationship between personality traits and poly-substance use disorder, and whether knowing about the traits that characterize individuals with poly-substance use disorder can inform personality-targeted intervention programs for at-risk youth.

**Steven (Steve) Sayles**

Hometown: Oneida, New York

- Majors: Economics and History
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Jake Lundberg

## Compensated Emancipation in Delaware

At the start of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln drafted a bill for compensated emancipation of enslaved people in Delaware. Delaware was seen as more likely to adopt the bill than other southern states, and when the bill failed it reminded Lincoln of the Confederacy's deep connections with, and unwillingness to let go of, the institution of slavery.

I was intrigued by the topic when reading about the border states as a whole, and found that there were not many historical accounts that discuss it. This thesis enabled me to dig deeper into a topic within the Civil War that has been seldom discussed.

**Julia Schlueter**

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Major: Science-Business
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Advisor: Marisel Moreno

## El Acceso a la Educación Bilingüe en los EE. UU. en Relación con la Alfabetización

My thesis contextualizes the need for bilingual education within the United States, while calling attention to the importance of elementary literacy rates for students. In the context of literacy rates, my thesis analyzes economic and standardized testing disparities within the U.S. education system, as well as language usage throughout educational history. I propose a bilingual curriculum to increase access to education for all individuals, especially Spanish-speaking students.

Reflecting upon my education, I wanted to combine the impact of language learning in my education with my passion for literacy in elementary education. My community-based learning course, Once Upon a Time, illustrated the ties between bilingual education and literacy that I chose to research more thoroughly.

**Anupriya Seksaria**

Hometown:

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

- Majors: Psychology and Economics
- Sorin Scholar Honors Program
- Advisor: Ying (Alison) Cheng

## Self-Report and Process Data: Personality Predicts Student Engagement During the Transition from In-Person to Online Instruction Amidst COVID-19

The study investigated the change in student engagement as predicted by personality in the transition to remote online instruction during the 2019–2020 academic year. Students (N=228) completed self-reported course engagement in February to early March and again in late April to early May, and their personality data was collected in December 2019. In addition to the self-report data, process data for engagement was collected using the computerized AP-CAT system.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a sudden shift to remote learning, making it important to understand how students' engagement was affected. Combining self-report and process data with personality traits can provide valuable insight into how students responded to the transition, ultimately contributing to the field of education.

*Received funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.*

**Natalie Selover**

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Major: International Economics (Concentration in French)
- Minors: Education, Schooling, and Society and Poverty Studies
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Zachary Stangebye

## Frexit and the Future: What Leaving Would Mean for Europe

In both the 2017 and 2022 elections in France, political candidates called attention to a rising wave of populism within the country. Marine Le Pen, in particular, presented various proposals to leave the European Union, the eurozone, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). My thesis seeks to understand the potential consequences of a French departure from the EU or the eurozone on European economic stability via bond markets.

I took a class last year about the 2022 French election, which is when I first learned in depth about the ideas behind Frexit. I became interested in what Frexit might look like and how it could affect both France and Europe economically.



**William Shea**

Hometown: Pittsford, New York

- Major: Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Advisor: Kali Rath

## They Started It: How Universities Push Up Each Others' Tuition

My thesis examines how colleges, whether intentionally or not, cause each other to raise prices. In the competition for students, universities have to somehow convey the value of their product: Generous financial aid has allowed them to use a higher sticker price to do this, while not losing out on students. Applying literature on price-matching, I show how this competition can actually raise prices.

I chose this topic because education is becoming more and more important as a means of raising one's human capital. At the same time, the price of this education continues to rise. Understanding how and why these prices change is essential to predicting future changes.

**Ian Shuman**

Hometown: Village of Lakewood, Illinois

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Jason McLachlan

## Applying a Generalized Joint Attribute Model to the Historical Vegetation-Environment Relationship in the Midwestern United States

My thesis uses historical land surveys to reconstruct the structure and distribution of prairies and forests in the early 19th century. This reconstruction is combined with environmental data (climate, soils, and topography) in a model to predict the processes which shape the distribution of these ecosystems. I conducted fieldwork in Chicago and the surrounding area that involved identifying and measuring trees at different forested plots across northern Illinois to better understand what the modern vegetation landscape — in contrast to the historical landscape — looks like. Preliminary results indicate the environment is not as influential in determining ecosystems as we once thought. Instead, interactions between different tree species work in tandem with the environment to dictate ecosystem distribution.

I am passionate about ecology, and am especially interested in understanding how species distributions will change as climate change progresses. I plan to get my Ph.D. in ecology and evolution at Stony Brook University/Brookhaven National Laboratory, focusing on terrestrial ecosystem modeling in the Arctic and understanding how tundra plants will respond to climate change. Climate change is the most pressing issue faced by society today, so I hope my research can contribute toward our scientific understanding of the effects of climate change, and further our efforts to mitigate its effects.

*Traveled to the Chicago area and received funding from the College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship.*

**Gavin Shust**

Hometown: Walden, New York

- Majors: Romance Languages and Literatures and Political Science
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Charles Leavitt

## Whispered Resistance: Queer Activism in Tondelli's *Camere Separate*

In the midst of the Italian AIDS crisis, Pier Vittorio Tondelli published his final novel, *Camere Separate*, a heart-breaking portrait of a gay man grieving his former lover. Contrary to the existing scholarly literature on Tondelli, I argue that queerness is intrinsically tied to the suffering of the main character, a largely autobiographical representation of Tondelli himself, highlighting how he crafted this uniquely Italian gay identity in the face of societal homophobia.

I chose this topic to honor those who have died of AIDS. Increasing queer visibility is a continual work of activism, and this thesis works to contribute to this arduous task. Tondelli is understudied in academics, therefore this project gives recognition to the underappreciated artist.

**Gabriela Siao**

Hometown: Kapolei, Hawaii

- Majors: Biological Sciences and Classics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Brian Ó Conchubhair

## The Irish Influence: Evaluating Padraic Colum's Reshaping of Hawaiian Folklore

In 1923, Padraic Colum, a poet and leading intellectual figure of the Irish cultural revival movement was appointed to document and record Polynesian folklore by the Hawaiian Legend and Folklore Commission. Colum collected, edited, and published two foundational books of Hawaiian stories. As an outsider charged with recording and preserving Hawaiian folklore and tradition, Colum's versions not only distort the themes but misconstrue the original stories. My thesis is a critical evaluation of Colum's distortion of Polynesian folklore and its implications on later cultural education. I traveled to Dublin and examined documents at the Irish Folklore Collection, housed at University College Dublin. I looked at materials and listened to audio recordings of individuals in the early 1900s from the countryside.

I am a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawaii. Entering into the Glynn Family Honors Program, I knew that we'd be required to write a thesis and that I'd want to write a thesis based on Hawaii. As a junior, I took an Irish literature course and was presented with the idea of looking into Colum's time in Hawaii. I was excited by the prospect of evaluating Hawaiian stories through an Irish and European lens.

*Traveled to Dublin and received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.*

**Sarajane Smith**

Hometown: Laredo, Texas

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Mary E. Galvin Science and Engineering Scholars Program
- Advisor: Sue Sheridan

## New Perspectives: Enteseal Changes of the Lower Limbs of the Monks from Byzantine St. Stephen's Monastery

I have been using the Coimbra method (2015) to analyze the entheses, or muscle attachments, in the leg bones of monks from the Byzantine-era St. Stephen's monastery in Greece. Previous studies of the monks have shown they suffered severe damage to their knees, presumably from repeated genuflection. Enteseal changes have been found to more accurately reflect repeated muscle usage, so this project aims to provide a new perspective into the activity patterns of the monks.

I was trained in enteseal change analysis at my National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) in summer 2022. Professor Sue Sheridan and I thought it would be interesting to see what perspectives this new method of analyzing muscle attachment sites would provide, compared to previous studies on the lower limbs of the monks.

**Madeline Solkey**

Hometown: Granger, Indiana

- Majors: English and Anthropology
- Advisor: Essaka Joshua

## Female Romantic Writers on Male Madness: Literature, Insanity and Environmental Affect

I am exploring environmental affect, or how emotions are seen through the physical environment, using three texts written by women: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Mary Robinson's "The Maniac," and Charlotte Smith's "On Being Cautioned Against Walking on an Headland Overlooking the Sea." I believe these female authors use the environment to reflect the inner turmoil of their "mad" subjects, which I am exploring within the context of Romanticism.

I chose this topic because I was inspired by some of the English courses I have taken here at Notre Dame, which encouraged me to explore some of the Romantic Period texts and ideas that had been introduced to me in class in a deeper and more expansive way through my senior thesis.



**Luis Manuel Sosa Manubes**

Hometown: Cárdenas, Tabasco, México

- Majors: Computer Science and Studio Art
- Advisor: Nooshin Hakim Javadi

## I Dream of Being Able to Dream

My thesis explores the inaccessibility of the American dream, the promise to immigrants that often fails to materialize, and the resilience of those who continue to search for a better life. I traveled to New York City, where I studied many art pieces in several museums, including, but not limited to, The Met, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

As an immigrant myself, I have experienced firsthand the reality of the American dream. I believe the stories of immigrants are important to tell.

*Traveled to New York City and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Ryan Spees**

Hometown: San Diego, California

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Theology
- International Security Studies Certificate
- Advisor: Dan Lindley

## From the Cold War to the Information Age: The Emergence of the Information Security Dilemma in Great Power Competition

As the world becomes more interconnected, information warfare has emerged as a critical aspect of great power competition. This research explores the dynamic of conflict between the United States, China, and Russia, specifically examining the role of information and its use by these states in pursuit of power and security. The thesis proposes a concept for the Information Security Dilemma, where aggressive, information-related actions and operations are conducted offensively in pursuit of relative gains for power and security. Drawing on the core concept of the Security Dilemma, the research defines the nature of competition between these powers and the conditions for a Security Dilemma within the information environment.

The analysis demonstrates that the Information Security Dilemma is a competitive exchange of information-related actions between two or more fundamentally opposed states, or groups of states who each employ a coordinated, whole-of-government approach for exercising national power within, and to manipulate, the information environment. The analysis also reveals this strategy's prevalence by great powers and its increasing capacity for achieving their strategic interests within the information age. Ultimately, this research underscores the significance of information in great power competition and the need to better understand and manage the Information Security Dilemma in order to safeguard national interests and promote international stability.

*The views expressed in any writing by me outside of my official duties as a member of the U.S. Department of Defense are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense or any other agency of the United States government. My outside writing is not endorsed, sponsored, or approved by the Department of Defense or any other agency of the United States government. I am solely responsible for the content of my outside writing and any errors or omissions contained therein. Any opinions or statements expressed in my outside writing are not intended to represent the official position or policy of the Department of Defense or any other agency of the United States government.*

**Teresa (Tess) Spesia**

Hometown: Joliet, Illinois

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: Data Science and Latino Studies
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Kraig Beyerlein

## The Influence of Religion on Civic Engagement

I studied female Notre Dame students' experience with and attitudes toward civic engagement. I conducted qualitative interviews to gain insight into what motivates people to take action politically and non-politically for their communities. I paid particular attention to the role that religion played in motivating and deterring civic engagement in both those who identified as religious and non-religious.

While at Notre Dame, I have developed an interest in the power of religion in society. I am especially curious about the interaction between religious practice and civic actions because I view civic engagement as the glue of strong communities. With this study, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the community-level impact of religious practice.

**Elizabeth (Lizzy) Steffensmeier**

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Advisor: Mary Kate Batistich

## Can I See Some Identification? The Impact of Receiving an ID Upon Release from Prison

My thesis investigates the impact that state assistance with obtaining identification upon release from prison has on the recidivism rates of previously incarcerated individuals. Many people lack valid identification when they exit prison, which restricts access to employment, housing, benefits, and more. Some states provide identification upon release, some assist with obtaining identification, and others do not provide help. I leverage across-time variation in such policies to measure their impact on recidivism.

This research generates evidence about policies promoting successful re-entry after exiting incarceration. Each year, more than 600,000 people are released from prisons within the United States, and far too many return in subsequent years. Formerly incarcerated individuals and society benefit from the enactment of successful reentry programs and policies.

**Shand Stephens**

Hometown: Tiburon, California

- Majors: Economics and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Brian Cutter

## A Glimpse of Us: Exploring the Philosophy of Consciousness

My thesis explores various positions in the philosophy of mind concerning consciousness. In particular, I attempt to resolve a substantial counterargument against one of those positions (a position which is generally less popular). If my response is correct, the position becomes much more favorable.

I chose this topic because I very much enjoyed my Philosophy of Mind class with Professor Brian Cutter. I thought it would be interesting to continue exploring this sub-discipline.

**Sierra Stinson**

Hometown: Spokane, Washington

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Political Science
- Advisor: Vincent Phillip Muñoz

## Does Affirmative Action Benefit Minority Students?: A Closer Look at Notre Dame

My thesis is split into two parts. The first part examines whether Notre Dame practices affirmative action in undergraduate admission. The second part tries to figure out whether Notre Dame's practices are actually beneficial to minority students. To answer this question, I interviewed several students to decipher their opinions and experiences at Notre Dame.

I chose this topic because affirmative action is currently being debated at the Supreme Court. I believe it is important to ask about affirmative action, not from a legal standpoint but from a student perspective.



**Rachel Stockford**

Hometown: Clinton, Michigan

- Majors: Political Science and American Studies
- Advisor: Geoffrey Layman

## The Tea Party Movement and the Election of Donald Trump

My project explores the impact that the Tea Party movement had on Donald Trump's nomination as the Republican presidential candidate in 2016. I argue that shifting Republican politics, in particular the Tea Party, had a drastic impact on Trump's nomination.

My congressional representative is a Tea Party Republican, so I became interested in learning more about the movement and its impact on American politics.

**Benjamin Sullivan**

Hometown: Fairfield, Connecticut

- Majors: Political Science and Economics
- Advisor: Erin Rossiter

## Words Matter: An Analysis of the Impact of Rhetoric from Political Leaders on Partisan Social Identity of American Voters

My two-part project seeks to identify the link between partisan social identity (PID) and rhetoric from political elites. Firstly, I conducted a rhetorical analysis to detail the discursive strategies of modern political leaders in partisan rhetoric. Secondly, I conducted a survey experiment to identify the effects of unifying and incendiary partisan rhetoric on respondents' PID strength.

There is no doubt that it is becoming increasingly difficult to engage in political discourse with members of the opposite party. This issue isn't reflective of ideological polarization, but is rather due to the partisan social polarization which has continued to drive American political parties apart. I chose this topic to shed insight on what might be catalyzing this social polarization and how the words of political leaders matter in mending this partisan divide.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Anoop Sunkara**

Hometown: Rochester, New York

- Major: Economics (Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics)
- Supplementary Major: Arts & Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Notre Dame Scholars Program and Suzanne and Walter Scott Scholars Program
- Advisor: Christopher Cronin

## The Impact of Education on Obesity, Examined through the United Kingdom's 1972 British Raising of School Leaving Age

What is the impact of education on obesity? This question is examined through the 1972 British Raising of School Leaving Age act, which raised the school leaving age in Britain from 15 to 16. Using this act, I seek to determine the broader impacts of education on obesity. Specifically, I attempt to understand the link between government education requirements and obesity levels, helping policymakers better target and reduce obesity.

Obesity is a broadly understudied area in economics, and very little research has focused on the relationship between government-mandated education and obesity levels. Because obesity has impacts on mortality, health expenditures, and quality of life, reducing obesity should be a primary focus of government policy. I chose this thesis topic to fill a gap in economic literature and encourage government policies that target obesity reduction.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.*

**Alyssa Sutanto**

Hometown: Redmond, Washington

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Studio Art
- Advisor: Gabriel Radvansky

## Smell you later!: Serial Position, Event Boundaries, and Olfactive Memory

The goal of this study is to examine impacts of event boundaries on olfactive memory. We presented participants with odors to learn in either one room or two rooms, with them walking between doorways in between. Then, participants' recognition of previously presented odors was assessed. Each person underwent all conditions, so we also examined performance on earlier odor sets compared to later sets. Results of this study can contribute to our understanding of olfactive memory as it relates to event boundaries.

This topic is a combination of my personal interests in chemical sensory systems and my advisor, Gabriel Radvansky's specialty in event cognition and memory. The sense of smell is often associated with memory, so I wanted to know whether findings in memory research (usually examined using visual stimuli) extend to olfaction.

**Andrew (Drew) Sveda**

Hometown: Gibsonia, Pennsylvania

- Majors: Theology and Political Science
- Minor: Chinese
- Advisor: Nathan Eubank

## Examining the Role of Works in Matthew 25:31–46

My paper examines the role of works in Matthew 25:31–46 by analyzing Matthew's Gospel account as a whole, its immediate context in the Olivet Discourse, and the passage itself.

I chose this topic because I am interested in the relationship between works, merit, and eternal life, and I found Matthew 25:31–46 a key passage to better understanding this connection.

**Emily Swiatek**

Hometown: Auckland, New Zealand

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Theology
- Kennedy Scholars Program
- Advisor: Susan Blum

## Tourism and Language Preservation

Combining tourism and language has the ability to provide a new preservation technique of cultural identities. Focusing on the touristic experience in Wales, I investigated the potential ability for this multi-billion-dollar industry to provide a foundation for increasing the prevalence of a language and preserving cultures. I traveled to Conwy and Cardiff in Wales to conduct ethnographic research and interview people working at tourist sites to learn about the use of language in the tourism industry. Through this ethnographic fieldwork and historical research, I investigated the pathway to creation of an endangered language and the impact on communal and personal identity-building.

Language has always been a large part of what makes us human, and seeing countries lose this component of their identity is saddening. I wanted to investigate ways that the language could be preserved and shared through a country (Wales) that has experienced high levels of colonialism and oppression.

*Traveled to Wales and received funding from the Kennedy Scholars Fellowship.*



**Kayla Swiderski**

Hometown: Hau'ula, Hawai'i

- Major: American Studies
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisors: Jason Ruiz and Jodene Morrell

## Power, 'Problem Students,' and Popular Culture: An Investigation of Portrayals of Youth and Student Discipline in School-Centered Pop Culture Texts

This project analyzes portrayals of “problem students” from five education-oriented pop culture texts from the post-World War II era and how these texts approach the discipline of the students. Each chapter situates the texts in their respective contexts and evaluates how each artifact’s portrayal contributes to larger narratives of youth, power, and agency in the United States.

I visited the archives of the National Education Association, a national coalition of public school advocates. I went through 20 boxes of archival materials — from meeting notes to mailing materials to advertisements to grant proposals — related to conversations on student discipline. This gave me insights into actual conversations in the field of education that occurred among teachers, administrators, politicians, and other public school advocates. It was helpful for contextualizing my pop culture text into the specific contexts in which they were being produced. This project operates at the intersection of my two majors and highlights the important and often neglected role that popular culture plays in discourse on various social issues. It also allows me to critically analyze ways that young people are portrayed and think about ways we can empower youth in schools and in the media.

*Traveled to Washington, D.C., and received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Madison Syufy**

Hometown: Corte Madera, California

- Major: BFA in Studio Art  
(Concentration in Painting  
and Drawing)
- Advisor: Jason Lahr

## Female Villains in Greek Mythology

Female characters in Greek mythology are often reduced to a one-dimensional persona defined by a singular “villainous” act. I expand these single-story female characters into complex protagonists by showing them confidently reclaiming their “object of demise” in a series of five paintings.

After studying abroad, I gained a new appreciation for Greek myths and how they interact with our modern world. I wanted to explore how female villains are interpreted today and show how much of their stories have been neglected in order to support one narrative.

*Received funding from the Department of Art, Art History & Design's Judith A. Wrappe Memorial Award.*



## **Anthony Tatarka**

Hometown: Belgrade, Montana

- Majors: Mathematics (Science) and Economics
- Advisor: Evan Mast

## **The Effect of New Jersey's Mount Laurel Doctrine on Housing Supply**

This project studies the Mount Laurel Doctrine, which is a policy that banned exclusionary zoning in New Jersey. By studying this topic, I hope to further knowledge related to zoning policies and their implications on the housing market.

Everyone needs housing; it is where people spend most of their time. I see housing as a fundamental part of people's lives, so I thought it would be an interesting topic to study.

**Joseph Tatarka**

Hometown: Belgrade, Montana

- Majors: Mathematics and Economics
- Advisor: Yong Suk Lee

## Do ESOPs Affect Firm Performance and ESG?

I study how Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) affect firm performance and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) scores. I match firms with ESOPs to similar firms without ESOPs. I find evidence of a general positive effect on firm performance, particularly for market-based measures. I find a positive effect on ESG for large firms and for firms in transportation and construction.

I was interested in studying how employees owning stock in their company and becoming “employee owners” would influence employee motivation and engagement within the company. Additionally, the concept of ESG in business has become increasingly popular over the past decade.

**Willoughby Thom**

Hometown: Hidden Hills, California

- Majors: Art History and French
- Kennedy Scholars Program and Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Elyse Speaks

## Subverting the Archive: Jeremy Deller and the Vernacular

My thesis explores the work of British contemporary artist Jeremy Deller (b. 1966) and the ways in which he investigates the relationship between pop culture and history. Deller is interested in confronting the hegemony of the archive in celebration of the complexities of present-memory, suggesting new methods of rapport between subcultures and vernacular traditions with fundamentalist approaches to history. Since 1993, he has explored his own interests, his own culture, and the ways in which culture manifests itself in diverse social and political contexts. Thus, my thesis explores how Deller uses popular culture as a lens to understand history and subvert the conventional archive.

After taking *Slackers, Critics, and Makers: Art of the 1990s* in spring 2021 and *Art and the Everyday* in fall 2021 with Professor Elyse Speaks, I found myself drawn to contemporary artists engaging with vernacular traditions at the end of the 20th century. While I was abroad in London in spring 2022, Speaks suggested I consider researching Deller because he actively engages with pop culture in a number of diverse and unique ways. As an avid music listener, I immediately responded to Deller's personal and collective exploration of fandom, so I took the opportunity to research this renowned, yet underground, contemporary artist. During the 2022 fall break, I went back to London to interview Deller. Coordinating directly with him, I prepared an interview in which we discussed his career, artistic practice, inspirations, and a selection of works.

*Traveled to London.*

**Elliott Thomazin**

Hometown: Columbus, Nebraska

- Majors: Economics and Philosophy
- Advisor: Kasey Buckles

## The Time-Consuming Road to the Fast Track: An Analysis of Family and Career Attainment Using the American Time Use Survey

Inspired by the work of Claudia Goldin, this paper uses the American Time Use Survey to develop measures of family and career for men and women from 2003–2019. By defining family relative to time spent with children and career as working a full-time job, I find 18% of men and 14% of women meet my criteria for family and career attainment. Among those with children, the inequality widens to 50% of men and 32% of women attaining both family and career. However, women attain family and career to a greater degree and spend more time with their children than men, when analyzing those employed full-time. Despite women's greater time spent with their children while possessing a full-time job, only 48% of women with children are employed full-time relative to 86% of men with children.

I chose the topic because the attainment of both family and career constitute primary pursuits for many individuals today. However, both these pursuits present inequalities. In the words of Goldin: "Men are able to have a family and step up because women step back from their careers to provide more time for the family. Both are deprived: Men forgo time with family; women forgo career." I hope to shed light on this inequality and suggest further avenues to allow men and women to meaningfully engage with their children and their career.

**Hannah Tonsor**

Hometown: Jerseyville, Illinois

- Major: English (Concentration in Creative Writing)
- Minor: Digital Marketing
- Advisor: Joyelle McSweeney

***Creatio: A Poetry Collection***

*Creatio* is a poetry collection that reimagines the Catholic Mass according to the choir's perspective. Out of its song is born a sort of dreamscape, one that celebrates creation, consumption, and the very artistry of living.

As a singer, poet, and person of faith, I see creation as a true spiritual celebration. Art attaches us to a higher power, in its imagining, its rendering, and its devouring. With this project, I hope to reinhabit the Church's strong artistic tradition, on my own terms.



**Connor Tsikitas**

Hometown: Bloomfield, New Jersey

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics, Mediterranean/Middle East Studies, Sustainability, and European Studies
- International Security Studies Certificate
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

## INGOs: Weapons of Influence or IR Bombshells? The Impact of International Nongovernmental Organizations on CBRNE Weapons Policy

This project tackles the debate in international relations theory over whether non-state actors have influence over state actors. It also bridges a gap between theories of nongovernmental organization (NGO) influence in IR and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) weapons policy.

I chose this topic because CBRNE is interesting to me and it seems to be a less-studied or pursued field in military and scholarly terms, besides maybe the nuclear weapons part. Professor Susan Rosato's NGO seminar made me particularly interested in the NGO theory side of things. This project was conducted as both my political science/NDISC thesis and my Middle East Studies capstone.

**Elizabeth VanKammen**

Hometown: Kenosha, Wisconsin

- Major: Philosophy
- Minors: Medieval Studies;  
Science, Technology, and Values;  
and Theology
- Advisor: Michael Rea

## Talk About Self: How a Metaphysical Conception of Selves Allows Us to Take Everyday Speech Seriously

There seems to be a disconnect between the casual ways in which we refer to ourselves every day and the current metaphysical theories of the self. If we take these references seriously, however, they pose very real problems for the current theories of self available in philosophy.

I became intrigued by the question “Who am I?” after taking the Self and Identity philosophy course during my sophomore year. When this question did not go away long after completing the course, it seemed to be worth exploring further.

**William (Will) Ventura-Chavez**

Hometown: New London, Connecticut

- Majors: Design (Concentration in Visual Communication Design) and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Advisor: Neeta Verma

## CG Pathway: Find Your Way

Unlike many other fields, the computer graphics (CG) industry presents a large peril for newcomers — clarity. Most education is hidden behind a gigantic paywall and navigation of its composition is tedious at best. By using and analyzing a database of recruiting information, conducting interviews with professionals, and teaching myself a whole slew of software, I created a web application that allows students to figure out how to fulfill all their needs occupationally and educationally.

I've witnessed others' aspirations for careers in animation, visual effects, and video games die. Whether it be stubbornness or pride, I've refused to let my dream go. But having now seen the flaws in the system, I've decided to not just overcome them but to pave a path for others to succeed too. This has been one of the most rewarding and scary experiences of my life. For this project, I've had to teach myself Python, C, Unity, Cinema 4D, AutoDesk Maya, and Substance Painter, to name just a few. I hope no student has to feel as alone as I did in this process (or at least a little less so).

*Received funding from the William and Connie Greif Art Award.*

**Ryan Vigilante**

Hometown: Potomac, Maryland

- Majors: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics and Film, Television, and Theatre
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Clayton Cole

## How Machine Consciousness in Film Impacts Narrative

In this paper, I dive into a plethora of films featuring robots and artificial intelligence and discuss how machine consciousness impacts each of their narratives. I also identify patterns across films to see if certain levels of machine consciousness often inspire specific types of stories. For instance, I discovered that the highest levels of machine consciousness occur either in children's films such as *Robots* or extremely mature films like *Ex Machina*, but not often in between.

I wanted to do a film analysis that spanned multiple films, but I wasn't sure which topic would be right for me until I took Professor Clayton Cole's class on robots in film and I knew that, especially as an ACMS and FTT major, this topic fit me perfectly.

**Brian Walsh**

Hometown: Arlington Heights, Illinois

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Accountancy and Digital Marketing
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Forrest Spence

## The Impact of 1998 Tax Legislation on the Number of ESOPs and Company Consolidation

How did the 1998 tax law for S Corp employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) firms consequently impact the C Corp ESOP firms? Did the tax benefits result in an exit of C Corp consolidation for C Corps as they switched to become S Corps, or did the tax change have no impact on this? I presented my progress at Rutgers University at the Kelso Workshop, which is specific to ESOP-related topics. I sought advice and help from many ESOP experts.

I chose this topic because I am interested in the economics behind employee stock ownership plans and wanted to become an expert on them.

*Traveled to New Jersey.*

**Caroline (Callie) Whelan**

Hometown: Ridgefield, Connecticut

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Computing and Digital Technologies
- Glynn Family Honors Program and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Mary Flannery

## (Meta)morphosis: Facebook's Fabled Fast Track to Infamy and its Impact on Competition and Privacy

My thesis considers the rise of Facebook-Meta as a case study for the insufficiency of American antitrust law and privacy regulation. The paper examines the innate industry tension between economic competition and consumer privacy, and devises policy prescriptions to rectify such strain in light of the newly emerging Web3.

I chose this topic because I am passionate about the economic, political, social, and psychological impacts of big tech companies and their unbridled power on human society. I sought to learn more about the current structure of American competition and privacy law to understand how and why this phenomenon is occurring. I also sought to learn how other countries are handling these issues for potential policy inspiration.

**Rachel Whitehead**

Hometown: Centerville, Ohio

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisor: Xin Lu

## Out with the New Enemy, In with the Old Enemy: Neuroendocrine-to-Luminal Re-differentiation through Androgen Receptor Resensitization in Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer

My project explores a treatment direction for neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC), a rare but aggressive subtype of prostate cancer. NEPC has developed mechanisms independent of the androgen receptor in order to progress, and it is resistant to androgen receptor inhibitors, a common treatment for prostate cancer. I aim to resensitize NEPC cells to mechanisms involving the androgen receptor through drug screening and testing genetic alterations in hopes to target the cancer once again with androgen receptor inhibitors. In doing so, I endeavor to uphold the pertinence of treatment directions aimed to induce redifferentiation in NEPC.

Motivated by my passion for oncological research and my mission to overcome barriers in the treatment of cancer in the clinical setting, I undertook my project in the Lu Lab to treat a devastating, resistant cancer for which treatment remains elusive. I hope to lead discoveries that open the doors to treatment possibilities that can enhance the prognosis and fulfill the lives of patients with NEPC.

*Received funding from the College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and the Glynn Family Honors Program.*



**Tia Williams**

Hometown: Kenner, Louisiana

- Major: Management Consulting
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Gates Cambridge Scholarship
- Advisor: Maria McKenna

## That Which Cannot Be Washed Away: A Critical Systematic Review of New Orleans Public Education Post-Katrina

This review takes a deep look at the transformation of the New Orleans public school system into an all-charter district following Hurricane Katrina's landfall in 2005. Through the pairing of a systematic method and an intentional inclusion of powerful narratives, this work reflects on the stories that have been told and shared by and about New Orleans students and residents.

This topic was born out of a love of Louisiana and public education. In education reform, especially in New Orleans, too often voices of students and families are left out of conversations. With this work, my hope is that research continues to demand better and do better for this community. This project was done with the help and guidance of the Distant Reader, a tool developed by Eric Lease Morgan of the Navari Family Center for Digital Scholarship Center at Hesburgh Library.

**Jack Wilson**

Hometown: New Albany, Ohio

- Majors: History and Political Science
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Katlyn Carter

## Slavery During Constitutional Ratification: The Federalist Contradiction

This analysis into the Constitutional ratification processes of Pennsylvania and Virginia seeks to use historical evidence to understand slavery's role in the Constitution.

I traveled to Richmond and Charlottesville, Virginia, to conduct archival research on the Virginia Ratification Convention. I chose this topic to contribute to the contemporary debate surrounding America's historical relationship to slavery and race.

*Traveled to Virginia and received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' American Dream Summer Grant Program.*

**Meredith Wilson**

Hometown: Katonah, New York

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Glynn Family Honors Program, Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Laura Miller-Graff

## Potentially Strategic and Perpetually Shapeshifting: Sexual Violence as a Possible Weapon of War in Congo

Sexual violence is endemic in the conflict in Congo, and it is broadly understood by scholars and nongovernmental organizations to be a weapon of war. Some, however, have begun to examine this narrative more critically. This project builds upon such voices. It concludes that to the extent to which sexual violence is truly a weapon of war in Congo, it should be considered a shapeshifting one — that regularly changes forms, changes hands, and changes targets.

Throughout college, sexual violence prevention and response work have become primary passions of mine. As such, bringing these interests into the academic arena seemed a natural and necessary development, while situating them within an international context helped me apply lenses I have gained through my international peace studies education.

**Justin Witt**

Hometown: Midland, Michigan

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Susanne Wengle

## Who Supports Free Markets? A Comparative Study of Economic Attitudes in the Baltic States

In the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet planned economy, scholars proposed a variety of theories to predict how citizens of post-socialist states would view free markets and government intervention in the economy. My thesis conducts a plausibility probe to determine how well these existing theories explain contemporary trends. I conducted fieldwork in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Tallinn, Estonia. Through case studies in the Baltic States, I explore how national economic growth, communist nostalgia, and ethno-religious identity relate to economic ideology.

I selected this topic after interning for a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes market-oriented reforms through its global network of think tank partners, including those in the Baltic States.

*Traveled to Lithuania and Estonia and received funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.*

**Bailee Zacovic**

Hometown: Reynoldsburg, Ohio

- Majors: Mathematics and Philosophy
- Minor: Business Economics
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program, Glynn Family Honors Program, and Notre Dame Scholars Program
- Advisor: Matthew Dyer

## The Combinatorics of Coxeter Groups

Coxeter groups were first introduced as generalizations of finite reflection groups by Harold Scott MacDonald "H.S.M." Coxeter in 1934. In my thesis, I describe some of the beautiful explicit formulae for the Poincaré series of Coxeter groups, examine analogies between such series and others arising in combinatorics, and consider techniques for computing the Poincaré series of more general subsets. Remarkably, the Poincaré series of Coxeter groups, and many geometrically or algebraically natural subsets, are rational.

I intend to obtain my Ph.D. in mathematics and pursue a career in mathematical research, particularly in algebraic combinatorics, the field to which the theory of Coxeter groups belongs. I chose this project to acquire familiarity with several potential doctoral research topics which are actively studied today.

**Yining Zhang**

Hometown: Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

- Major: Psychology
- Advisor: David Watson

## Associations Among Dreams, Sleep, Dissociation, Traits, and Trauma

Research has established a link between dissociation and sleep. Trauma and personality traits both contribute to this link. However, dreams have received little attention in this literature. A total of 600 participants completed a Qualtrics survey that includes measures of dreams, sleep experiences, dissociation, personality, and traumatic experience. I examined the data using correlation and regression analysis. The results of this study may inform early diagnosis and prevention of dissociative disorders.

I chose this topic because I am interested in dreams' mysterious properties. When my advisor suggested that he has a similar line of work on sleep and dissociation, I saw the opportunity to add in the dream element and explore whether clinical populations would have different dreams.

*Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).*

**Zhanqi (Jackie) Zhang**

Hometown: Beijing, China

- Majors: Film, Television, and Theatre and Philosophy
- Advisor: Anne García-Romero

***In Search of My Homeland: A Play***

My thesis is a full-length staged play, in which a British-Chinese high school student gets stranded in Beijing due to COVID-19. There, he embarks on a winding yet mysterious journey of self-exploration. Last spring, I directed the stage reading of my play.

I hope to show my confusion and thinking about Chinese and Western cultures during the epidemic as a Chinese student. I also want to use this play to portray the group portraits of contemporary youth, so there will be more works featuring young people in society.



**Blake Ziegler**

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

- Majors: Political Science and Philosophy
- Menard Family Tocqueville Fellow, God and the Good Life Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies Undergraduate Research Fellow, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Sigma Alpha
- Advisor: David Campbell

## Who's the Best Friend? Comparing In-Group Favoritism between Orthodox Jews, Non-Orthodox Jews, and Evangelical Christians in American Politics

Orthodox Jews are closer along political and religiosity lines to evangelical Christians than to non-Orthodox Jews in the United States. My thesis explores how this influences interdenominational relations in American Judaism. Specifically, it measures whether, when voting, Orthodox Jews prioritize their shared political identity with evangelicals or their shared religious identity with non-Orthodox Jews. My results found that, when voting, Orthodox Jews prioritize their politics over religion, even when doing so requires voting against another Jew.

I chose this topic after Professor David Campbell introduced me to the notion that politics is increasingly preceding religion in the U.S. I was fascinated by this theory and its implications for American politics and faith formation in our country. As a Jew, I was particularly interested in what it meant for my community.

**Blake Ziegler**

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

- Majors: Political Science and Philosophy
- Menard Family Tocqueville Fellow, God and the Good Life Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies Undergraduate Research Fellow, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Sigma Alpha
- Advisor: Paul Blaschko

## Transformative Learning in Undergraduate Education: A Theoretical and Empirical Defense of Philosophy as a Way of Life

God and the Good Life, a popular introductory philosophy course at Notre Dame, promotes philosophy as a way of life. Unlike traditional courses, God and the Good Life emphasizes philosophy's applicability to everyday life over comprehensive textual analysis. Academic literature, however, is disputed on the effectiveness of this approach. My thesis provides a philosophical defense for the course's learning model based on philosophy, liberal arts education, and society's interests. It also utilizes interviews of professors and students to supplement these theoretical findings.

Part of the reason I came to Notre Dame was because of the God and the Good Life course, as I was interested in its approach to philosophy as a way of life. After four years on the teaching team, I'm a firm believer in its pedagogy and wanted to provide a comprehensive defense of its usefulness.

**Andrew Zimlich**

Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina

- Majors: History and French
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisor: Patrick Griffin

## Making a Myth: Retracing the Story of General Francis Marion

Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, better known to many as the Swamp Fox, is widely celebrated as one of America's greatest Revolutionary War heroes. His legendary reputation, however, is rather astonishing considering he was a backcountry fighter who mainly engaged in small, local skirmishes in the Carolinas. My thesis investigates the creation of this unlikely legend, analyzing several factors that played a key role in elevating Marion to the status of a national hero.

Growing up in Marion's home state of South Carolina, I grew accustomed to seeing his name around me. However, when I learned that Indiana's most populated county, Marion County, was also named after the Swamp Fox, I began to ask myself how his story had spread so far.

**Ashley (Caroline) Zitnik**

Hometown: Robertsdale, Alabama

- Majors: History and Spanish
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Advisor: Brian Collier

## The Variances in Social Studies Standards and their Usages in American High School Classrooms

State standards are a common feature of most education departments in the United States. This project seeks to answer the following question: What do teachers do with standards once they have them? To answer this question, we surveyed middle school and high school social studies teachers from the South Bend area and across the country to better understand the way standards influence their classrooms.

As a history major with plans to teach in a K-12 school next year, I want to learn about the ways that state standards affect social studies teaching practices. Additionally, I want a better understanding of the current debate over standards content before I enter the classroom.