

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Angela Adduci

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

“Working Under Non-Democracy: Explaining Success and Failure of INGOs in Vietnam and China”

International aid organizations have seen marked success in Vietnam, but not in China, despite similar restrictions governing civil society. This thesis seeks to explain the differentiation in success between foreign organizations working in Vietnam and China, and makes recommendations for organizations seeking to succeed in the future. I chose this topic after a research trip to Vietnam in summer 2014. As I worked with international nonprofits, I was struck by the uncertain terrain that comes with functioning in a foreign country.

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Shadia Ajam

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Latin American Studies
- Adviser: J. Samuel Valenzuela

“Asharq Al-Awsat fi Amreeka: Analyzing the economic and political impact of Chile’s Arab community”

Through this project, I hope to shed light on the impact of the Arab emigre community in Chile. I am specifically focusing on the community’s socioeconomic trajectory, political influence, and identity. I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile, during fall 2014. After my host family learned of my Arab roots, my host dad wanted to show me Patronato, the Arab neighborhood in Santiago. We biked there one day for lunch, and I found myself wanting to learn more about this community and its history.

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Bianca Almada

- Major in English
- Supplementary Major in Spanish
- Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jesús Costantino

“God is Not Dead: Postmodern Engagement with Religion in Ana Castillo’s So Far From God”

Postmodern fiction rarely engages with religion, but my research suggests postmodern ethnic fiction is the glaring exception. In Ana Castillo’s *So Far From God*, the characters practice a dynamic faith system that challenges previously accepted doctrines and leaders, adopting religion to address the pressing injustices affecting their oppressed community. I argue that Castillo’s novel creates a distinctly postmodern religion that incites social action. My Spanish supplementary major and a Modernism of the Americas class ignited my passion for Latin American literature, and Ana Castillo’s novel especially spoke to me as a Mexican-American woman.

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Daniel Anderson

- Major in Africana Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Hugh R. Page Jr.

“Africana Foodways as Texts: Selected Case Studies”

This thesis examines food and the culinary arts in the Africana tradition. Through a culturally attentive lens, I explore symbolic interpretation of work in the Africana community that is filled with texts in performative spaces. Food, in its different preparations and situational consumption, becomes texts for the life of black folk as it recounts their story of struggle and overcoming hardship. My own upbringing led me to explore the ways in which Africana peoples have culturally and significantly expressed their circumstances and situations via texts that seem to intersect intimately with food. As a young burly boy, my grandmother’s kitchen was often the source of my strength. It was there that I received sustenance—the kind of sustenance that filled not only my stomach but my heart and mind as well.

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Elizabeth Anthony

- Major in Philosophy
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Alex Ambrose

“Examining the Role of Digital Badges in a Massive Open Online Course”

Since my first year at Notre Dame, I have been fascinated by disruptive innovations in higher education—new pedagogy or tools that have the power to transform education as we know it. Digital badges and MOOCs have both been lauded as potentially disruptive innovations. MOOCs allow universities to advance educational research, improve access to education, and exhibit institutional merit. Universities worldwide have attempted to take advantage of these opportunities by issuing certificates of completion. The effects of digital badging as an alternative credential in MOOCs, however, have yet to be fully explored. This case study examines the purpose, impact, and perceptions of digital badges, and profiles of badge earners.

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Alex Arnold

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Chinese
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Denis Robichaud

“Nietzsche’s Aestheticization of Politics: A Study of Napoleon as the Higher Man”

My thesis examines the connection between Nietzsche’s conceptions of aesthetics and politics. I posit that Nietzsche’s thought as a whole can be regarded as one greater aesthetic project, which is also very political. I also argue that Nietzsche identifies with Napoleon as the figure who most represents his political ideals. Many scholars have sought to reconcile Nietzsche’s ostensibly anti-democratic ideals with their own personal views through strongly metaphorical interpretations of his political thought. However, I find this approach problematic because it only acknowledges Nietzsche as a deconstructive thinker and ignores the equally important constructive elements of his philosophy.

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Hannah Ashley

- Majors in American Studies and Studio Art
- Advisers: Annie Coleman and Erika Doss

"Magnificent Megafauna: Images of Wildlife in America's Mountain West"

The image of the American West is open lands and empty spaces, reminiscent of the frontier. How do we reconcile our desire for wilderness and wild animals in a more populated and developed West where animals are increasingly managed? The answer lies in the art found in gift shops and exhibits. I traveled to Yellowstone National Park, the Denver Art Museum, the National Elk Refuge, and Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge to explore this issue. My research gave me the perfect opportunity to combine my interests in animals, art, and the American West, which I hope to pursue further in graduate school.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kitty Baker

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Robert Goulding

"The Evolution of a Myth"

My thesis is a brief analysis of three artists' interpretations of the Orpheus myth, from the most ancient Virgil through Ovid to the avant-garde French director Jean Cocteau. I looked at how the portrayal of Orpheus has changed through the years, and what remains integral to the major themes of the work. I hope this essay gives insight into future interpretations of the myth. I have always been extremely interested in Greek myths and especially how the processes of storytelling have changed over the years.

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Megan Ball

- Majors in History and Theology
- Adviser: Kevin Whelan

“By the Number: The Shan Van Vocht and its Subscribers”

My thesis is based on the *Shan Van Vocht*, a Belfast-based Nationalist newspaper published monthly from 1896–1899. I analyzed the content, contributors, and subscribers to the SVV based on the recently located original manuscript lists of both Irish and American subscribers. This source expands our knowledge of Irish Nationalist networks on the eve of the 1916 Rebellion and the impact of Irish Nationalism in the late 19th century. In summer 2015, I worked as a research assistant for Kevin Whelan in Dublin. His purchase of the subscribers lists allowed me to work on a new, never-studied primary source. As I transcribed the lists, I began to wonder about the global impact of this small publication.

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Nicolette Bardele

- Major in Sociology
- Supplementary Major in Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: David Gibson

“Incarcerated Motherhood: Exploring Formerly Imprisoned Women’s Parenting Attitudes and Practices”

In my thesis, I examine how mothers perceive and strive to fulfill their parental roles during incarceration and re-entry. I seek to understand what shapes parent-child relationships, how social networks support children during and following their mothers’ absence, and what characterizes the relationships between mothers and their children’s caretakers. I became interested in studying incarceration after completing a Center for Social Concerns course, held in an all-male state prison, which featured discussion between inmates and Notre Dame students. I also spent a summer interning at an NGO in New York City that provides addiction treatment services to women in the criminal justice system.

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Abigail Bartels

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Gender Studies
- Minor in Theology
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

"My Strategy Brings All the Boys to the Yard: An Analysis of the Gender Gap and its Impact on the Swing Vote in United States Presidential Elections"

In American presidential elections, statistics show that women vote differently than men. This empirical observation has led to a common understanding called the gender gap. In my thesis, I address the widespread misunderstanding of this concept in relation to vote choice. I selected this topic because I am interested in what aspects of identity affect levels of political participation in the United States.

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Victor Benavides

- Major in American Studies
- Minor in Latino Studies
- Adviser: Perin Gurel

"Labeling Mariah: Industry, Social Media, and Musical Autobiography in the Rise and Fall of an American Pop Icon"

This thesis examines Mariah Carey and her career as a case study to index the changes that have occurred in the business and culture of music in the transition to the Internet Age.

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Brian Bertsche

- Major in Economics
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: William Evans

“Physician-Induced Demand and Hysterectomies”

Due to their knowledge advantage, physicians have the ability to induce demand for procedures following a negative income shock. I test the induced-demand model by exploiting decreases in fertility rate, which create income pressure on OB-GYNs. My thesis argues that physicians induced demand for more financially lucrative procedures—hysterectomies—as the fertility rate dropped. I show that there is a correlation between the change in fertility rate and the probability of having had a hysterectomy.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Angela Bird

- Majors in Theology and English
- Adviser: Margaret Pfeil

“True Liberation”: Oscar Romero on the Relationship Between Forgiveness and Justice”

I considered the writings of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero to explore the relationship between resistance to violence and oppression and the disposition toward forgiveness, especially in the context of ongoing conflict. As pastor to the Salvadoran people during a building conflict, Romero emphasized the goal of “true liberation” in Christ, of which forgiveness and reconciliation are integral elements. While I was in El Salvador for a semester, social justice efforts related to the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S. were growing, following events in Baltimore and the Emanuel AME church shooting. My questions about El Salvador’s history and these events inspired me to explore the theology of forgiveness.

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Rachael Ann Biscocho

- Major in Sociology
- Minor in Chinese
- Adviser: Richard Williams

"Food Deserts in NYC: Using Geographic Information Systems to Study Food Security in an Urban Environment"

Good quality food in New York City is not always affordable or accessible. Using data from NYC Open Data and from the U.S. Census, I created a map showing the probability of food deserts in New York City. I participated in the Urban Plunge freshman year, and it opened my eyes to the hunger problem the United States faces. Through this trip, I worked with homeless shelters and nonprofits and saw the effect hunger has on people. Food security is an important topic in public health research, which I plan to pursue a career in.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Erin Bishop

- Majors in Psychology and Science Preprofessional
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Gabriel Radvansky

"Mental Aerobics: The Effects of Exercise Intensity on Creativity"

My thesis investigates the effects of exercise of varying intensity on aspects of creativity, specifically divergent and convergent thought. Although exercise has been shown to benefit different cognitive functions, its potential effects on creativity and its components have yet to be investigated. I chose this topic because of my work in Notre Dame's Human Memory Lab, which has previously studied the effects of exercise on memory.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Alexandra Bohnsack

- Major in Psychology
- Minors in Catholic Social Tradition and Education, Schooling, and Society
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Nicole McNeil

"The Effects of Set Patterns in Counting Books for Predicting Number Knowledge in Preschool-Age Children"

I investigated how the arrangement of objects in counting books affects children's understanding of the basic principles of counting. I compared an intervention where children work with counting books with canonical patterns to one using counting books with random patterns. My interest in how children learn early math skills led me to this topic. A strong foundation in counting can have a huge impact on children's later success in formal schooling, and I hope that my study will add to the literature on how we can help children from an early age.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Boomer

- Majors in Political Science and History
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

"Markets, States, and Violence: Examining Economic Development in Former Conflict Zones"

I established a theory of the way in which political conflicts affect economic development. I argue that violence shapes post-conflict institutions and cultures in such a way as to prevent the development of free, accessible markets and thus stifles growth or prevents growth from being broad-based. I then traced these effects in case studies in Guatemala, Northern Ireland, and Uganda.

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Marissa Bowman

- Majors in Psychology and International Economics
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Jessica Payne

“Sex Moderates the Effect of REM Sleep on Emotional Memory Consolidation”

Sleep benefits emotional memory consolidation. This project examined if the amount of REM sleep would predict long-term emotional memory performance. Results indicated that participant sex moderated the effect of REM sleep on negative emotional memory, suggesting that sex may be an important covariate to consider in sleep and memory studies. I am thrilled that I was able to pursue my interest in the bi-directional relationship between sleep and psychopathology. Sleep, and in particular REM sleep, is dysregulated in many mental health disorders. A better understanding of sleep’s role in emotional memory consolidation in healthy individuals will help clarify what might be driving these sleep difficulties.

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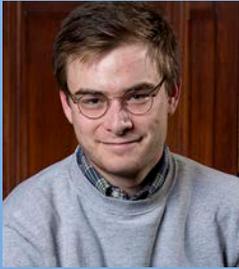
Mark Brahier

- Major in Biological Sciences
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Adviser: Rahul Oka

“Going Green: Unintended Consequences in Informal Sector Recycling”

My thesis examines unintended consequences in informal sector recycling in a garbage dump community outside Granada, Nicaragua. My research suggests that the global recycling movement is a factor in decreasing incomes among garbage pickers, which impacts their lives in many ways— from nutrition and health care to education and housing. The IDS minor inspired me to choose an interdisciplinary research topic. I worked with a partner organization in Granada for this project, and I hope to continue in this field after graduation. I will be presenting my work in the plenary paper session of the annual Society for Economic Anthropology Conference in Athens, Georgia, and publishing the paper in the Journal for Economic Anthropology.

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James Brokaw

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in French and Francophone Studies
- Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

“Who Brings Home the Bacon? Lobbying & Influence in the U.S. Pork Industry”

Not all lobbying is created equal. In contemporary American agriculture, private farmers organize themselves according to their respective commodity specialties. Farther up the production chain, processors, wholesalers, and other agribusiness firms have steadily moved toward vertical integration of U.S. food industries. My thesis delves into how these political and market organizational paradigms have impacted access to and influence upon the government in the U.S. pork industry. In spring 2015, I interned with the Rural Affairs Team of the White House Domestic Policy Council, which piqued my interest in the resurgent policy fields of agriculture and rural development. Given this experience, my Indiana roots, and my personal connection with several hog farmers (including my father), this topic was a perfect fit.

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Trini Bui

- Major in English
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

“A Study of Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club* and Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior: Implications for Teaching Multicultural Literature*”

I explore themes of identity negotiation and silence in the short story cycle narrative structure of Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club* and Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*. I also consider how the inclusion of multicultural texts in education could help multicultural students find role models and become more invested in academic achievement. Throughout my educational career, I have not seen much racial or ethnic diversity in the novels I have read for class. As a future English teacher, I wanted to combine my love for literature and passion for social justice into one. I was able to go to the University of Georgia’s Journal of Language and Literacy Education conference with my thesis adviser to present my research on the impact of multicultural stories in urban schools.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Samantha Burr

- Majors in Theology and Classics
- Adviser: Timothy O'Malley

"Sharing Stories: The Importance of Fiction for Understanding Mystery in a Secular Age"

My thesis begins with the divide between reason and faith that is found in a secular society. Arguing that this divide is dangerous and artificial, I seek to show how good fiction, by participating in creation, incarnation, and salvation, can enable us to contemplate truth in the form of mystery or paradox. I love the beauty and order in scientific and empirical areas of study, but I often found my peers dismissive of truth that is intangible or inherently transcendent. I wanted to demonstrate the value of approaching truths we can never understand, particularly through works of fiction.

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William Carey

- Major in English
- Minors in Sustainability and Studio Art
- Adviser: David Thomas

"Sherlock Holmes and the Popularization of Science"

Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes first appeared in *The Strand* magazine in the 1890s to wide popularity. My project argues that these stories, which feature an apparently scientific detective in Holmes and an earnest chronicler in Watson, serve as a model for the process of science popularization. They arise from a long history of Victorian science writing, and promote the value of Holmes' insurgent amateur science in the face of an emerging class of professional scientists. This project has been an opportunity to explore stories that I have enjoyed since childhood.

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Giuliana Carozza

- Major in Economics (Financial Economics and Econometrics Concentration)
- Supplementary Major in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Timothy Fuerst

"The European Monetary Union: Assessing the Impact of a Single Currency on Member States"

The implications of the EMU on member states are not yet fully understood. My thesis investigates the various costs and benefits experienced by member countries as well as the homogeneity of effects across economies. I study the effects of the euro on business cycle synchronization, bilateral trade patterns, and monetary policy responses to external shocks and internal conditions for EMU nations. I am particularly intrigued by the formation of the European Union, because the event is so recent that every additional year of data offers new insights.

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Irina Celentano

- Majors in Theology and Medieval Studies
- Adviser: John Cavadini

"Tertullian on the Resurrection of the Flesh"

My thesis is a commentary on Tertullian's treatises *On the Flesh of Christ* and *On the Resurrection of the Dead*. I argue that these treatises offer a brilliant systematic and exegetical defense of the reality of the Incarnation, the literal meaning of Scripture, and the resurrection of the body. Additionally, I argue that Tertullian's entire contemplation of the resurrection of the flesh is at all times a sophisticated polemic against Marcion and the Valentinians. I choose this topic because it gave me the opportunity to work specifically on a patristic author, while also addressing a topic of perennial importance in Christian theology.

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Shirley Chen

- Major in Psychology
- Supplementary Major in Statistics
- Advisers: Jessica Payne and Sara Alger

"Directed Forgetting: Emotional Salience in Sleep-based Memory Consolidation"

This exploratory study utilizes daytime naps to find correlations between sleep spindles, different sleep stages, and performance on a memory task which involves encoding negative and neutral images. I am interested in the clinical implications of this study and identifying key components of sleep that mediate emotional memory consolidation. Forgetting is an overlooked component of memory research, and studying how the emotional salience of a memory competes with explicit directions to remember or forget can largely speak to the mechanisms behind maladaptive memory formation, which may lead to the development of mood disorders such as major depressive disorder (MDD) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

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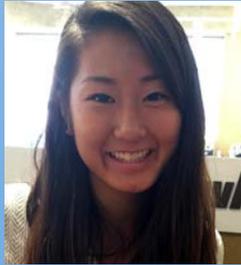
Hannah Chiarella

- Major in Design
- Adviser: Michael Elwell

"How Visual Communication Can Aid Informal Mental Health Peer Support Networks"

For my thesis, I created a website and mobile platform called "StandBy." StandBy is an online tool and community that aims to enhance the support systems of those struggling with mental health issues on college campuses. StandBy provides information and techniques for bystanders and friends, creating a community understanding of mental health. Although there has been a rise in awareness of mental health issues, I think friends' roles are still undefined. From listening to students' stories, I've found that there is a feeling of fear and isolation when it comes to disclosure. The confusion around mental health and proper care puts stress on peer relationships and leaves mental health undiscussed.

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Grace Choe

- Major in Psychology
- Supplementary Major in Theology
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

"The Impact of Emotional Security at Home on School Adjustment for Early Adolescents"

My thesis examines the relationship between children's school adjustment and their emotional security about their parents' marriage. I explore how children's internalizing and externalizing problems manifest in the school setting. These issues may be explained by children's emotional insecurity at home, due to the destructive quality of interparental conflict. I have been involved in Professor Cummings' lab for three semesters and have learned a lot about emotional security theory, which explains how children's sense of security and stability in their family system affects their adjustment.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Richard Clark

- Majors in Political Science and Information Technology Management
- Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

"The Differential Effects of Globalization: A Study of American Hegemony and Major League Baseball"

My project strives to shed some light on why globalization transmits benefits to some states and costs to others. I hypothesize that a state's relationship with American hegemony critically affects its globalization experience. To get at the issue, I utilize Major League Baseball's disparate relationships with the Dominican Republic and Japan. MLB mirrors America's status as a regional hegemon, dominating baseball operations in the Western Hemisphere. I had the opportunity to work as a baseball analytics intern with the Cincinnati Reds in summer 2015. As I compiled scouting reports on Latin American players, I found myself thinking less about baseball and more about the conditions that shape a nation's experience with globalization.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Shelby Clingen

- Major in Psychology
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Alexandra Corning

"Buffering Adolescent Girls Against the Pressure to Be Thin"

Is fostering self-esteem useful to the prevention of disordered eating? The problematic relation between the pressure placed on girls to be thin and their engagement in restricted dieting has been well-validated. Our data show that self-esteem matters—adolescent girls with stronger self-esteem were more buffered against this concerning, ubiquitous pressure. Research on disordered eating tends to focus less on the adolescent cohort and preventative measures. I wanted to research approaches that could help mitigate the effects of risk factors for young girls who are the peak age range of onset for disordered eating.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Katie Cobian

- Majors in Sociology and Biological Sciences
- Adviser: Jennifer Jones

"The Social Movement Response to #BlackLivesMatter at the University of Notre Dame"

This study addresses how groups at Notre Dame responded to recent racially charged events nationwide. What were the elements of this response, and can they be attributed to Notre Dame's unique characteristics? I utilized interviews from Notre Dame students involved in multicultural and social justice groups on campus. Notre Dame is an interesting climate in which to study such events because of its identity as a Catholic university. Specific notions of Catholic social thought may motivate social movements, and the racial makeup of the student body could affect how the movement is facilitated.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Scott Copeland

- Major in Sociology
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Erin McDonnell

"The Marble Cake Model: National and European Identity in Belgium's German-speaking Community"

I conducted surveys and interviews in Belgium's German-speaking community in order to analyze the structure of and relationship between national and supranational identities. I found that the majority of respondents indicated the same level of "connectedness" to Europe as they did to Belgium, indicating that, perhaps, the two identities are deeply intertwined. This project allowed me to develop my German language skills while gaining valuable experience conducting research in a sociological setting. Moreover, it allowed me to delve deeper into the role of the EU in the everyday affairs of a small European community.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Patrick Corry

- Majors in Philosophy and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Curtis Franks

"Austin, Wittgenstein and Rorty on the Problem of Other Minds"

My paper considers treatments of a philosophical problem of urgent importance and with distressing implications: How do we know that other people have minds? How do we justify our belief that there is conscious experience behind the physical behaviors we observe in other people? Ludwig Wittgenstein and J.L. Austin investigate the problem with daring and originality. The connection we find between their investigations offers suspenseful thrills that dance between the divine and sinister. This topic makes clear a non-foundationalist way to respond to philosophical skepticism and offers a good way to locate the relation between epistemology and philosophy of mind that Richard Rorty offers. Finally, the question of other minds and consciousness will be important for moral considerations about artificial intelligence.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Sean Costello

- Majors in Philosophy and International Economics
- Adviser: Sean Kelsey

"The Meaningful but Impersonal Immortality of the Aristotelian Human Soul through the Agent Intellect"

Focusing on Aristotle's *De Anima* 3.5, I investigate the question, "Does Aristotle believe that the human soul is immortal and, if so, is it a meaningful, personal immortality?" The crux of the argument lies in Aristotle's construction of the agent intellect, which he explicitly states is immortal. I argue that this intellect is a power of the human soul and, therefore, man is immortal. Further, I contend that this immortality is meaningful but not personal. Humankind, for as long as we have had the power of self-reflection, has been fascinated with the question of immortality. I, too, have become enthralled with this question, and sought an answer in the writings of perhaps the greatest philosopher to ever live.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Sean Costello

- Majors in International Economics and Philosophy
- Advisers: Michael Pries, Ben Heller, and Eva Dziadula

"Uncovered Interest Parity Surrounding the 1980s Mexican Debt Crisis"

This thesis investigates whether uncovered interest parity holds in the period surrounding the 1980s Mexican debt crisis and the implications of this on the rationality of the interest rate defense. The 1980s in Mexico was a very tumultuous time, with debt crises, earthquakes, and massive International Monetary Fund loans. The period was also directly after the markets were opened to an unprecedented extent in Mexico. Therefore, it is extremely interesting to see whether or not perfect capital mobility—which is the main consequence of uncovered interest parity holding—occurred during this time.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Stephen Cray

- Majors in Economics and Finance
- Supplementary Major in Mathematics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Jeffrey Bergstrand

"Firm Heterogeneity and the Gravity Equation in International Trade"

I extend the Melitz model of international trade to allow for variable production costs. I show how a gravity equation surfaces allowing intensive and extensive margin elasticities that generalize existing models. Finally, following Feenstra (2010), I show how the endogenous elasticity of transformation between domestic and foreign varieties is determined by a nonlinear function of the elasticity of substitution in consumption, the cost elasticity of production, and the Pareto distribution shape parameter. I have worked with Professor Bergstrand through the Kellogg International Scholars program since sophomore year, and I was extremely excited to be working with him on this project, as he is one of the experts in the the domain of gravity equations.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Curran Cross

- Majors in French and History
- Adviser: Julia Douthwaite

"Perceptions of an Oppressed Elite: Biracial Citizenship in Saint-Domingue, 1791–1804"

I analyzed the self-definition of biracial Saint-Dominicans (residents of pre-Revolutionary Haiti), and how this self-definition changed due to the confluence of the Haitian and French Revolutions. I chose this topic because I wanted to extend my study of France and Francophone cultures beyond the borders of metropolitan France, particularly in ways that raise questions about race, citizenship, and personhood. I traveled to Paris and Aix-en-Provence, France, with funding from the Nanovic Institute to conduct research for my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Ellen Dahlby

- Major in History
- Minors in Peace Studies and European Studies
- Adviser: Alexander Martin

"Mothers of the Nation, Children of the Decree: An Examination of Romanian Demographic Policy, 1964–1989"

My thesis examines the demographic pronatalist policies of the Ceausescu regime in Romania and how the implementation of Decree 770, along with governmental practice, led to the deplorable conditions of orphanages. I chose this topic after receiving multiple grants from the Nanovic Institute to study, research, and work in Romania, specifically on the childcare system. After living in an orphanage there, I was prompted to explore why child abandonment was so high.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Abby Davis

- Major in Political Science
- Minors in Russian and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: A. James McAdams

"Bases for Intervention: An Examination of Russia's Decision to Annex Crimea in 2014"

I seek to identify the key factors at the heart of Russia's decision to annex Crimea in 2014. Ultimately, I conclude that the most relevant factors were the changing politics of Russia's lease on the Sevastopol naval base from Ukraine and Russia's interest in securing permanent access to the base. Drawing on my analysis, I offer predictions as to what we should expect from Russian foreign policy over the next several years. I have had a strong interest in the relationship between Russia and its "near abroad" since summer 2014, when I travelled to Latvia with support from the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Shannon Deasey

- Major in Sociology
- Minor in Italian
- Adviser: Richard Williams

"Perception of Childhood Cancer: Do Parents and Children See Eye to Eye?"

I examined the perception of childhood cancer, comparing the parent's view to the view of the child with cancer. I completed the comparison using a "Perception of Illness" survey and statistically analyzing it. I have always had a great deal of interest in and a personal connection to childhood cancer. I know my perception has shifted as I have grown, and I was curious if all children had different perceptions of cancer than their parents. I also wondered if children's voices were actually being heard.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Abigail DeMars

- Majors in Political Science and Theology
- Adviser: A. James McAdams

"The Family in the USSR: Through the Eyes of Literature"

My thesis discusses the development of the Soviet ideals for the family in the first few decades of the USSR, from the October Revolution through Stalinism. I examined laws, sociology, and especially literature, which convey the cognitive dissonance between what families were promised by the Soviet Union and what the reality was. Since my first year in college, I have been interested in Communism and why people were attracted to it. I enjoy studying individuals' personal stories and wanted my thesis to be an interdisciplinary approach. Using literature as my main source allowed me to access the personal narratives of families living under the Soviet regime.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Josh Dempsey

- Major in Philosophy
- Minors in Constitutional Studies and Science, Technology, and Values (STV)
- Adviser: Phillip Sloan

“Justifying Nanoethics: Novel Ethical Issues in the Case of Nanotechnology”

This project explores a philosophical justification of nanoethics as a distinct field of applied ethics. Doing so requires identifying novel ethical questions raised by nanotechnologies and/or identifying how normative standards are (or should be) changed to accommodate nanotechnologies. I suggest that both of these requirements can be met. My interest in philosophy is focused on the ethical, legal, and societal implications of emerging technologies. The past two summers I have worked with the NDnano Center, exploring ethical issues related to silver nanoparticles. This thesis expands upon the concepts I have studied and posits responsible governance models to ameliorate these issues.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Michael DeSantis

- Major in Economics
- Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kali Rath

“Analysis and Applications of Two-Period Stochastic Blotto Games”

This thesis builds on previous literature about stochastic Blotto games, introducing a novel two-period design. This two-period Blotto game includes an additional component in the payoff function which rewards the defender for certain initial allocations. The two-period game has military, advertising, and other applications. I developed an interest in game theory through my economics, political science, and even philosophy classes. I find Blotto games particularly compelling because of their broad applicability. The extension of the traditional one-period Blotto games to two periods made practical sense and opened new avenues for analysis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Maria Do

- Majors in American Studies and History
- Advisers: Jason Ruiz and Jennifer Jones

“When Myth Meets Reality: A Comparative History of the ‘Model Minority’ Myth and the Educational Experience of Asian-American, First-Generation Students”

Through written and oral histories of Asian-American students from the early 20th century and today, my thesis seeks to complicate the legitimacy of the “model minority” myth and to determine the impact of myths on Asian-American students’ realities. I attempt to uncover the cultural conflicts, ethnic impacts, and familial pressures that shape these students’ academic pursuits. Raised by Vietnamese immigrant parents who strove to earn a living while speaking a foreign language, I found growing up challenging. Realizing how these challenges fit into a larger process of assimilation ultimately helped me identify as an American. Producing scholarship that attempts to answer what it means to be American—or, in my case, Asian American—inspired my research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Raquel Dominguez

- Majors in Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT) and Political Science
- Adviser: Susan Ohmer

“Political Satire in HBO’s Veep”

HBO’s *Veep*, a critically acclaimed political comedy starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus as vice president of the United States, provides viewers not only with frequent laughter but also with a fresh satire of contemporary American politics that is biting and poignant. *Veep* transcends pure entertainment and carves out a space to be powerfully subversive. It also contributes to larger discussions regarding institutional sexism, work-life balance, and the media. I was inspired to analyze HBO’s *Veep* after learning about the impact that satirical news programs such as *The Daily Show* have on politics and public opinion.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Clare Donohue

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Advisers: Jason Quinn and Madhav Joshi

“What’s in a Name?: An Analysis of the State Department’s Foreign Terrorist Organization Designation Process”

My thesis examines the State Department’s foreign terrorist designation process. Using the Global Terrorism Database to track terrorist groups’ activity, I found that activity increases after designation. I explored case studies to look more closely at a few groups, examining the specific conditions under which designation succeeds or fails. This topic was inspired by my recent internship at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), where I worked on a project for the State Department regarding terrorist designation processes.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Abigail Downey

- Major in Psychology
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

“Relations Between Emotional Security, Parental Alcohol Use, and Adolescent Adjustment”

My thesis explores the roles of emotional security—how safe or secure an adolescent feels in a family—and parental alcohol use. I examined how they influence adjustment trajectories, specifically internalizing and externalizing symptoms, in adolescents. These examinations were made in two samples: a representative community family sample and an at-risk family sample. The at-risk sample includes families with a developmentally disabled child and a typically developing adolescent sibling. I am interested in how and why psychological disorders develop, and specifically the factors within the family system, such as marital conflict or parental alcohol use, that contribute to the development of symptomatology in adolescents.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Charlie Ducey

- Majors in English and German
- Adviser: Matthew Wilkens

"Fragmentation in David Foster Wallace's *The Pale King*"

My project examines the formal and stylistic uses of fragmentation in David Foster Wallace's unfinished novel *The Pale King* in order to discuss the fragmented nature of modern life and bureaucracy. I also describe the relation of theorists of modernity and how their ideas map on to the novel. My discussion extends to the use of fragmentation in Wallace's other works. I was deeply interested in Wallace's novel when I first read it as a sophomore and wanted to explore its place in Wallace's oeuvre.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Jason Ellinwood

- Major in Economics
- Supplementary Major in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Adviser: Steven Lugauer

"The Macroeconomic Return to Educational Investment"

My thesis investigates the macroeconomic return to investment in higher education using several empirical regression models. I conducted analysis at a national level and exploited cross-country variation in economic growth and educational investment. With several caveats, I identify a positive, diminishing relationship between investment in higher education and GDP growth. The return to education is a fascinating topic with important ramifications for both individuals and government policymakers. Having observed the positive impact of education in my own life, I was eager to study whether or not an effect can be identified at a national level.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Amanda Evans

- Major in Philosophy
- Adviser: Fritz Warfield

"Feminist Neo-Aristotelianism and the Taboo of Gender Essentialism"

In my thesis, I motivate neo-Aristotelian feministhylomorphism, segue from the need for a constituent ontology into a case for gender uniessentialism, and examine a particular implication of gender uniessentialism, namely its intersection with the philosophy of psychopathology (in particular with the philosophy of anorexia). As a recent neo-Aristotelianism convert, I wanted to explore whether or not it could be wedded to my feminist philosophy. I also wanted to incorporate the philosophy of psychopathology, and of anorexia in particular, since it is near and dear to my heart, and also incredibly interesting and fruitful to feminist philosophy.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Katherine Everett

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Theology
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

"Bowing in the Darkness: Redemption in T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets"

My thesis argues that there is some essential thematic unity or continuity in T.S. Eliot's longings throughout his poetic career, from his earlier masterpieces "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and *The Waste Land*, to his culminating *Four Quartets*. At the same time, it allows for Eliot's mid-career religious conversion to be a significant moment, one that does real work in altering his life and shaping his poetry. I have loved Eliot's poetry and the way his words linger with you long after you've finished reading them since I first read "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in a high school English class.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Jonathan Fazzino

- Major in Political Science
- Adviser: Carolina Arroyo

“Crawling Across the Sun: An Analysis of Interstate Prison Education Programming”

I have visited prisons across the country and interviewed inmates enrolled in corrective education programs. Through my conversations with these inmates, I have developed a perspective on the transformative impact of correctional education, and how improvements can be made to the current system to lower recidivism rates. Prison justice is an issue that has become immensely important to me because of my involvement in bringing Shakespeare to incarcerated populations. I have attempted to foster a more comprehensive understanding of the current state of corrections in the United States and what measures can be taken to improve the system.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Lauren Feist

- Majors in Political Science and International Economics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Scott Mainwaring

“Presidents Against Governors: The Politics of Argentine Federalism”

How have ambitious presidents dealt with powerful state governors in order to extend their influence? My thesis addresses the tools Argentine presidents employ to weaken or circumvent opposition governors, what political costs they face, and how successful they have been. My interest in Argentine federalism was sparked by a conversation I had with Professor Carlos Gervasoni during my internship at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. Presidents and governors are the most important political actors in Argentina, which I found very interesting having grown up in the U.S. federal system—where governors are significantly less capable of exerting political and fiscal constraints on presidents.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Lauren Feist

- Majors in Political Science and International Economics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: María Rosa Olivera-Williams

"Victimas (o victimarios?) eternas: los restos de las dictaduras en el sistema económico neoliberal y la permanencia de la zona gris en los estudios de la memoria"

My thesis explores the effects of the dictatorships in the Southern Cone on the construction of collective memory. Written entirely in Spanish, I focus my analysis on four literary works and one film that interact directly with the after-effects of authoritarian dictatorship. I argue that, from the perspective of these narratives, the remnants of the dictatorships and Primo Levi's concept of the gray zone in memory studies live on in the neoliberal market policies implemented in the Southern Cone, particularly in the 1990s.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kereknaan Fiannaan

- Major in Sociology
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Adviser: Erin McDonnell

"Heterophily or Homophily? A Comparative Study of Racial Preferences for Community Development Leadership Between Immigrants and Local Residents of Cape Town"

I seek to understand whether South African citizens report a preference for community development leaders who are demographically similar or dissimilar to themselves and why. Furthermore, my project includes an analysis of the variation of their responses depending on the nature of the development project in question. This provides a solid foundation for research on trust and perceptions of competence in leaders. As a sociology student, I have hoped to see sociological aspects represented more in conversations on the economic, political and structural aspects of international development. For example, issues of trust are extremely important to development work, and social understandings of identity often determine which leaders are trusted and which aren't.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Dayton Flannery

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

"Fighting Folly with Folly: Making Sense of the Nonsensical in Films of the Marx Brothers"

I explored the relationship between the Marx Brothers' absurdist comic style and the rigid plot structure used throughout many of their most popular films. I found that the Marx Brothers unknowingly teach their audiences that the best response to the tragedy of human folly is to embrace it as comedy—and laugh. I have always had a deep passion for comedy and an interest in its place in human nature and development. The Marx Brothers have proven to be a perfect example of successful comedy through which to study this.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Zack Flint

- Majors in English and Finance
- Adviser: Jacqueline Brogan

"Deconstructing the Masculine Identity in Ernest Hemingway's Boxing Narratives"

My thesis attempts to vindicate Ernest Hemingway's depiction of masculine behavior from the "cult of the machismo" by analyzing his treatment of boxing in his prose. I believe that reading Hemingway's boxing narratives in relation to his experiences in World War I offers profound insight into his distaste for hyper-masculine abstractions related to violent conflict, glory-seeking, and delusions of victory. I've always loved Hemingway, and I think his stated artistic objective of writing as truthfully as possible confers a similar ethical standard upon his critics—to read him as truthfully as possible. As a captain of the Notre Dame boxing program, I also have a deep interest in the sport's symbolic role.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Meghan Gallagher

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Jaimie Bleck

“Mobile Technology for Development Initiatives: Who is Engaging and Why”

The expansion of mobile technology has exciting potential to provide health and education resources and promote good governance, and the ability to harness this potential into constructive programs is crucial. After spending a summer researching primary school models in Uganda, I observed teachers creatively integrating mobile phones into their lesson plans. I became interested in how to best harness this potential to improve development initiatives. I traveled to South Africa to intern and conduct independent research on the use of mobile technology in education and its ability to provide resources to marginalized populations. My thesis explores what user characteristics determine whether someone will participate in development programs through mobile technology platforms.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Mark Garcia

- Major in Psychology
- Minor in Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Jeanne Day

“Executive Function and Mathematics Proficiency in Children in Head Start”

Executive function is a set of domain-general abilities, such as attention and memory, that can contribute to general intelligence and learning in young children. My project investigates this relationship and attempts to implement an intervention to improve mathematics proficiency. Children living in poverty are afforded fewer opportunities prior to formal education. I am interested in enhancing these students' skills to help them compete with their more affluent peers once they begin kindergarten. Through this research, I hope that children in poverty will be better equipped for kindergarten and educators will better understand how to effectively teach subjects, such as math, to their students.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Emily Gasta

- Major in Industrial Design
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

“Sidekick: An Epinephrine Autoinjector Redesign”

My thesis involves designing a slimmer and more aesthetically appealing epinephrine autoinjector intended for teenagers with severe, life-threatening food allergies. This redesigned autoinjector, named Sidekick, is less cumbersome to carry and wirelessly connects to the user's phone in order to remind users to carry their medication at all times. I chose this topic because I suffer from a life-threatening food allergy, and as a teenager, I often did not carry my epinephrine. This was extremely dangerous as most fatal allergic reactions occur when people do not carry their medication.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

John Gillen

- Major in History
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Rev. Wilson Miscamble, C.S.C.

“The Shadow of Versailles at Potsdam”

My thesis explores the effect of the historical memory of Versailles on American policymakers at the Potsdam Conference of 1945. I am analyzing this relationship with regard to the issue of German reparations after World War II. I received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to conduct research for my project in Washington, D.C.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Mike Ginocchio

- Major in History
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Patrick Griffin

“Empire of Rebels: Charles Cornwallis and the British Empire”

My thesis explores the career of Lord Charles Cornwallis of England in the aftermath of the American Revolution, as he played a critical role in shaping the British Empire in both India and Ireland. My goal was to analyze the methodology of Lord Cornwallis in order to provide an alternative explanation of how an empire is structured and governed, with a primary focus on the prevention of rebellion. Lord Cornwallis is a man who is most prominently remembered for his defeat at Yorktown at the conclusion of the American Revolution, and I hoped to reconstruct his career through my research to give him a proper historical placement.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Olivia Godby

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Clark Power

“Stories of Ability: Disability, Healthcare, and Mobilities Issues in Ghana”

My project is a piece of creative nonfiction aimed at creating an awareness of the issues persons with intellectual disabilities face as they seek to increase their mobility and independence. My project tells the stories of some of the people with intellectual disabilities that I met in Ghana and takes a critical look at what it means to make a sustainable commitment to a human being. I chose this topic because these stories need to be told.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Steven Goicoechea

- Major in Anthropology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

“Social Support, Rank, and Testosterone in Performance Art”

I followed an improv comedy group to assess the interactions between social support, rank, and testosterone. Performance art provides a unique study population because group members compete to be cast over their peers, but must be collaborative to do so. I asked study participants to rate friendships within the group and to rank other members based on importance to the group, and I measured salivary testosterone in all study participants. Previous research shows that high levels of testosterone are advantageous during competition and public performance, while low testosterone is correlated with nurturing and empathetic behaviors. I wanted to investigate the fluidity of competitive and cooperative behaviors.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Peter Gonzales

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors in Hesburgh Program in Public Service and Business Economics
- Advisers: Martine DeRidder and Gretchen Reydamns-Schils

“Governmental Efficiency: PPP and Veteran Care”

For my thesis, I examined the local political process presented using a case study in South Bend, Indiana. In addition, I analyzed the public-private partnership model in social programming. This project was an opportunity to understand the intersection between politics, policy, and business, while also allowing me to get involved in the community.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Monica Gorman

- Major in Mathematics
- Minor in Chinese
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: David Galvin

“Analyzing the Spread of Infection on Scale-free and Erdos-Renyi Networks”

I explain compartmental and network models for disease spread and analyze the probability of large outbreaks on two different families of networks. More than traditional compartmental models, network models allow us to vary our assumptions about contact rates within the population. Different contact structures affect the likelihood that an outbreak can grow into a large epidemic.

I am interested in applying mathematical techniques to epidemiological problems. This project grew out of my experience playing Vax!, a browser game about vaccination. In trying to beat the game, I developed a mathematical strategy that increased my success rate. For my thesis, I am going back to the more fundamental structure of the graph.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Conor Greaney

- Majors in English and Studio Art
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Cyraina Johnson-Roullier

“Second Guessing the System: Sutton Griggs and Authoritarian Collectivism in African-American Politics”

Following the failure of Reconstruction, a new generation of leaders began to shape the political aims and strategies of the African-American community. My thesis explores the ways in which Sutton Griggs used fiction writing to critique the methods of these leaders. I argue that Griggs’s early novels expose the authoritarian tendencies of African-American leaders at the turn of the century and advocate for more discourse and debate within the community. I became interested in the roots of literature within the African-American community after taking Professor Johnson-Roullier’s course on the Harlem Renaissance.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Griffith

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

“Being a Kid in Incarceration Nation: An Exploration of the School to Prison Pipeline in American Urban Public Schools”

I examined the discipline policies of two urban school districts and investigated the relationship between attendance rates, student achievement, and the codes of conduct in both cases. In addition, based on my interview findings, I offered recommendations for school districts who hope to transition to restorative justice policies in an attempt to reduce suspension and expulsion rates. My research was inspired by my experience interning at a mental health institution for low-income children and volunteering at a juvenile justice center, which prompted questions about social justice, specifically related to mass incarceration and quality education.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Elise Gruneisen

- Major in English
- Minors in Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Sara Maurer

“Myself Is a Thing I Must Now Compose’: Submission and Subversion in the Feminist Dystopian Narrative”

In my thesis, I examine the evolution of dystopian literature through Orwell and Margaret Atwood to present-day young adult authors like Veronica Roth. I explore how the dystopian genre has been staked out by female authors to express feminist themes and claim or reclaim a female narrative within a male-dominated art form. By tracing the overlapping tropes and themes from Orwell to Atwood to Roth, I was able to deepen my understanding of the genre and the feminist components of these works.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Guido Guerra

- Majors in History and Italian
- Minors in Philosophy and European Studies
- Adviser: Margaret Meserve

"The Post-Milton Dante: Translations of the Divine Comedy in the 19th Century in Britain and America"

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the popularity of Dante's *Divine Comedy* skyrocketed in Britain. Part of this trend was the publication of numerous new translations, of varying accuracy. All were written with the great English poet John Milton in mind, fundamentally affecting how Dante was perceived and received on the Isles, particularly as distinct from his early American reception. The *Divine Comedy* is one of my favorite works, and I see it as transcendent and universal. I'm interested in how a work fundamentally tied to 14th-century Italy was read and received in quite different times and places.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Carlene Gundy

- Major in Sociology
- Supplementary Major in Statistics
- Adviser: Mary Ellen Konieczny

"Integration in Practice: Evaluating the Cultural Integration Experience of Refugees into Swiss Society"

I examined the cultural integration experience of recognized refugees and asylum seekers into Swiss society. My thesis identifies various factors that affect a refugee's integration, such as Swiss immigration policies, the political climate in Switzerland, and the demographic attributes of refugees. It explores the narratives of the refugees to elucidate how they perceive their integration experience, what they define as a successful integration, and which strategies they develop to achieve their goals. After volunteering at a refugee camp in Switzerland for three months, I became very passionate about the issue and wanted to better understand the mechanisms of cultural integration into Swiss society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Magdalena Guzman

- Majors in Political Science and Economics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Guillermo Trejo

“Collaboration, Conflict, or Disengagement: Business-Government Relations in a Context of Criminal Violence”

I focused on a specific player that is often under-analyzed, but highly influential, in the politics of urban violence in Mexico—the business community. I sought to understand why some business communities are able to coordinate with local governments on issues of security while others are not. I’m from Monterrey, Mexico, and I was a junior in high school when crime surged. I failed to realize at the time that my hometown was part of a broader trend of bustling cities in Mexico and Latin America suffering from epidemics of criminal violence.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Bright Gyamfi

- Majors in History and Political Science
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Paul Ocobock

“Teaching African History from the Lion’s Perspective”

My coursework and conversations with Professor Ocobock fostered a deeper understanding of Africa’s history. Because of our weekly discussions, I decided to embark on a project in summer 2014 to emphasize the need for Africans to know more about their past, in addition to the history of Western countries. This was more than an intellectual exercise; it remains a deeply personal project. I argued that after Ghana became independent in 1957, the country’s first prime minister used higher education as a way to promote Pan-Africanism, Ghanaian nationalism, and his personal political agenda.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Connor Hayes

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Majors in Gender Studies and Peace Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Rev. Sean McGraw, C.S.C.

“Outing the Party: Irish Political Culture and the Shaping of Activist Behavior in the 2015 Same-Sex Marriage Referendum”

Conventional wisdom in Ireland says that the 2015 same-sex marriage referendum represented a massive departure from normal Irish political culture. I argue, however, that activist behavior during the campaign indicates more stability in the political system than popular commentary would suggest. Given the decline of the Irish Catholic Church and the “Celtic Tiger” economic boom and crash in recent decades, I became deeply fascinated by the ways these massive cultural shifts have impacted Irish politics, especially the LGBTQ movement in Ireland. My semester in Dublin coincided perfectly with the same-sex marriage referendum campaign, giving me a clear way to develop my interest into a thesis project.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Adam Henderson

- Major in Political Science
- Adviser: David Campbell

“Playing the Catholic Card: The Utilization of Catholic Religious Cues”

I studied how Catholic candidates can effectively talk about their faith to win elections. Through case studies and an originally designed survey experiment, I tested how religious messaging by Catholics resonates with voters. I chose this topic because there seems to be a lot of research into the voting behavior of Catholics, but not much on Catholic candidates. Additionally, there has been an increase in Catholic candidates in American politics, so understanding how they use religious messaging is important to studying elections in the United States.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Jimmy Henke

- Joint Major in Philosophy and Theology
- Advisers: Gabriel Reynolds and David O'Connor

"Translating 'Allah' into God when Translating the Qur'an"

When translating the Qur'an, should the translator transliterate "Allah" or translate it into "God"? I first surveyed what Muslim translators have decided to do, which is fairly evenly split. I then addressed what the Catholic Church would say about the matter, primarily through the way the Second Vatican Council understands Islam. I am interested in learning more about how Muslims understand their God, and how it relates to and departs from Christianity. I also think that as Christians we need to understand how the God of Islam relates to the God of Christianity in order to better relate to our Muslim brothers and sisters.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Higgins

- Majors in Psychology and Sociology
- Adviser: David Hachen

"College Students' Attitudes Toward People with Disabilities: The Effect of Exposure"

My thesis investigates whether or not non-disabled college students' attitudes toward people with disabilities vary according to their degree of experience with them. I expect that students who have had more experience with disabled people will have more positive attitudes toward them. I chose this topic because I have two cousins affected by cerebral palsy, and I have seen how my attitudes toward them, and people with disabilities in general, tend to be more positive than my friends' attitudes. I am also pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy, and I will work with people with disabilities on a daily basis, so I hope to be able to understand that population more fully.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



McKenzie Hightower

- Majors in English and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Steve Tomasula

"We All Walk Away, But We Do Not Leave"

My thesis is a collection of short stories that inter-animate each other. The stories, often focused on the hard truths about love and loss in our society, all take place in a fictional East Texas town called Farfield. The collection starts out realist, but slowly becomes fabulist, commenting on the drawbacks of following tradition as it becomes a microcosm for our deteriorating society more generally. I have been working on this collection for four years, and I wanted to finish it and present it for publication, symbolically closing a large chapter of my life.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Elizabeth Hillman

- Major in Spanish
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor in Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Thomas Anderson

"Reconstructing Memories: The Church's Role in Postwar Guatemala"

As a powerful force in 20th-century Guatemala, the Catholic church played an important role in postwar reconstruction. Historically, the church aligned with the dictatorship, but during reconstruction, various Guatemalan church leaders sided with the poor. Literature from the period shows how the church balanced its loyalties to the government and the people and expresses the ever-present pain and fear in postwar Guatemala. I chose to explore this literature in my thesis—which I wrote in Spanish—after participating in an International Summer Service Learning Program (ISSLP) in Antigua, Guatemala, and learning more about its violent history.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Molly Howell

- Major in History
- Supplementary Major in Mathematics
- Adviser: Scott Appleby

"Poland's Break from Soviet Communism"

In 1989, Poland was the first country in the Eastern bloc to break from Soviet communism. How did a country that could barely claim nationhood a century prior and whose history was marked by invasion and occupation overcome the Soviets? I argue that the rise of Polish nationalism and the election of the Catholic Church's first Polish pope both helped Poles reclaim their country and government. I grew very interested in the Cold War and how the countries in the Eastern bloc were able to break free from the USSR after reading Tony Judt's *Postwar*.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Morganne Howell

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors in Italian and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Adviser: G. Felicitas Munzel

"La Bella Figura and Kantian Aesthetics: Life as a Work of Art"

I explored the concept of la bella figura in Italian culture, using a historical cultural analysis originating with Ciceronian philosophy as well as a Kantian aesthetic analysis of its contemporary manifestation. My independent research included interviews with contemporary Italians. This project developed naturally from the intersection of my various interests and the time I have spent abroad in Italy, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and PLS' Monteverdi Prize.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Preston Igwe

- Major in Sociology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Amy Langenkamp

“Lost in the Meritocracy: The New Epidemic of Prescription Stimulant Misuse”

This project aims to shed light on the burgeoning epidemic of prescription stimulant misuse, which occurs at every college in America and has blossomed into a full-blown public health crisis. There are detrimental effects of repeated use of these drugs by those without any neurological disorders. This study aims to use prominent sociological theories on behavior and deviance to determine factors that may push students to indulge in prescription stimulant use for the sake of academic achievement. It highlights the ways in which the behavior is adopted and maintained, and it details the ethical issues involved in potential studies of this phenomenon and suggests possible policy changes that may curb this dangerous trend.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Angelica Inclan

- Majors in History and Political Science
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: John Deak

“The Basque Children of 1937: The Spanish Civil War, Child Refugees, and British Humanitarianism”

In 1937, 4,000 children left Bilbao, Spain, for the southern shores of Great Britain during the Spanish Civil War. My thesis examines the issue of child refugees and how they can bring together people of different political and religious backgrounds during a time of great worldwide ideological tension. Refugee issues are very relevant today, and I used these Basque children as a case study to analyze the politics surrounding a great act of humanitarianism. Through studying abroad in Toledo, Spain, my junior year, I was able to learn about the Spanish Civil War in great detail.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Madeline Inglis

- Majors in International Economics and Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisers: Lionel Jensen and Gretchen Reydams-Schils

“Confucian Capitalism in China”

I explored the recent immense growth of the Chinese economy and the hypothesis that this success is due to China's Confucian roots. I question the veracity of this claim and the implications of the government's instrumentalization of Confucian-inspired rhetoric to maintain a semblance of economic and social stability.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Ray'Von Jones

- Majors in Sociology and Spanish
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Maria McKenna

“Hearing and Caring for Black Girls: Experiences and Outlooks of African-American Girls at South Bend's Washington High School”

With a framework informed by black feminist theory, I explored the challenges that black women face in public education and offered recommendations. I conducted in-depth interviews of black female students at South Bend's Washington High School for this project. At Notre Dame, my coursework in sociology, Spanish, and education has made me aware of the intense connection between social justice and educational equity. My work as a mentor for young African-American women in South Bend intensified my desire to offer space for their voices regarding public education. As a future educator, I wanted to learn from these young women directly how schools can best serve them.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Lindsay Karcher

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: David Campbell

"The Whistle and the Fury: Race, Religion, and Dog Whistle Politics in U.S. Presidential Campaigns"

Politicians sometimes use coded language that seems to mean one thing to the general population, but which means something else entirely to a targeted subgroup. This is known as dog whistle politics—drawing upon the metaphor of a dog whistle, which can be heard by a dog, but not by humans due to its high frequency. My thesis looks into implicit racial and religious messages in American presidential campaigns. My interest in this area was piqued during Professor Campbell's Religion and American Politics course.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Gretel Kauffman

- Major in American Studies
- Advisers: Annie Coleman and Robert Walls

"Attica: Representations of the 1971 Prison Riot in Local and National Journalism"

My thesis explores the different ways that the 1971 uprising at Attica Correctional Facility is remembered by residents of Attica, New York, and people living in other parts of the country, with a focus on the disparities between local and national media coverage of the event. I grew up approximately 20 minutes from Attica. When I began taking criminal justice classes at Notre Dame, I was struck by how people here seem to view the riot very differently than people from my hometown, and I wanted to understand why.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Patrick Kearney

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Michael Zuckert

“Original Intent of the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the 14th Amendment”

My thesis explores the incorporation of the national Bill of Rights and its relation to the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Specifically, I provide a historical treatment of the Privileges or Immunities Clause, explaining the meaning of the term “privileges and immunities of citizenship” within the context of American constitutionalism, and how such franchises relate to incorporation. The 14th Amendment in many ways represents a fundamental shift in the structure of the American constitutional regime, in fields as diverse as federalism and individual civil rights. I felt that having a robust understanding of the American Constitution would require a more lengthy exploration of the 14th Amendment, making this thesis a fitting capstone to my undergraduate studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Joseph Kelly

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies and Economics
- Adviser: Denis Robichaud

“An Apology for Credulity: Faith and Skepticism in the Essays of Montaigne”

In his most famous essay, “Apology for Raymond Sebond,” the great early modern philosopher Michel de Montaigne uses the most extreme skeptical arguments to defend the Catholic faith. I conducted a thorough study of the ancient skeptical tradition and the sociopolitical context of early modern France, as well as a close reading of the essays. I argue that Montaigne’s counterintuitive strategy is, in fact, coherent, but only in light of his peculiarly credulous skepticism and peculiarly tolerant faith. I chose this topic because reading Montaigne is a joy. I am also intensely interested in how people justify religious faith. In short, like so many others, I studied Montaigne to study myself.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Anna Kennedy

- Major in Design
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

"Pelata: Playground Equipment for Parents and Children"

My thesis explores the importance of parent-child play in the context of a playground. Standard playgrounds limit opportunities for parents to experience the same type of play as their children. Pelata is redesigned playground equipment that allows for more playful interaction between parents and children. I chose this topic because I wanted to explore an area of design outside of a traditional classroom setting.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Elizabeth Kennedy

- Majors in English and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Valerie Sayers

"Apology for Jack Kerouac's Literature"

My thesis demonstrates the liminality of Kerouac's literature, exploring how it straddles both modernism and postmodernism. In this way, his texts are transitional. Reading his novels helps us to make sense of ourselves, our interest in spirituality, and how we find meaning in life experience. This makes it all the more important to readers today as we transition from postmodernism into something new. I have always loved the Beats, so I wanted to devote time to really digging into a few texts. I chose this topic so that I could defend the continued relevance and significance of Kerouacian literature while developing my understanding of some of my favorite books.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kaitlyn Kennedy

- Major in Theology
- Minor in Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Margaret Pfeil

"Beauty in the Burden: The Responsibility and Gift of Caregiving for the Elderly"

My thesis begins with a social analysis of Western culture and practices in relation to the elderly, specifically utilitarianism. I examine moral responsibility toward the elderly, theological understanding of interdependence in the life of God and God's work, what it means to die well from a Christian perspective, and how caregiving can be service to eternity. I have worked with the elderly and dying for the past three summers, two of which were through the Center for Social Concern's Summer Service Learning Program. I am interested in going into geriatrics or hospice as a health care practitioner, and I want to best understand how my faith informs that work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Teresa Kennedy

- Major in Anthropology
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Gabriel Torres

"Lo Que Quieren Es un Espacio de Dignidad": How Land Shapes Notions of Identity and Human Dignity in Traditional Communities"

My thesis focuses on how notions of identity and human dignity emerge in traditional cultural settings in Chile and England. Both of these case studies are based on fieldwork I did with individuals with Mapuche heritage in Chile and with shepherds in the Lake District of England. I went to Chile with a different research topic in mind, but what emerged from speaking with people once I arrived was how nebulous and confusing the term "Mapuche" is within Chile. I was inspired to include the England case study based on my time in the Lake District and because of its links to the concept of indigeneity.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Tanya Khokhar

- Major in Economics
- Supplementary Major in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor in Studio Art
- Advisers: Wyatt Brooks and Martin Nguyen

“Inter-generational Mobility in India: Effects of the Partition”

I looked at the economic effects of the Partition of 1947 on people who crossed borders from Pakistan into India with regard to intergenerational mobility. As an extension to the written portion of my thesis, a series of oil paintings that visualize the results will be exhibited in Pakistan over the summer. I visited family in Karachi, Pakistan, during spring break of my junior year and was able to absorb the cultural differences, especially those related to class divisions. I started to wonder if servants could ever rise above a level of poverty or if being born within a particular class determined an individual's ultimate income level.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Nicholas King

- Major in Science-Business Preprofessional
- Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Jeremy Castle

“Going, Going, Gone: Antibiotics, Superbugs, and their Implications for Public Policy”

The susceptibility of bacteria to antibiotics does not present a classic tragedy of the commons where mechanisms of conservation can prevent depletion. Rather, susceptibility is constantly being depleted as antibiotics provide a selective pressure that tends to favor resistant populations. This continued depletion must be accounted for in designing public health policy to counter the rising resistance seen today. Antibiotic resistance poses an existential problem for modern health care: Antibiotics are one of the pillars of treatment, and without them medicine will slip back into the dark ages as we will no longer be able to treat infections. As a future physician, I am very concerned about this future and want to be involved in preventing it.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Christian Koerwer

- Majors in History and Economics
- Adviser: Paul Ocobock

"Earning the Suspicion of All: American Foreign Policy and the Tragedy of Angola"

I examined Angola's war of independence and subsequent civil war and used it as a window into studying the evolution of American foreign policy from Kennedy through Ford. After demonstrating the tension between supporting either Portugal or nationalist groups during the Kennedy through Nixon administrations, I analyzed how the United States became involved in the Angolan Civil War, which ultimately led to further discontent with Cuba. After discussing my interest in Cold War history with Professor Ocobock, he suggested writing on the Angolan Civil War because I was able to analyze U.S. foreign policy and study U.S.-Cuban relations, therefore utilizing my Spanish skills.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Shannon Kraemer

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Economics
- Minor in Korean
- Adviser: Robert Goulding

"Voltaire on Religious Fanaticism: Paris Then and Now"

Voltaire published his *Traité sur la tolérance* (*Treatise on Tolerance*) during the Enlightenment in reaction to the torture and execution of the accused—but "clearly innocent"—Protestant Jean Calas. He put his pen to the service of justice, denouncing the Catholic violent acts of religious fanaticism and tracing the history of religious intolerance. Recently, Voltaire's homeland has returned to his teachings in support of religious tolerance. Though many will agree he's much more of a polemic and dramatist than a theologian or philosopher, his arguments for religious tolerance, nonviolence, and harmony are extraordinarily compelling. It's been an interesting journey to see how he might respond the recent rise of problematic anti-Islamic hate speech.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kaitlyn Krall

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and International Economics
- Advisers: Joseph Rosenberg and Julia Douthwaite

"The Rise of the Department Store in Paris: A Reflection of the Times through Zola's Naturalistic Approach in Au Bonheur des Dames"

Through the lens of Emile Zola's novel *Au Bonheur des Dames*, I attempt to understand Zola's literary naturalism in connection with the restructuring of Paris. I explore the implications of this literary theory and its association with ideas of progress and capitalism. I took a French class where we read parts of *Au Bonheur des Dames* and was intrigued by the depiction of the department store.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Chen Kuang

- Major in Philosophy
- Adviser: Christopher Shields

"Definiteness of Good: An Apology for Aristotelian Ethics"

My work seeks to give an apology for Aristotelian ethics. Given Sidgwick's accusation of ancient ethics—that the idea of "good" is too indefinite to "furnish exact determinations of the actions"—I explore to what extent the Aristotelian ethics is defensible and to what degree it is a meaningful framework within which we could ground our ethical life. As a sophomore, I first noticed the debate over "right" and "good" and the emergence of virtue ethics in contemporary meta-ethics and political philosophy as instantiated in Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*. My thesis allowed me to deepen my understanding of Aristotle's virtue theory while gesturing to its tenability as a strong candidate in contemporary moral debate.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Alexandra Lane

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

"The Role of Personality in Foreign Policy"

There is an active debate in political science about why states adopt different foreign policies. The literature proposes three main explanations: international factors, domestic factors, and individual factors. By comparing the foreign policies of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, I control for the international and domestic factors and prove that individual factors—specifically an individual's personality—matter. I chose this topic because it combines my interest in international relations with my interest in the Kennedy presidency.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Gerard Ledley

- Major in English (Creative Writing Concentration)
- Minors in Business Economics and Philosophy
- Adviser: Matthew Wilkens

"David Foster Wallace and the New Literary Period"

I examine the three novels of David Foster Wallace—*The Broom of the System*, *Infinite Jest*, and *The Pale King*—in order to diagnose a new literary period. It is my intuition, and the intuition of many critics, that postmodernism, as modernism's literary successor in Western society, no longer accurately describes what is happening in contemporary culture. This project attempts to describe the features and values of the new literary period. Wallace is one of the writers who inspired me to become an English major. As I became more familiar with his work, I began to realize that the themes running through his novels, short stories, essays, and interviews are profoundly relevant to the world today.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Jonathan Leslie

- Majors in International Economics and Political Science
- Adviser: Professor Antoine Gervais

“Outsourcing Environmental Hazard?”

Do cross-country differences in the strictness of environmental regulations impact where businesses locate their production processes? My thesis explores this question by means of an economic gravity model in which enterprises can choose whether or not to serve a foreign market and whether to do so via trade or foreign direct investment, based on the costs associated with each option. I chose this topic because I am interested in the connection between economic activities and environmental protection, as well as the capacity of policy to alter that relationship.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Mollie Limb

- Major in Sociology
- Supplementary Majors in Arts and Letters Pre-Health and Spanish
- Adviser: Richard Williams

“The Effects of Providing Transportation Support to Cancer Patients in Active Treatment”

I studied the effects of a program providing transportation—gas cards, bus passes, private rides, etc.—to local cancer patients undergoing treatment. I looked specifically at patient-reported distress levels and treatment attendance rates before and after the program was implemented. For the past two years, I have been working at a local nonprofit that provides psychosocial services to cancer patients. I designed and implemented the transportation program, and I did this study to document how the program affects my clients. I also wanted to better understand who is facing transportation barriers, what they are, and how we can help.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Wei Lin

- Majors in Economics, Chinese, and Accountancy
- Adviser: Kasey Buckles

“Consequences of Teenage Motherhood Reconsidered”

My thesis explores the differences in later-life outcome between teenage mothers and women who delay childbearing. Past research has attempted to control for various factors that pose a problem with endogeneity. However, by using the occurrence of miscarriages as an instrumental variable, we can control for these unknowns and better understand the true effects of teenage motherhood. The book *Promises I Can Keep* features stories of low-socioeconomic status, low-education women who accepted teenage motherhood. The authors suggest that these women's futures are so limited that having a child or two won't make much of a difference. In fact, these women might see motherhood as their calling, their job, their purpose in life. This compelled me to fight against the stigma that surrounds teenage motherhood.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Thomas Lis

- Majors in History and Economics
- Minor in European Studies
- Adviser: John Deak

“Deviled Eggs of Complete Security: Versailles, Locarno, and the Continuity of French Foreign Policy as Seen through the Franco-Polish Alliance, 1919–1936”

My thesis analyzes the Franco-Polish Alliance of 1921 as a representation of French Interwar foreign policy to argue that the Locarno Treaties did not constitute a break from the “Versailles System” France created in 1919. This project was a perfect fit as I am most interested in modern Polish and French history. The alliance of 1921 allowed me to study the interaction of these two countries during an extremely exciting time in diplomatic history. After doing primary research, I felt that the existing historiography misjudged the role of the Locarno Pacts.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Cait Logue

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Spanish
- Adviser: Ricardo Ramirez

"Facebook Therefore I Am: How Social Media Is Shaping Millennials' Political Identity"

Millennials are being exposed to political news and accessing Facebook constantly. I focused on presenting political identity in a multi-dimensional manner by comparing traditional factors such as age, race/ethnicity, socio-economic background, and gender to political identity in an online context. My project provides more insight into how social media is shaping political identity. I chose this project because of the frequency of political posts I saw on my Facebook feed. I knew that other people my age were also exposed to political information online, and I wanted to explore its effects.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Madelyn Lugli

- Major in History
- Minor in Irish Studies
- Adviser: Bríona Nic Dhiarmada

"Women Recalling 1916"

My thesis focuses on the women involved in the 1916 Rising in Ireland. I sought to understand how class and gender influenced not only the work that women completed during the rebellion, but also how they would recall the event 20 to 30 years later. I have always been fascinated by the 1916 Rising. This summer while interning at the National Museum of Ireland, I researched these women. It seemed that social class had a major influence on the way the women participated, so I wanted to use my thesis to further research my hypothesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Lena Madison

- Majors in American Studies and Spanish
- Adviser: Jason Ruiz

"The Academic's Guide to the African-American Natural Hair Movement"

My thesis studies the ways natural hair is shifting cultural practice and thought with black, natural, coily, kinky hair as the vessel. Hair matters. And when a majority of a racial demographic changes the way they have historically worn their hair, there are social, economic, and cultural repercussions worth studying.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Grace Maginn

- Major in History
- Minor in Art History
- Advisers: Karen Graubart and Diana Jorza

"Images of War: Postcards in la Campaña del Rif"

My thesis details the history of the Rif War between Spain and Morocco in the 1920s, as seen through the lens of the war postcard. I argue that the production and distribution of war postcards, which displayed gory scenes from the battlefield, was used as a nation-building tool—a way to incense and, thus, unite the Spanish populace in a fight to regain its lost imperialistic identity. While studying abroad in Toledo, Spain, I discovered the beautiful and rich history between Northern Africa and Spain. North African influences are everywhere—in Spanish food, architecture, music, language, and dance. I looked to the Rif War to learn more about how this relationship plays out in modern Spanish history.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Marous

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in French and Francophone Studies
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

"War Is a Force That Gives Film Meaning"

My thesis explores the relationship between World War II and film in France. By evaluating state-screen relations, international film markets, and film aesthetics and movements within the French film industry before, during, and after the German Occupation, I argue that the distinct "Frenchness" of contemporary French cinema and its meaning, which are largely influenced by the New Wave movement, can ultimately be explained by the Occupation. My interest in French culture and my past internship experiences at the Cannes Film Festival encouraged me to explore the politicization of French film. I also hope to work in international distribution and marketing in the entertainment industry, and this project merged my professional and academic interests.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Colleen Marshall

- Major in History
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor in Philosophy
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Sullivan

"Muddle and Malice: Agitation Against Catholic Relief in Late 18th-Century Scotland"

My thesis explores the beginnings of Catholic relief efforts in Great Britain during the 1770s and 1780s, and the resulting backlash from the Scottish Popular Party. My goal was to place the violent riots that broke out in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the context of the pervading anxiety among Scottish Protestants, in order to reconcile why a nation invested in religious liberty would so fear the legality of Catholicism. After studying Catholic and British history at Notre Dame, I became interested in the idea of religious freedom in the British context. Scotland drew my attention because of their amalgam of Christian sects and their deeply held convictions about who deserved power based on their confession of faith.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Cody Mason

- Major in Marketing
- Supplementary Major in Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Donald Crafton

“Dumpster Diving: The Kuso Aesthetic, Formal Criticism, and Cult Formation of Trash Cinema”

My thesis applies the “so bad it’s good” kuso aesthetic of Japanese internet subculture to formally classify earnestly made bad films. I investigate intentionality to distinguish trash films of this aesthetic from other categories, such as intentional camp film. I also demonstrate how and why film cults following movies in the trash film canon have formed. The audience experience of delighting in the failures of earnestly made bad movies has interested me for many years. Since I was young, my father and I have enjoyed discovering shoddily made and forgotten B-movies whose inability to fulfill their directors’ visions made them wildly engrossing and entertaining. I had sincere appreciation for these films, free from cynicism or mockery, which drove me to investigate them further.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Marc Mazzucco

- Majors in History and Finance
- Adviser: Mike Amezcua

“The Moondog City: A Look Into the Relationship Between Cleveland and Rock ‘n’ Roll, 1950s–1960s”

Rock ‘n’ roll burst onto the music scene in the 1950s and influenced American society for a number of decades. The genre was originally labeled “race music,” thus highlighting the racial tensions in American society. In my thesis, I explore how rock ‘n’ roll influenced the city of Cleveland during the 1950s and ‘60s and eventually led to the election of Carl Stokes in 1967, the first African-American mayor in a major U.S. city. Through preliminary research I discovered that the first rock DJ and concert were in Cleveland and that the city was at the forefront of urban racial developments. I was immediately interested in exploring the connection between race and music in Cleveland.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Nicholas McCarty

- Majors in History and Economics
- Adviser: Alexander Martin

“The Russia That We Lost’: Memory and the Second World War in Modern Russia”

The Soviet Union lost over 20 million lives throughout the course of World War II. This catastrophe, which dwarfs the casualties any other combatant nations experienced, left an indelible mark upon its survivors and ensuing generations. I trace the impact of this loss and the efforts of the Soviet and Russian governments to exploit these feelings and create a unifying national idea around it. As Russia has expanded its influence over world affairs, for better or worse, I looked deeper into the Ukrainian conflict and the language of anti-fascism used by the media on both sides. This led me to examine the ongoing effects of World War II on the Russian psyche.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Carlisia McCord

- Majors in Anthropology and Arabic
- Advisers: Gabriel Torres and Meredith Chesson

“Social Mobility and the Military”

My thesis seeks to capture the change in social mobility for African-American soldiers in the U.S. military over time. I compared archaeological and archival evidence of upward social mobility among the Buffalo soldiers at Fort Davis, Texas, with ethnographic evidence collected from current African-American male veterans. By making this comparison, I was able to reach a more well-rounded understanding of sociocultural continuities, race, and identity. After reading Laurie Wilkie's *The Archaeology of Mothering* in an Archaeology and Gender course, I was compelled to explore how evidence of everyday life could point to the construction of identities and communities. After two summers working on California-Berkeley's Fort Davis Archaeology Project, I wanted to delve further into the subject.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Grace McCormack

- Major in Economics
- Adviser: William Evans

"The Impact of Pre-Adjudication Detention on Juvenile Recidivism"

I used data from Marion County, Indiana, to assess whether secure detention prior to a youth's court appearance has an impact on later criminal behavior. The study used a regression discontinuity approach and found that detention did not lead to a significantly higher recidivism rate. Criminal activity among youths represents a large, costly problem to communities throughout the United States. Rigorous research is necessary to understand and ultimately mitigate its costs. My interest in the topic began last summer when I conducted research with St. Joseph County's Juvenile Justice Center.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Caitlin McCreary

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor in Anthropology
- Adviser: Andrew Radde-Gallwitz

"The Devil in the Details: Interpreting Misconceptions About Doctrinal Development"

I examined the way the Catholic community views doctrinal development and how changes within the Catholic Church reflect on the decisions of the Papacy and the clergy. Using documents written during the Second Vatican Council on the doctrine of religious liberty, I explored how a misunderstanding of the Church's capacity for development can impact the acceptance of a doctrine and how it is put into practice. As someone who is in her 16th year of Catholic education, I had always been frustrated by what I knew of the Catholic Church's history. I took this as my opportunity to finally research the things I had always questioned but never fully understood.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Megan McCuen

- Major in English
- Supplementary Major in French
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Maria McKenna

“Learning from Destination Imagination: A Case Study in Creativity”

This project focused on a Creativity Club started at a local school. The case study followed a group of eight 2nd- to 4th-graders through the program as they built vehicles, created a skit, and solved problems on the spot. I participated in the Destination Imagination program as a middle schooler, and it opened my eyes to how creative schools could be. Since then, I've been trying to learn as much as I could about creativity in schools. I decided to return to where I was first inspired to think about creativity and schools in order to write my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Maggie McDowell

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

“Experience, Buffering, Rendering: The Fictions of Tom McCarthy”

Reacting to the structures of meaning imposed by technology and mass media, novelist Tom McCarthy's characters, shaken out of the system by their individual traumas, must choose either to accept unthinkingly the narrative presented to them or to shoulder the burden of creating their own definitions and drawing their own conclusions about the world. Rather than denouncing the limitations of the art, this thesis celebrates that narration is an inescapable part of our own humanity. A contemporary fiction course I took abroad inspired me to think about how we narrate our individual traumas, and the way our narrative frameworks are symptomatic of the illnesses of contemporary society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Kelly McGee

- Majors in Arabic and Political Science
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Atalia Omer

“Family Law, Nationalism, and Feminism: A Palestinian Case Study”

My thesis attempts to denaturalize the categories of family, family law, nationalism, and feminism to analyze how nationalism manipulates maternal and feminine imagery, uses family law as a site of regulation of its body politic, and uses the phases of feminist responses and challenges to nationalist valorization of gender-unequal family law standards.

I am interested in the relationship between law and the defining of a nation and approached this topic from a feminist perspective with attention to the gendered impact of family law.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Margaret McKee

- Majors in Political Science and Economics
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

“Success in International Philanthropy: Evaluating the Conditions Under Which Private Foundations Are Effective”

My thesis defines the conditions under which private international foundations successfully promote positive social change. By evaluating the Rockefeller Foundation’s Green Revolution and the Ford Foundation’s Population Control Movements in India, as well as the Carnegie Corporation’s work on U.S. public television, I prove that target area selection, clear strategy, and public support within recipient countries are necessary for their success.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



John McMackin

- Majors in History and Theology
- Adviser: Rory Rapple

"Thomas Utopus: Thomas More and His Treatment of Heretics"

My thesis argues for a hermeneutic of continuity across the life of Thomas More regarding his approach to the treatment of heretics. I chose this topic because I wanted to involve some form of theology in my thesis and because I enjoy the works of Thomas More.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Robert McManus

- Major in Neuroscience and Behavior
- Adviser: James Brockmole

"Mind Wandering During Scene Perception"

I tracked eye movements while subjects studied scenes to find differences between eye movements while subjects are paying attention and when their minds are wandering. This will hopefully provide a subjective indicator of mind wandering, which may be used to predict and intervene in cases of mind wandering. I had been working on a mind wandering project before beginning my thesis, and I found the topic and the methods interesting. Mind wandering is a common phenomenon, and a problem most people face in their daily lives.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Jesus Mendoza Downey

- Major in English
- Adviser: Jesús Costantino

“Voice, Register, and Code-Switching in Junot Díaz’s Work”

My project focuses on Junot Díaz’s latest collection of short stories, *This Is How You Lose Her*. I argued that Díaz’s typical usage of English-Spanish code-switching and multiple registers is complicated by the use of the second-person voice. Most critical dialogue has focused on Junot Díaz’s novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, with not much being said about *This Is How You Lose Her*. Thus, I wanted to focus on Díaz’s latest publication and explore how it might be complicating earlier discussions of the politics at play in his novel.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Gabrielle Mercurio

- Major in Psychology
- Supplementary Major in Japanese
- Adviser: Kathleen Eberhard

“Bilingual Mental Simulation of Actions Described by Sentences”

There is increasing evidence that understanding verbal descriptions of concrete actions—such as “you are climbing the hill”—involves mentally simulating the actions. The Korean language, however, often lacks the same manner of motion that English verbs contain. My project explores the differences between the mental simulation of English sentences by native English speakers and by Korean-English bilinguals. This project became a seamless way to tie together my psychology and Japanese majors. Though the study focuses on the Korean language, Japanese is similar to Korean as it is a subject-object-verb order language and rarely encodes manner of motion.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Emily Migliore

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Minor in Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Ricardo Ramírez

“La Unión Hace La Fuerza: What Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Leaves Out and the Role of Communities in Addressing the Needs of DACA Recipients”

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals protects its recipients from deportation, but does not confer any sort of legal status. My thesis examines the needs that arise from this lack of legal status and the ways in which identity-based community centers, such as La Casa de Amistad in South Bend, can provide critical supplementary aid. As the daughter of a Paraguayan immigrant, I take great interest in immigration legislation and advocating for immigrants' rights. My interest in DACA came about during my time as an intern with La Casa de Amistad's youth program. I got to know several DACA recipients, and their remarkable stories and composure in the face of adversity are the primary reasons I chose to investigate this topic.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



DeJorie Monroe

- Major in Spanish
- Minors in Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Theology
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Encarnación Juárez-Almendros

“Discovering True Identity in the Americas”

I explore the overlap of gender roles and expectations in Spanish colonial society and peninsular Spanish society and popular representations from literary works of the time, especially in the case of *Historia de la Monja Alférez*. Ultimately, the discoveries of identity made in the autobiographical account of the Nun-Lieutenant, Catalina de Erauso, can be generalized to make a greater statement about the exploration of identity within the context of the Spanish-American colonies. My interest in this topic grew as I investigated the evolution of 16th- and 17th-century autobiographical works in Spain in my Spanish Senior Seminar.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Morris

- Majors in American Studies and Political Science
- Adviser: Thomas Tweed

"The Haight & The Hierarchy: Church, City, and Culture in San Francisco, 1967–2008"

My thesis explores the relationship between Catholic Church and the city of San Francisco from 1967 to 2008. By using three case studies—the 1967 obscenity trial of Beat Poet Lenore Kandel's *The Love Book*, Pope John Paul II's 1987 visit to San Francisco, and the Proposition 8 campaign in 2008—I examine how the Church lost its cultural and political influence as the city grew into the bastion of liberalism it is today. I come from a Catholic background, and my family has been rooted in San Francisco for five generations. It just so happened that a city very close to my heart provides a fascinating example of the intersection of religion, politics, and culture.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Ethan Muehlstein

- Majors in Political Science and IT Management
- Adviser: Dan Lindley

"#PoliticalMovements: The Role of Social Media in Political Mobilization of the Black Lives Matter Movement"

The #BlackLivesMatter movement has created a unique case study of how social media has helped mobilize many individuals to political action. Although social media does not have the power to mobilize on its own, it is a powerful tool used to engage those individuals who may not participate in politics otherwise. After seeing many posts on Facebook, Twitter, and other forums about the #BlackLivesMatter movement from people who had not previously posted about politics or social movements, I became intrigued and wanted to better understand the role social media plays.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Geraldine Mukumbi

- Majors in Africana Studies and English
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

"Phantasm"

I created a fiction piece in the form of a collection of letters between friends. The stories are set in Zimbabwe during the 2008 financial crisis and explore the state of the nation through the lens of friendship. The main aim of this project was to explore the role of memory and voice in (re)remembering recent history. I am an international student from Zimbabwe and as a junior felt frustrated with the realization that the perspectives of people from my part of the world were missing from my English classes. Spending a year immersed in the fiction and history of my own country and community seemed like an essential element of my educational journey.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Abbey Murphy

- Major in Sociology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Elizabeth McClintock

"Body Image Pressures in Males and Females"

This study examines the pressures male and female undergraduates face regarding body image. My goal was to determine if the amounts of pressure males and females face are different and if those sources of pressure are different. I also wanted to propose a model of how the measures in the survey are related and add more qualitative information to the current literature on body image. This topic interested me because I've noticed that many of my female friends assume men don't worry about body image. Also, many campaigns and discussions focus on the importance of fostering a positive body image in women, but not men. If men are feeling similar pressures, they should be included in these conversations.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Emma Nalin

- Majors in Anthropology and Music (Vocal Performance)
- Adviser: Karen Richman

“Spiritual Gifts in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Community”

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, with roots in Latino Catholicism and Christian Pentecostalism, values the experience of spiritual gifts as a reflection of a personal relationship with the divine. Among these gifts are healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. My thesis considers spiritual gifts in the light of anthropological theories of the non-spiritual gift, in which gifts serve to create and maintain interpersonal relationships. The Catholic Charismatics present an energetic revival for a religious tradition with a reputation for emotional restraint. As a case study, Latino Charismatic Catholicism was particularly interesting in its leadership opportunities for the laity.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Karen Neis

- Major in Medieval Studies
- Minor in Studio Art
- Advisers: Maria Tomasula and Li Guo

“Abul-Abbas, the Elephant”

My project is an illustrated children’s book called *Abul-Abbas, the Elephant*. The illustrations were inspired by art from the Carolingian Renaissance and the Abassid time period. The story describes the journey of the elephant Abul-Abbas, who was given to Emperor Charlemagne by the caliph Harun al-Rashid around 800 A.D. The journey was led by the Carolingian emissary Isaac. The story appealed to me because it demonstrates political cooperation between a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew at a time which many assume was “barbaric.” I believe that children—and adults—should hear more stories of interreligious dialogue from the past. I also wanted to appeal to children’s sympathy for animals and focus on themes of homesickness and trust.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kara Neumann

- Major in International Economics
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Mary Flannery

“Education as a Predictor of Spanish Emigration”

This project looks at the increasing migratory flows of Spanish nationals out of Spain over the last 10 years. Using a fixed-effects model, I hoped to capture the effects of average education level, education spending, and region on emigration. I found that the more educated people are, in fact, those who are leaving. During my semester abroad in Toledo, Spain, I volunteered in a local parish school. After learning more about the Spanish education system, I was interested in understanding its long-term and potential economic effects.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Anna Marie Nguyen

- Major in Psychology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Advisers: Jessica Payne and James McKenna

“Mothers and Memory”

My thesis is an exploratory study to see if there is a difference between the memory of mothers and non-mothers when memory is formed for survival purposes. I became interested in this topic when I started looking at the evolutionary purpose of memory. If memory really was meant to enhance our survival, why weren't we looking at mothers? I saw that mothers were a population that really hadn't been studied, even though their biology and sleeping patterns change drastically.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Nicholas Nissen

- Major in Spanish
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

“Agency in Dominican Birth: Can Women in Region III Influence Exposure to Unnecessary Cesareans?”

This project is based on an ethnographic study of maternal birthing agency and unnecessary cesarean use in the community of Region III in the Dominican Republic. I conducted interviews with 122 mothers, 12 physicians, and nine nurses in waiting and/or administrative areas, in addition to 27 labor observations in the maternity ward of the same public hospital to investigate birthing methods and preferences. Cesarean overuse causes needless injury, illness, and expense to patients and health care systems around the world and is a major barrier to health care development. I chose to investigate women’s perceptions of childbirth in Region III of the Dominican Republic because of its egregious cesarean rate.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Samaria O’Brien

- Major in Political Science
- Minors in Business Economics and Italian
- Adviser: Christina Wolbrecht

“Digitizing Health Care: The Creation and Implementation of the HITECH Act”

I investigated the factors that shaped the HITECH portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I analyzed the lobbying efforts, goals, and outside influences that shaped the act. I then evaluated the implementation success of the HITECH Act, providing reasons why the legislation was not as successful as predicted. After working for Allscripts last summer, I became very interested in the technology side of health care legislation efforts. Digitizing records has been a notable goal for the past decade, and one of the least researched efforts in the health care space. By investigating the HITECH Act, I hope to contribute to the policymaking and implementation literature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Caitlin O'Connor

- Major in History
- Minors in Business Economics and European Studies
- Advisers: Julia Adeney Thomas and Tobias Boes

"British World War I Photography in Public Memory"

My thesis explores the importance of and difficulties that arise when using official British war photographs to remember and understand the Great War, especially during these centenary years. Framing the discussion around photo-theorists like Susan Sontag, I explored the imagery projected to the civilian population about the war and how this imagery is useful to historians—even if it does not align with our modern conceptions of the war. This project merges the themes of two of my favorite Notre Dame courses, Professor Tobias Boes's Remembering the Great War in Britain and Germany, and Professor Julia Thomas's Humanitarianism and Photography.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

David O'Connor

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Economics
- Adviser: Stephen Fallon

"Nietzsche, Conrad, and Reactions to 19th-Century European Progressivism"

My thesis explores the ways in which Joseph Conrad, through his novels, reacts to Nietzsche's most prominent critiques of European civilization. While my work primarily focused on close readings of Nietzsche and a historical exegesis of Conrad's novels, it also depended on Conrad's personal correspondence for support. I have always been fascinated by post-enlightenment attempts to justify or condemn the notion of progress as such, especially with regard to the individual's psychological health. This interest led me to consider historical instances in which the undeveloped passions of human beings were contrasted with modern social organization. Ultimately, I settled on fiction as reaction to this whole process.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kayla O'Connor

- Majors in English and Gender Studies
- Advisers: Darlene Hampton and Mary Kearney

"Representations of Fandom: An Exploration of Power Dynamics Between Fans and Producers in the Supernatural Fandom"

Using the CW show *Supernatural* as example, I analyzed textual representations of fans and producer-fan interactions at conventions to uncover the network's idea of a good fan. I'm interested in the power this idealized version of fandom has over actual fans and its effects on how they represent and regulate themselves and their practices. I hoped to explore who actually holds power and privilege within the *Supernatural* fandom, and in fandom in general. As an avid television watcher and self-proclaimed fan, I wanted to pursue this project because I think fandom is too often painted with a broad, heavy brush that does not account for the variety that thrives in any given fandom.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Liam O'Connor

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Clark Power

"One Door Opened to Another Closed: Collateral Consequences as Barriers to Rehabilitation and Integration for Former Offenders"

In addition to a sentence, a person convicted of a crime in the U.S. is subjected to a wide variety of legal and regulatory sanctions and restrictions known as "collateral consequence laws." My thesis addresses how collateral consequences—such as public access to criminal records, denial of access to public housing and assistance, and felony disenfranchisement—might function as barriers to rehabilitation and integration for many of the most vulnerable members of society. While interning with Catholic Charities USA, I worked on prisoner re-entry programs, and I was appalled that nearly 6 million Americans had lost the right to vote due to a felony conviction. With the exponential growth of the incarcerated population, more and more Americans must face collateral consequences while attempting to re-enter society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Casey O'Donnell

- Major in English
- Minor in Energy Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Ian Newman

“Genres of Empirical Distress: The Failure of Objective Survey in Colonial and Post-Colonial Contexts”

My thesis explores the use of objective survey in imperial contexts, highlighting the inability of empirical perspectives to appropriately address colonial and post-colonial experiences. I traced this failed objective method through different times, spaces, and genres by studying Swift's *A Modest Proposal*, Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. After reading Mary Poovey's *A History of the Modern Fact* my junior year, I became very interested in exploring the fabrication of objective perspectives in colonial encounters. I chose to analyze this issue through these three literary works because I had loved reading all of them during my undergraduate career, and I was intrigued by the similarities I sensed among the very different works.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Claire O'Donnell

- Major in International Economics (Financial Economics and Econometrics Concentration)
- Supplementary Major in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: William Evans

“The Impact of Family Size on Education in Latin America”

This paper explores how the presence of additional siblings in a household affects educational outcomes. Looking at five Latin American countries—Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Nicaragua—a remarkable relationship is found between per capita GDP and the effect of additional children in the household. Namely, the poorer the country, the more detrimental a third child is on the education of the first born. I have always had an interest in studying development and education in Latin America, but struggled to find reliable data. Professor Evans was key in finding an attainable project. The implications of this project are tangible and could be used to drive policy decisions in the future.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

John Oakley

- Majors in English and Psychology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kate Marshall

"Narrative and Psychopathology"

My project examines the role of psychopathology in narrative structures. In particular, I looked at how the presentation of psychopathology in a story can cause confusion in the plot, but the narrative remains whole as it portrays humanity through the lens of mental illness. I feel that both literature and psychology offer unique ways of discovering what it means to be human. With my thesis, I hope to show that using these two fields in unison provides important insight that might otherwise be left unclear or unknown.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Seung-Jae Oh

- Major in History
- Minor in Peace Studies
- Adviser: John Soares

"Stability, Security, and Democracy: A History of South Korea-U.S. Relations, 1979-83"

My thesis examines the U.S.-South Korea relations from 1979 to 1983. This period was the ultimate test of their alliance, which was battered by a series of politico-military crises that threatened to destabilize Seoul. Washington's paramount Cold War security concerns produced a response that downplayed its earlier policy objectives for South Korea, with consequences that still remain controversial. I used U.S. and Korean sources to achieve balance in my narrative. My experience in the U.S. military as a Korean cultural adviser made me more interested in modern Korean history. This thesis is part of my efforts to gain a better understanding of the history of the relationship between my heritage country and my adopted country.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Joel Ostdiek

- Majors in Economics and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Kevin Donovan

“Social Entrepreneurship and Institutional Context”

Contextualized by a debate on the role of business in society and its capacity for social good, social entrepreneurship is the focus of a growing body of research. My thesis uses Global Entrepreneurship Monitor data to examine the differences between traditional commercial entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs, as well as what institutional characteristics explain cross-country differences in social entrepreneurship. While in Uganda the summer after my freshman year, I encountered a couple of entrepreneurs operating on a for-profit model but with entirely social missions. I was inspired by their intelligence and drive, and I became fascinated by the concept of social entrepreneurship. I would love to eventually enter the field.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Maria Oviedo

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Edward Beatty

“Building Effective University-Industry Linkages in Developing Economies: Evidence from Nicaragua”

My thesis asks why university-industry linkages are more common in some countries than others. I interviewed university and government agency administrators in Nicaragua and conducted primary research, finding that university-industry relations in the country are weak due to a lack of macro-level and university-level policies to incentivize such relations. Seeing the need for innovation and greater competitiveness in Latin America, I find it important to understand the potential of universities to promote economic development in more ways than through youth education and training.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Ryan Palmer

- Major in Psychology
- Minor in Science, Technology, and Values (STV)
- Adviser: Gabriel Radvansky

“Narrative Event Structure Effects on Memory”

Our lives are collections of stories. Everything we experience, hear from friends, and watch on television is part of a narrative that is stored as narrative memory. Narrative memory affects one’s sense of self and outlook on society. My thesis tests how event boundaries—breaks in time or location in the story—affect one’s memory or stories. I believe that interrupting material improves recall of the story when presented at event boundaries and worsens recall when presented away from event boundaries. The experiment tested memory for narratives and for the interrupting material itself. Narrative memory has yet to be largely studied, and better understanding it could raise awareness of the influences on one’s sense of self and outlook.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Lindsey Paris

- Major in English
- Supplementary Major in Spanish
- Minor in Business Economics
- Advisers: Declan Kiberd and David Fagerberg

“From Narnia to Our World: How an Encounter with Aslan Leads to Christ”

I examined the role of the child protagonists and the importance of reading as children in C.S. Lewis’s *The Chronicles of Narnia*. I argue the *Chronicles* work is an analogy, where the children’s encounters with Aslan show what it means to come to know, love, and serve Christ. Last spring, I asked myself three questions: What kind of books do I enjoy? Is there a particular author I have been reading? What topic will best help me in my personal faith life? These three questions led me to children’s literature, then to C.S. Lewis, and finally to the idea that Lewis’s *Chronicles* encourage readers to ask themselves deep, meaningful questions about their lives.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Jessica Peck

- Major in Romance Languages and Literatures
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Adviser: Steve Reifenberg

"Participation in Urban Agriculture Organizations in Santiago, Chile"

In this study, I worked with three different urban agriculture organizations to determine best practices for motivating and maintaining participation in their initiatives over time. The research was carried out over eight weeks in Santiago, Chile. Urban agriculture, or food grown intensively in small plots or on rooftops in urban areas, has recently seen an explosion of popularity in Latin America. This is due to its ability to address both issues of sustainable agriculture and food security. I was interested in how Chileans were embracing the trend in their capital city and if lessons learned by Chilean organizations could apply to other urban agriculture projects.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Meghan Pfeifer

- Major in Industrial Design
- Supplementary Major in Computer Applications
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

"Fashion Design for Disability"

I am designing shoes for teenagers with Down syndrome, who find it particularly difficult to find shoes that not only fit and provide support, but are also stylish and easy to put on and take off independently. Individuals with DS have feet that are shorter and wider, as well as low muscle tone and trouble balancing. These physical factors severely limit their style options and therefore limit their ability to express themselves. In a world where individuals with disabilities are excluded based on their differences, I want to help level the playing field by eliminating one difference. Ideally, the shoes will look so cool that every other teen will want to wear them as well.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Hugh Phelan

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

"The ABM Treaty and Intentions"

I explored the question of whether the United States discerned intentions before and after the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty was signed. This sheds light on whether arms control agreements can help states discern peaceful intentions, build trust, and ultimately create the foundations of cooperation. Great power wars are massively destructive, yet great powers have and continue to compete militarily with each other, despite the fact that this increases the chance of war. Why do they do this? One reason is that states are uncertain of others' intentions. I wanted to emphasize this by examining key U.S. decision makers' perceptions of Soviet intentions over the course of the ABM treaty.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

John Pietrowicz

- Major in English
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

"Radish Sprout"

My thesis is a collection of poems that highlights the beautiful absurdity of everyday activities through bizarre vignettes. Most poems implicitly compare and contrast the internal and external states of characters, and paranoia is a constant threat to everyone's sanity. A consistent narrative cannot be found, but most poems cover similar thematic ground. I wanted to improve myself as a student and poet, and I felt that this project would accomplish that. I consider this the culmination of my work as a college student, and it has motivated me to try to excel as a writer.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Keiler Pulling

- Major in History
- Minors in Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Mark Noll

“A Great Blessing: The Emergence of Positive Good Proslavery Thought in North Carolina Politics, 1826–1835”

My thesis attempts to place North Carolina within a larger narrative—that of the antebellum South’s shift to a positive good stance on slavery. Using the records of the General Assembly and the 1835 Constitutional Convention, I built an in-depth narrative that tracks the emergence of positive good proslavery thought in North Carolina politics. I wanted to study proslavery ideology because it remains a somewhat neglected topic in the history of the antebellum United States, unlike abolitionism. That Southern planters genuinely believed slavery was a good institution is fascinating, particularly when you consider the egalitarian ideology of the American founding. I also wanted to gain a better understanding of the darkest period in my home state’s past.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Angela Reilly

- Major in Psychology
- Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

“Schadenfreude as a Moral Emotion: Moral Identity and the Experience of Pleasure at the Misfortune of Rivals”

Why do good people do bad things? What dissonance occurs to allow this? Schadenfreude—pleasure experienced at the misfortune of a rival—is a pervasive emotional reaction to members of out-groups whose success threatens our identity and status. My thesis examines how schadenfreude influences our perception of a rival or competitive outgroup and, importantly, whether the experience can be moderated by moral identity. In my study, we primed different identities, including moral identity, in an individual to see how this affects the outcome of reported schadenfreude.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Madeline Renezeder

- Major in Studio Art (Photography)
- Minor in Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Martina Lopez

“Ephemerality”

Ephemerality is a fine arts multimedia installation that digitally combines organic and anthropomorphic imagery as a commentary on the beauty of ephemerality and natural aging processes. Nothing temporal on this earth is permanent; it is the fleeting nature of this world that makes everything special. Therefore, physical demarcations of the passage of time should be revered, not detested. My project turns the process of aging into an engaging aesthetic experience. Throughout my time at Notre Dame, I have combined mediums to reflect the meaning behind my work. I have always found beauty in the natural aging process, and the impermanent nature of an installation project reflects the notion of the ephemeral as beautiful.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Kallie Renfus

- Major in Psychology
- Minor in Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Darcia Narvaez

“Companionship Caregiving and Moral Development”

My thesis looks into the relationships between parent and teacher attitudes and behaviors and the effects these have on sociomoral development in children. Parents have a significant impact on the development of their children, as do teachers. I wanted to analyze these relationships further through my research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Daphne Reynolds

- Majors in Anthropology and Economics
- Adviser: Jada Benn Torres

"Brothers Yesterday, Brothers Today: An Ethnohistory of the Three Fires Confederacy Among the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi"

This study examined the nature of the relationship between the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwe based on linguistic similarities, a historical socio-political alliance, and the possibility of a common ancestor. If this is indeed the case, then there should still be connections between these groups. I was interested in learning more about the Pokagon because of my time as a member of the Native American Association at Notre Dame.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Alexandra Rice

- Majors in Africana Studies and Science Preprofessional
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

"It Wouldn't Be the First Time': Womanism & African-American Women's Activism"

My thesis examines the concept of womanism, as coined by Alice Walker, and its implications for African-American women's activism past and present. I trace womanist ideologies and methods of social change from the work of black women's associations in the late 1800s and early 1900s, to the "classical" rights movement in the '60s and '70s, to contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter. Black women activists are often little-known or misunderstood, despite profoundly shaping American history. After reading Walker's *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* and taking the course *Lives Pursued on the Margins: Women in the American Civil Rights Movement*, I decided to examine how womanist thought might help us better conceptualize their work. I received a UROP Grant to present a portion of my thesis at "The Womanist Mystique: A Symposium on Scholarship and Activism," in February at Princeton University.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Thomas Rieth

- Major in Anthropology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Susan Blum

"Fear of Failure in Elementary School Children"

I am studying how the U.S. education system creates a fear of failure in many elementary school children. Due to the extreme pressure to succeed, many students develop a fear of school. This fear has many negative consequences and can discourage students from wanting to learn. I became interested in this topic because I volunteer with grade school children in the South Bend area. While working with these students, I noticed that many of these students have become discouraged and learned to dislike school. I wanted to understand how school can cause these students to become so frustrated and fearful of education.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Corey Robinson

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors in Sustainability and Business Economics
- Adviser: Gretchen Reydams-Schils and John Nagle

"Applying Utilitarianism to Environmental Crises: A Case Study of Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest and Sertão of Brazil"

My project evaluates the application of a variant of John Stuart Mill's utilitarian philosophy to environmental policy, using deforestation in Brazil's Amazonian region as a specific case study. I took a year and a half of Portuguese and spent three weeks doing missionary work in Recife, Brazil. With my background in PLS and sustainability, I wanted to pursue a project which combined my academic interests with my extracurricular interests. I also enjoyed how my topic provided a practical application to a theoretical philosophy.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Austin Rodgers

- Major in Mathematics
- Minors in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Studies
- Adviser: Joseph Amar

“Development of Modern Mathematical Aesthetic: A Theory Comparing Mathematical Traditions”

My paper analyzes the concept of mathematical beauty from two different ancient perspectives: Greek and Arab. I proceeded to develop a theory of modern mathematical aesthetic as a synthesis of these two perspectives. I concluded that both the utility of mathematics and the transcendent nature of the truths discovered using mathematics contribute to its “beauty.” I chose this topic because often we overlook the contributions of the Arabs to mathematics, not only in the concrete discoveries they made, but also in the philosophical ramifications of their approaches to mathematics. This paper aims to recapture that and recognize the Arabs for their part in establishing the modern mathematical aesthetic.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Seamus Ronan

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Minor in Theology
- Adviser: Sotirios Barber

“A Law Unto Itself: Overruling Smith”

My thesis examines the case law regarding religious liberties, and the rise of state Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA) in the United States. With these RFRAs and the Supreme Court’s decision in *Gonzales v. O’Centro* and *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, Employment Division v. Smith* has been, de facto, overruled. In the Tocqueville Program, we ask fundamental questions and study the role of religion in American public life. The status of religious liberty post-*Obergefell* required evaluating both the constitutional and statutory rights granted through the Supreme Court and legislation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Jack Rooney

- Majors in Political Science and American Studies
- Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Advisers: Jason Ruiz and Darlene Hampton

"Where Have All the Manly Journalists Gone?": Gender and Masculinity in Representations of Journalists on American Prestige Television

I explored performances of masculinity in American pop culture representations of journalists. I traced the transition of such representations away from movies and toward "prestige" television. High-quality, cinematic shows like HBO's *The Wire* and *The Newsroom*, Starz's *Boss*, and Netflix's *House of Cards* all prominently feature journalist characters that both fall into and complicate the earlier cinematic tropes of masculine journalists. I want to become a journalist after graduation, and I wanted to better understand how our American culture understands and presents journalists, and how these presentations reflect our understanding of gender and masculinity.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Sheridan Rosner

- Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and French
- Advisers: Christopher Chowrimootoo and Alain Toumayan

"Intellectual Progress and the Roman d'apprentissage: Enlightened Protagonists in Balzac and Flaubert"

This paper works to understand the repercussions of Kantian thought issuing from the Enlightenment on 19th-century European society. I examined two works of French literature, Balzac's *Père Goriot* and Flaubert's *Éducation sentimentale*, as coming-of-age novels that exemplify the struggles of self-realization imposed by the imperative of reasoned thought. I chose this topic in order to deepen my understanding of key authors in the French literary tradition and to examine the potential effects of philosophical thought as a social phenomenon perceived through literature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Zoe Rae Rote

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

“Place-Based Education: Engagement from the Student Perspective”

My thesis examines place-based education (PBE) and its potential for deepening engagement from the students' perspective. PBE anchors learning in a student's place, overcoming academic isolation and developing relationships between schools, communities, and the environment. Most studies fail to ask students, the primary stakeholders, what they think. To address this gap, I researched PBE from the students' perspective. During my sophomore year, I did directed readings with Stuart Greene about justice in education. We read a book titled *Place- and Community-based Education in Schools*. As a future teacher, I was absolutely inspired. After contacting the authors, I decided to pursue place-based education and conduct original research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Nidia Ruelas

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in French
- Adviser: Christina Wolbrecht

“Gender and Campaign Finance: Access to Partisan and Individual Funding Networks in Congressional Campaigns”

I examined the relationship between gender and campaign financing sources for candidates running for seats in the House of Representatives. To do this, I compared the percentage of donations that candidates receive from individual donors and from partisan organizations. I chose this topic because I am interested in the impact a candidate's gender may have on the donations they seek and receive. I believe my research will contribute to what we know about campaign finance and gender in Congressional elections.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Caroline Scheid

- Major in Psychology
- Minor in Business Economics
- Adviser: Laura Miller-Graff

"The Effects of Maternal Coping on Childhood Resilience"

I developed a research question for my thesis that explores maternal coping and children's resiliency as a reciprocal relationship promoting positive family-wide outcomes after trauma, especially intimate partner violence. My research in Notre Dame's BRAVE Lab integrates basic and treatment research to facilitate development and adaptation of evidence-based treatments and inform a greater understanding of trauma in global and domestic contexts. This lab has honed my interests in coping and resilience after violence and more generalized trauma in young women and families and inspired this thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Margaret Schmid

- Major in Psychology
- Minors in Theology and Latino Studies
- Adviser: Irene Park

"Investigating the Immigrant Paradox: Moderators in the Acculturation-Distress Link"

I investigated moderators in the immigrant paradox, specifically family ethnic socialization and ethnic identity as protective factors in the acculturation-distress link in Latino youth. The results identified moderators that buffer the impact of acculturation on mental health. This research will aid in the development of interventions that can mitigate the immigrant paradox and, thus, help reduce health disparities. I chose this topic because I am passionate about reducing health disparities in minority populations and investigating the well-being of immigrants in the United States.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Jacob Schrimpf

- Major in Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Mary Celeste Kearney and Anton Juan

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My thesis is a theoretical investigation and multimedia performance collage exploring the omnipresence of the smartphone and the complex identities that it forces us to deliberately and unintentionally inhabit. What happens when one man's iPhone forces him to publicly confront his complicated, conflicting identities? The idea for this project began in a Media and Identity course my sophomore year. I became fascinated by the impact of the smartphone on identity and the larger social implications of these technological advances. I then explored similar themes in a playwriting class and found that I could look at the smartphone from both critical and creative perspectives, marrying my two emphases in FTT and laying the foundation for my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Scruggs

- Major in International Economics
- Minors in International Development Studies (IDS) and Philosophy, Religion, and Literature (PRL)
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Karen Richman

"Hidden Lives Within the Margins: Extraction in the Underground Economy of Haitian Immigrants in Guadeloupe"

My capstone project is about how the criminalization of immigration affects the development or underdevelopment of migrant sending families. I analyzed the finances of 15 undocumented Haitian immigrants on the island of Guadeloupe, where Haitians face harsh immigration laws, and argued that the criminalization can be quantified as the exploitation of immigrant labor by the receiving state. I spent two summers in Guadeloupe living in Haitian neighborhoods and integrating within the community so that I could build the relationships necessary to interview undocumented, clandestine immigrants. These relationships are the foundation of my project and have defined my professional goals for after Notre Dame.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Molly Seidel

- Major in Anthropology
- Minor in Sustainability
- Adviser: Gabriel Torres

“Connectivity Along the Ice Age Trail”

I analyzed how trail networks, such as the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, influence social and environmental connectivity within nearby communities. Last summer, I worked with the Ice Age Trail Alliance in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, on trail building and community-outreach projects. I was amazed by how the trail brings people together and encourages greater environmental sustainability. Seeing this made me want to investigate the positive effects the trail had on its users.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Shannon Sheehan

- Majors in Sociology and Gender Studies
- Adviser: Mary Ellen Konieczny

“Inverse Inequality: How Both Genders Navigate Identity Amidst the Sexual Double Standard of Hook-up Culture in College”

Research on the sexual double standard traditionally views men as benefactors. However, since traditional notions of heterosexual masculinity value sexual conquests, I hypothesize that gender has a moderating effect on the relationship between sexual activity and identity. Virginity can serve to protect women from stigmatization; however, men are scrutinized for not participating in hook-up culture, meaning that virgin men in fact experience stigmatization and shame similar to that of casually sexually active women in college. I was fascinated by the way sexuality shapes my friends' views of themselves, and wondered how this differed for my male friends.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Blair Sherry

- Major in Industrial Design
- Minor in Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

"Product Design"

I designed and created an installation of home goods and accessories out of various salvaged textiles and material. I am interested in experimentation in material choices for soft-good products, particularly with an emphasis on having a green footprint or zero net waste. There is an abundant amount of material humans create and recycle, so I sought to upcycle materials, transforming them into products with longer lives for the home good market.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Victoria Sluka

- Major in Anthropology
- Minor in Studio Art
- Adviser: Ian Kuijt

"International Intellectual Property Law & Traditional Craft Technologies: A Case Study"

Using historical looms and weaving paraphernalia from around the world, I examined how modern intellectual property law succeeds and fails to protect traditional technologies. I also considered the cultural incongruities between Western intellectual property concepts and traditional concepts of ownership. I intend to study traditional crafts as an experimental archaeologist. I chose to investigate this because of an experience I had in Tanzania. A Maasai woman was reluctant to teach Westerners the method of producing traditional jewelry because she feared we would steal the knowledge and outsell her and her tribe. I am presenting my thesis at the annual Society for American Archaeology Conference in Florida on April 7, 2016.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Ena Solorzano

- Majors in Political Science and Economics
- Adviser: Michael Coppedge

“Social Polarization, Political Parties, and Democracy”

This paper looks at how social polarization can be translated onto a political party system and thus affect the quality of democracy in countries in Latin America. I grew up in El Salvador, and social tensions among classes have always been present in our political party system. I wanted to explore this tension more and learn about its possible implications in the context of understanding democracies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Souza

- Majors in History and Political Science
- Adviser: Lionel Jensen

“Vestiges of Revolutionary Rhetoric in China”

My thesis looks into the political psychology of contemporary Chinese through a series of one-on-one interviews with factory workers and white-collar urbanites. It is an effort to examine the relevance of the Communist Party’s revolutionary and Maoist discourse in a growingly materialistic and capitalist society. My advisor, Professor Jensen, inspired me to engage in related research when I took his Chinese Revolution class my first year. I conducted continual research in China in the next two summers. In talking with Chinese factory workers and white-collar workers, I noticed a strong apolitical sentiment among them.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Lesley Stevenson

- Majors in Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT) and American Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jim Collins

“Visual Authorship, Auteurism, and Fan Ownership in Harry Potter”

I explored the varying, intersecting, and often conflicting modes of authorship that emerged from the eight-part *Harry Potter* film series. I examined the extent to which the series' four directors, production team, literary author J.K. Rowling, screenwriter, and fans were able to influence the visual representations of Rowling's novels. I have been a *Harry Potter* fan since grade school, and I chose to write on visual authorship in the series after an assignment in sophomore year turned into a 21-page essay on directorial tensions and producer influence through the film series. This is also a critical moment in *Potter* history, as a sequel stage adaptation, a prequel film trilogy, and several new theme parks will debut this year.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Carina Suarez

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major in Computer Applications
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

“Sweet Dreams: Storytelling and Identity in The Sandman”

Neil Gaiman uses his postmodern comic book *The Sandman* to help readers create an empathetic, self-reflective, and self-reflexive identity through his use of intertextuality, metanarrative, liminal fantasy elements, comic-specific perspective shifts, escapist literature, and relatability through accessibility. Gaiman anthropomorphizes his definition of fantasy as an “empathy-machine” through the main character Dream, who is the embodiment of dreams, stories, and the human experience. Gaiman's writing dances the line between high and low culture, and this defiance of barriers is especially prominent in *The Sandman*. His exaggerated use of the comic genre's underlying strengths makes for a fascinating work that has enthralled me since my initial read of *Preludes & Nocturnes* years ago.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Audrey Tatum

- Majors in English and Italian
- Adviser: Sandra Gustafson

"In a 'Pickle': Viewing Trauma of Space and Home in the Postcolonial Work The God of Small Things Through a Modernist Lens"

Before Arundhati Roy became an author, she was trained as an architect; her architectural interest in space thus had a profound effect on her literary works' constructed spaces and the characters who inhabit them. Though Roy created a postcolonial work, this thesis aims to appropriate modernist themes of home and space and apply them to Roy's blueprint of history. I chose this topic after taking two seemingly different, but equally wonderful, courses: Postcolonial Literature with Elizabeth Evans and Modernism at Home with Barbara Green. I was inspired to apply the themes I learned in the modernism course to my favorite novel from the postcolonial course.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Elizabeth Troyer

- Major in English
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Barbara Green

"The Narrative Implications of Intellectual Disability in Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Michael Cunningham's The Hours"

My thesis explores the ways in which intellectual disability alters narrative function. From the "madness" that breaks the form of Woolf's 1924 novel *Mrs. Dalloway* to the "disability" that shapes Cunningham's reimagining of the story, *The Hours*, I am curious about the methods by which each author "disables" his/her narrative. And in a grander sense, I wanted to know what we can discover about narrative itself by studying instances of its alleged impairment. I read *Mrs. Dalloway* for the first time while studying abroad in London, and I was immediately enthralled. I have also long been interested in "madness" in literature—how it is conveyed, how it is interpreted by readers, and why it is so prevalent.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Mary Tull

- Major in Psychology
- Adviser: Laura Miller-Graff

“Collective Minority Status and its Relationship to Trauma and Mental Health”

I looked at the correlation between aggregate minority status, considering race, gender, sexuality, etc., and experiences of trauma and resulting mental health problems. I collected data at Notre Dame and in partnered colleges to assess traumatic experiences and mental health problems. Marginalized identity is generally correlated with mental health problems and trauma, but most analyses look at single identity without considering the intersections of various minority statuses. I'm particularly interested in a career studying the intersections of gender, race, and sexual orientation and how the collective experiences of intersectional marginalization affect mental health.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Ryan Twardzik

- Major in Design
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

“Unseat”

Unseat is a series of objects intended to call into question the relationship people have with objects through their interaction with them. During an interaction, these objects can become chairs, serving the purpose of holding a person and framing their body. However, when not being directly interacted with, they return to their more definition-less forms. I have been interested in the important place chairs hold throughout design history—as means of personal expression, manufacturing techniques, style, and even embodiments of abstract philosophies. I am also intrigued by the importance of human interaction with an object. By calling something a chair as opposed to a table, we change how that object is viewed and used without doing so physically.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Michael Vaclav

- Majors in English and Philosophy
- Adviser: Jesse Lander

"Middleton's Witches and Shakespeare's Weird Sisters"

Looking at the Weird Sisters in *Macbeth*, it is interesting to see how these characters only became clearly defined witches after Thomas Middleton revised the play around 1616, 10 years after the original production. After exploring how these characters changed, I examined how these changes fit into the larger pattern of how witches are portrayed in English early modern theatre. I have a long history with Shakespeare's works through performance, and I was eager to expand my experience and interact academically with them as well. After discovering the rich academic field of authorship in early modern theatre, I was hooked.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Haley VanSteenwyk

- Majors in Psychology and Biological Sciences
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Joshua Diehl

"The Relationship Between RRBs and Anxiety in Individuals on the Autism Spectrum and Their Typically Developing Peers"

The aim of my study is to examine the relationship between restricted and repetitive behaviors (RRBs) and anxiety levels in populations with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and typically developing populations. To date, it is uncertain whether the RRBs used as diagnostic criteria for ASD are distinct characteristics of ASD or on more of a continuum, ranging from normal to abnormal/socially unacceptable behaviors. Analogous coping responses to anxiety-provoking situations in the typically developing population, which vary in their degree of social acceptability, may suggest that the deficits in social interaction and understanding play a role in the behaviors observed in the ASD population.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



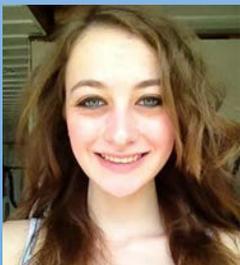
Alyssa Varsanik

- Majors in Music (Piano Performance) and Chemical Engineering
- Minor in Engineering Corporate Practice
- Adviser: Glen Niebur

"Understanding the Effect of Insulin in the Bone Marrow Niche"

The trabecular bone niche is made up of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) that differentiate into a variety of cells including osteoblasts and adipocytes (bone and fat cells). The relative matrix of bone marrow is dependent on the ratio of osteoblast and adipocyte differentiation. The purpose of my research is to understand what factors induce differentiation of osteoblasts within the bone marrow matrix. More specifically, I focused on how and when insulin affects MSC differentiation. My research has catalyzed unanswered questions, inevitably fueling my curiosity to explore the unknown. Above all, research has defined my passion to help lead the biomedical revolution and actively protect the health of human beings.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Rona Vaselaar

- Major in Chinese
- Adviser: Lionel Jensen

"Homosexuality in China"

Homosexuality, while once celebrated and accepted among the elite classes in China, has undergone violent suppression since the Qing dynasty. China's current homosexual culture is sadly cut off from its traditional homosexual culture, leaving contemporary Chinese homosexual persons with the challenge of creating their own space in Chinese society. I have long been interested in China and its development throughout history, with a particular interest in the post-Republican period. I became interested in homosexuality after traveling to China and realizing that many Chinese persons my age don't believe homosexuality exists. I decided to research how homosexual culture developed in China and how it has been marginalized over time.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Connor Velasco

- Major in Anthropology
- Adviser: Gabriel Torres

"The Celebration of Distinction: Craft Beer Culture in the Midwest"

The purpose of my thesis was to research the unique culture that is craft beer drinking. Through ethnographic interviews and numerous surveys, I was able to form a hypothesis as to why craft beer has become so popular since the early 2000s. My topic is in the field of socio-cultural anthropology. Out of the four areas of anthropology, this has been the field I've been most interested in because it deals so closely with people's shared experiences. The topic I chose is unique since there has been very little work published on craft beer culture.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Luke Wajrowski

- Majors in Philosophy and Psychology
- Adviser: Alfred Freddoso

"Bonaventure and the Epistemic Relationship Between Philosophy and Theology"

In the first part of my thesis, I investigate various interpretations of Bonaventure regarding the relationship between philosophy and theology. In the second part, I take the best interpretation and evaluate its validity. Is Bonaventure still relevant today? Bonaventure is my favorite philosopher and is scandalously undervalued today. I hope others will find a love for him too.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Melanie Wallskog

- Major in Economics
- Supplementary Major in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Steven Lugaer

“Demographics and Household Saving Rates in Ireland”

This paper examines to what extent demographic patterns drive the changes in the aggregate household saving rate in Ireland. I use a life-cycle model in which parents both explicitly support their children and fund retirees' pensions to investigate the impact of falling fertility and an aging population on saving behavior from 1970 through 2013. I spent my junior year studying abroad in Dublin. Through my economics courses and my volunteer work at a center for the elderly, I realized how tenuous the system of public welfare, especially pensions, is in Ireland. I decided to couple this observation with the previous demographic work of my advisor in order to consider the economic implications of the Irish welfare system.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Clare Welch

- Major in Political Science
- Supplementary Major in French Language and Culture
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

“Everybody Lies: The Disinformation Phenomenon”

The Greek historian Aeschylus is credited with first claiming: “In war, the first casualty is truth.” The idea that truth must be sacrificed in war appears to have manifested itself in the phenomenon that is disinformation. This project seeks to understand under what conditions states use disinformation and the form it takes. Last summer while interning at the European Parliament, I became interested in the EU's reaction to what they were calling the “information war” going on in Ukraine. After further research, I found that disinformation had not been defined as a separate phenomenon. This project seeks to fill that gap.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



John Wetzel

- Majors in Industrial Design and Mechanical Engineering
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

"USPS 2030"

My thesis studies the future of delivery. I am designing a concept for a completely automated United States Postal Service. The design includes reusable boxes, a shipping container-based post office, and autonomous delivery trucks. The system will initially be applied in rural settings where current post offices have had to close for cost reasons. I am fascinated by the intersection of cutting-edge technology and design. Creating a user experience for completely automated systems presents exciting user-experience design challenges. This project allows me to combine my interests in environmental design, systems design, and user-interface design.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Njeri Williams

- Majors in Political Science and Africana Studies
- Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Jacquetta Page and Maria McKenna

"Cultural Connections: Understanding the Importance of the Black Arts Movement and Creating Diverse Curriculum"

Through a biographical examination of the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, I analyzed the influence of black aesthetics on how African-American youth view and express themselves and their cultural history. In addition to my research, I developed a unit of lesson plans related to the Black Arts Movement, hoping to incorporate it into a cultural curriculum program. I had the opportunity to teach those lessons to 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-graders at Jefferson Intermediate School in South Bend. Growing up, my family always encouraged me to celebrate my blackness. I participated in programs celebrating black history and culture, and this, along with my love for the arts, led me to explore this topic.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Colton Williamson

- Major in Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor in Business Economics
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: William Donaruma

"The Palace of Wisdom"

My thesis is an experimental screenplay for a coming-of-age story set in college. The protagonist, reflecting on his college experience, recalls the fragmented memories that shaped his ideology in a series of stream-of-conscious vignettes. He deals with the deconstruction and reconstruction of his intellectual, spiritual, and physical being. I was inspired by novels about young adulthood by J.D. Salinger and F. Scott Fitzgerald, and I was deeply attracted to the formal qualities of Karl Ove Knausgaard and Terrence Malick, who see the ostensibly mundane moments of everyday life for what they really are—profoundly formative and poetic.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Alexandria Williamson

- Major in Studio Art
- Adviser: Martina Lopez

"B.A. Honors Thesis"

My thesis project is an installation of three non-narrative films in the AAHD Gallery. In the films, cicada wings are often pinned, partially immobilized, and neatly and meticulously arranged. In the final film, the cicada wings morph into forms resembling those of other insects. The films are intended to speak to notions of a fluid construction of identity that have taken hold in contemporary society. I believe we are all constantly involved in the process of becoming. We are all searching and all striving. This process is inextricably tied to our understanding of ourselves and others. Although conceptions of identity have opened up, we still tend toward taxonomical discourses. I find this problematic.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Kyle Witzigman

- Major in Political Science
- Minor in Middle Eastern Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Michael Desch

“Courtesy of the Red, White, and Voting Blue: How Elections Affect Military Strategy”

How does military force employment change during the electoral cycle? Democratic leaders need the electorate’s support to keep office, but state security may require them to ignore public opinion. I argue if a president is seeking re-election, then force employment—measured by troop counts—will decrease or be delayed until electoral constraints end. Civilian leaders must be aware of how domestic interests affect state capabilities during war. After reading about President Johnson’s dual concerns domestically and internationally in McMaster’s book *Dereliction of Duty*, I met with Professor Desch and asked, “This can’t be the only case of domestic politics influencing foreign policy choices, right?” Thus, a beautiful thesis exploration was born.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Mia Womack

- Major in Political Science
- Adviser: Catherine Perry

“National Identity in France”

I am exploring national identity in France, or what it means to be French and whether or not naturalized Arab immigrants are included in the French government’s current definition. I chose this topic because it combines the two subjects I am most passionate about—politics and French culture. After taking a course on Arab nationalism, I became increasingly interested in how nationalism affects a person’s identity and how types of nationalism have changed over time.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Rebecca Wornhoff

- Major in Anthropology
- Supplementary Major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Susan Blum

"There's No Parent Training': The Interplay of Medical, North American, and Traditional Parenting Models in Nicaragua"

As North American influence increases in southwestern Nicaragua through tourism and NGOs, Nicaraguan parents face challenges to their traditional parenting methods from medical and North American authority figures. This paper explores how the community is responding to this increased influence in their lives by asking how they raise, and believe they should raise, their children. After receiving a grant to intern at a pediatric clinic in southwest Nicaragua from the Kellogg Institute last summer, I found that the organization faced challenges of both a medical and cultural nature in the changing community. As a hopeful future pediatrician, I was excited to explore the intersection of childhood development and international development in my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

Julia Zanotelli

- Majors in Political Science and Economics
- Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Jeremy Castle

"Cyber: The Future of War?"

My capstone project provides some dialogue on whether the definition of war really satisfies the reality of current warfare. Cyber and information attacks are used all the time by governments and defense departments around the world. The important question to answer is if these actions constitute an act of war. If so, should there be international laws to govern the use of such actions? Is cyber the future of war? I interned last summer at Deloitte in the Cyber Risk Division and interned for a semester at the House Committee on Homeland Security. These experiences sparked my interest in public policy, national security, and information security.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects

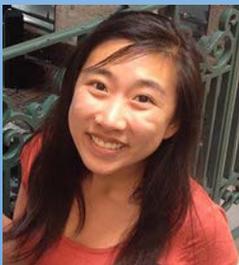
Helen Zhang

- Majors in Art History and Science Preprofessional
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Elyse Speaks

“Symptoms of Modernity: Science and Routine in Sarah Sze”

Contemporary artist and sculptor Sarah Sze is renowned for her characteristic, complex arrangements of commonplace items. My thesis looks at two rooms from two of her recent solo shows—Pendulum from the 55th International Venice Biennale 2013 and one from her 2015 Tanya Bonakdar Gallery show—in relation to theories of the everyday and routine and the philosophy of science. I am fascinated by the unexpected intersection of the fine arts and scientific research at the junction of creative, abstract thought. Sarah Sze’s dazzling and overwhelming placement of commonplace, found objects in a high art environment subverts the expected paradigm, much like her convergence of art and science.

College of Arts and Letters — 2016 Senior Thesis Projects



Sherry Zhong

- Major in Program of Liberal Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Stuart Greene and Pierpaolo Polzonetti

“1045 West Washington Street: The Story of a Space and the Process of Place Making”

Those with the best intentions have a wish to build community in poor neighborhoods. This thesis explores the history of South Bend’s West Washington Street—a neighborhood that transformed from a bustling black business mecca to what so many label a ghetto—to show that there is already a community here. We do not need to start building anything now; rather, we need to recognize and strengthen the community already present. When dealing with poverty, with people, it makes no sense to talk about community building; wherever there are people, there is community. Academic discourse should reflect this if the dignity of the individual matters at all.