

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Grace Agolia

- Major: Theology
- Minor: Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Timothy O'Malley

American Deaf Catholics, Liturgy, and the New Evangelization

I explore the historical, pastoral, and theological foundations of the New Evangelization for deaf Catholics in the U.S., especially through their inclusion and participation in liturgy. I argue that deaf Catholics have a unique contribution to the Church because of the embodied nature of their worship in sign language. I was born deaf and use a cochlear implant. Growing up, it was often difficult for me to understand what was happening at Mass, and it wasn't until I became more involved in liturgical ministry that I began to understand my faith. I want to help the Church minister to other deaf and hard-of-hearing Catholics who feel similarly isolated.

Traveled to the Deaf Catholic Archives at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. Also traveled to parishes in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and Denver.

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Rose Anderson

- Majors: History and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Rebecca McKenna

Tom Pendergast and the Ten-Year Plan: Construction and Corruption in 1930s Kansas City

My thesis explores the influence of the Pendergast political machine on the Ten-Year Plan, a city development program begun in 1931 in Kansas City, Missouri. The program sought to improve the economic infrastructure and provide employment to those affected by the Great Depression. I focus on how Kansas City residents interpreted the plan as a symbol of the city's progress, as well as proof of Pendergast's corruption.

Traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Jennifer Andre

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Abigail Wozniak

The Efficacy of Paid Maternity-Leave Policy: Measuring Heterogeneous Impacts on Labor Force Behavior

I explore the impact of California's paid family leave program on maternity leave-taking and labor force participation for women. I look specifically at how the effects of such a program differ based on such factors as educational attainment, wage level, job satisfaction, employer size, and more. Studies of family-leave policies are important as policymakers consider programs to address the challenging balance between work and family life.

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Margaret Arriola

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Susan Cannon Harris

What Works? Modes of Drama and Modernization in 20th-Century Irish Theatre

I explore the work of Dublin playwright Seán O'Casey in the first half of the 20th century, in comparison to a newer Irish playwright, Paula Meehan. I explain how the two use different modes of drama to show their audiences the plight of Ireland's urban working class and how their plays act as social critiques of Dublin. I am intrigued by the relationship between Dublin and the rest of Ireland. Dubliners seem to be in limbo — rejected by the English ruling class for being “too Irish” and by their fellow countrymen for “not being Irish enough.” I fell in love with O'Casey's gritty and unapologetic Dublin working class plays and haven't looked back.

Traveled to Dublin with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

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Casey Baker

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Poverty Studies and Business Economics
- Adviser: Christina Wolbrecht

Language, Gender, and Print Coverage of the 2016 Democratic Primary

My thesis aims to look at the language used to describe Democratic presidential candidates in the 2016 primary election. I am analyzing newspaper coverage in the months leading up to the Iowa, South Carolina, and Nevada primaries to compare the language used to describe Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Jeb Bush. I am interested in the ways that various characteristics can shape voter perception of candidates, and what role traditional print media may play in forming these assumptions. With Secretary Clinton being the first woman to be nominated by a major political party, it is an appropriate time to look critically at gender.

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Katherine Baltes

- Major: English
- Minors: Sociology and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Sara Maurer

Mapping the Margins: Mercy in Bleak House and The Wire

My thesis explores acts of mercy in Charles Dickens' novel *Bleak House* and the HBO television show *The Wire*. I'm curious about the differences and similarities in the way mercy functions in the respective cities in each work. I absolutely loved *Bleak House* when I read it in Professor Maurer's class sophomore year, and I wanted the chance to examine Dickens' social concerns while connecting some of the novel's themes to a more contemporary work.

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Emily Beaudoin

- Major: Gender Studies
- Minors: International Development Studies and Peace Studies
- Adviser: Terence McDonnell

Empowerment in Context: An Examination of Global Mamas

My capstone project uses data collected in Cape Coast, Ghana, at a fair-trade women's economic empowerment NGO called Global Mamas. My findings suggest that empowerment at Global Mamas is comprised of skills, an enhanced knowledge set, a sense of achievement, and the agency to speak one's mind. Further, empowerment is sustainable but also constrained by factors beyond the control of the organization's leaders. "Women's empowerment" has become a buzzword in international development discourse, a silver bullet to a better global future. I seek to move away from this broad usage toward a deeper understanding of what empowerment means to women in an individual organization.

Traveled to Cape Coast, Ghana, with funding from the Kellogg Institute.

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Leah Billion

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Spanish
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

Franz Kafka's Creation of an Uncanny Experience

My thesis is focused on Franz Kafka's works of legal fiction. I delve into his use of horrific and uncanny imagery, which he uses to disrupt the reader's sense of comfort with the world. I ultimately analyze how Kafka crafts for the reader a disturbing, highly sensual experience. He uses this experience to de-familiarize the reader with the real world and the human experience as a whole. I was fascinated by Kafka's creation of a nightmarish, disorienting reality, and I decided to dig deeper into the question of how and why Kafka writes the way he does.

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William Billups

- Major: History
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Sullivan

The History of the Irish National Education from 1831 to 1853

My thesis looks at how Ireland's National Board of Education, the British government, and religious leaders in Ireland worked together to create and orchestrate the early school system and how growing religious animosity in Ireland changed their partnerships. I first encountered this topic in a seminar about the British Empire as a sophomore, and my topic evolved from a study of the mid-19th century Anglican archbishop of Dublin, who sat on Ireland's original National Board of Education.

Conducted research at Lambeth Palace Library and the Guildhall Library in London with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Connor Bliss

- Majors: History and Physics
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Brian Collier

“When You Forgive, Then You Are Able to Educate Others”: Growing Native Voice and its Contributions to Educational Success at Catholic American Indian Mission Schools

According to the Meriam Report (1928), “the whole Indian problem is essentially an educational one.” The history of American Indian education in this country has been one of forced cultural assimilation, abuse, and substandard academic results. There are, however, many successful schools — and their stories should not be discounted, but learned from. I studied the funding, curriculum, school culture, and community relationship of three Catholic mission schools to identify what makes them successful. Much of my study of U.S. history had glossed over an important player in this country’s narrative, and I wanted to learn more about the varied histories of Native Americans.

Recipient of an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant.

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Michelle Bohrt

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

OKtagon

OKtagon is a device created to help children with special needs, specifically those that suffer from cognitive delays and have difficulties verbalizing. These kids know exactly what they want and need — they just don't have the ability put it into words. OKtagon uses a system of pictures (PECS) that can be easily arranged and understood, helping kids build short sentences to communicate their most basic needs. I have always loved children, and my volunteer work at a local primary school inspired my project.

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Dana Bouquet

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: Business Economics and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Maria McKenna

Exploring Catholic High School Teachers' Perceptions of LGBTQ Education and Outreach

My research is meant to provide information about how teachers might be able to better understand and support persons who identify as LGBTQ. In my eight years of Catholic education, I was not taught how to approach LGBTQ issues, and I have learned that many people have been negatively affected by the lack of attention toward these issues in Catholic high schools. I am passionate about Catholic education and hope to become a teacher in a Catholic school.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Edward Bozik

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Pierpaolo Polzonetti

Prison Education Program

I evaluate multiple U.S. prison education programs and provide recommendations for further improvements in the prison system. Additionally, I attempt to provide a philosophical framework for the concept of punishment as a whole. I believe that the U.S. prison system is deeply flawed but not broken. I wanted to shine a light on systems that have a positive impact on inmates and show that they can be justified philosophically.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Sean Brady

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

Illuminating the Multiverse Theory Through Science Fiction Literature

I make an argument for the importance of science fiction's role in connecting the two cultures (arts and sciences) and contributing to the advancement and perfection of human knowledge in ways often underestimated and underappreciated. I've always been an avid science fiction reader because I am interested in predictions of the future, and sci-fi brings the future to light in imaginative and detailed ways. Similarly, I chose PLS because I'm curious about aspects of knowledge we don't yet understand. Studying one of those subjects — the nature of time — led me to the multiverse theory.

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Sarah Brennan

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Finance
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Human Instinct and Divine Judgment in The Divine Comedy

I studied *The Divine Comedy* and, in particular, examined the ways in which Dante juxtaposes his poetic structure against the doctrinal demands of Christianity to highlight potential conflicts between the Divine Justice and human feeling. Further, I am looking at how Dante uses the relationship between the pilgrim and poet to create pathos with his readers and to explore man's individual struggle with his own faith. I read *The Divine Comedy* in a seminar, and it was, by far, my favorite piece of writing in PLS.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Robert Browne

- Majors: American Studies and English
- Advisers: Annie Gilbert Coleman and Thomas Tweed

Uncle Sam at the Plate: How Professional Baseball Marketed Therapeutic Nationalism in Wartime

My thesis explores how professional baseball has attempted to capitalize on moments of national crisis and the patriotism — or protest — they bring about. I analyze the concept of “therapeutic nationalism” and its merits in the well-supported World Wars I and II and in the more controversial and contested U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the war on terror. I was inspired by my memory of attending Game 3 of the 2001 World Series at Yankee Stadium. George W. Bush threw out the first pitch, and the crowd responded with a rousing “U-S-A!” chant in a post-9/11 climate when patriotism was at a high.

Traveled to Cooperstown, New York, and Kansas City, Missouri, with Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program funding.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Mary Burke

- Majors: Political Science and History
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Michael Desch

Cold War II? Assessing the Future of China's Nuclear Program

China's nuclear force is significantly smaller than what we would expect to see in a rising power — approximately 350 warheads, compared to the United States and Russia, which have about 7,000 each. I argue that China's unexpectedly large missile gap is part of a deliberate strategy in which China seeks only the power to hurt — but not destroy — adversaries to protect their interests. I came across the puzzle of China's nuclear force in class one day. I was intrigued and began researching the strategy behind Chinese nuclear minimalism.

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Anna Busse

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Annie Gilbert Coleman and Brian Collier

Queering the Classroom: Fitting LGBTQ Students into American High Schools

In the past 25 years, students, educators, and administrators have faced the challenge of incorporating LGBTQ students into their classrooms head-on. Through extreme adversity and discrimination, small wins and essential victories, brave students and the educators who support them have worked hard to establish rights and spaces in which LGBTQ students can survive and thrive. I am going into education, and I wanted to do research that would influence the kind of teacher I will be. School can be an extremely difficult place for LGBTQ students, and I hoped to gain a better understanding of the history and the issues currently facing them.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Joseph Cabrera III

- Major: English
- Adviser: Matthew Wilkens

Cratedigging and the Aesthetics of Trash: Encyclopedism and Capitalist Excess in Underworld and Paul's Boutique

Although seemingly unrelated, the Beastie Boys album *Paul's Boutique* and Don DeLillo's novel *Underworld* explore similar ideas of consumption and bicultural experience. In my thesis, I consider the similarities in aesthetic production, namely the shared status as minor literature and the way DeLillo's treatment of waste mirrors the album's assembly of samples. I have been in love with sample-based production since I first heard *Paul's Boutique* as a freshman. After an American literature survey, I noticed that characteristics of contemporary literature also applied to the album.

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Maria Caponigro

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: John Schoenig

Putting School Choice to the Power Test

Early advocates for school choice argued that charter and voucher programs should be implemented to give more power to families. But in studying the effects of school choice on low-income U.S. families, I found the programs' effectiveness has only been measured in terms of academic outcomes. I examine the extent to which private and public choice policies increase families' power, according to Steven Lukes' three-dimensional view of power. I then use the same theory to evaluate experimental policies that could potentially fill the gaps preventing families from gaining power.

Received funding from the Institute for Educational Initiatives.

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Tara Carone

- Major: Psychology
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

Adolescent's Perceived Friendship and Emotional Security on Adjustment

Insecure representations of inter-parental relationships have been associated with adjustment problems in adolescents. As children enter adolescence, the parent-child relationship changes as peer groups becomes more important for socialization, identity development, and emotional experiences. My study investigates friendship attachment as a mediator in the relationship between representations of the parent-child relationship and the outcome of maladjustment in adolescents. I am interested in working with the Alliance for Catholic Education next year as a teacher, and I want to be aware of how much impact peer relationships can have on students' well-being or if negative relationships at home can be overcome to an extent.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Amanda Castañeda

- Major: Psychology
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Adviser: Karen Richman

Bilingual Education

Django Paris and H. Samy Alim propose a theory of culturally sustaining pedagogy that pushes for education incorporating the dynamic nature of youth culture, critical analysis of community practices, and an emphasis on sustaining the students' culture. Within this framework, I analyze the bilingual education component of the Georgia Project, a transnational education initiative, and whether bilingual education can be culturally sustaining for Latinx students. My first language is Spanish, and I have always considered my bilingualism valuable. But my experience with public education did not reflect this sentiment. I chose to research bilingual/cultural education because I want to advocate for more inclusive and culturally sustaining schooling.

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Jenn Cha

- Majors: American Studies and English
- Minor: Africana Studies
- Balfour-Hesburgh Scholar
- Adviser: Jason Ruiz

Not Your Model Minority: Asian-American Memoir in the 21st Century

My work examines how Asian-Americans discern identity through memoir, in direct conversation and dissonance with earlier narratives of disenfranchisement, such as the model minority myth. In doing so, they renegotiate family relationships, chart new sites of literary expression, explore intersectional activism, and theorize the increasingly globalized, multiracial, and transnational diaspora to come. Asian-American studies is a severely underrepresented field, and my research seeks to give a platform to Asian-Americans' decisive turn away from the model minority myth and to vouch for the need to include Asian-American studies in Notre Dame's academic structure.

Traveled to Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia, with funding from the Balfour-Hesburgh Scholars Program.

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Tegan Chesney

- Major: Psychology
- Supplementary Major: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Adviser: Gitta Lubke

The Government and Terrorism: An Exploration of Political Factors in Regions with Increasing Fatalities from Terrorist Attacks

Since the 1970s, there has been a substantial increase in the number of fatalities from terrorist attacks, most notably in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. I used several data sets to examine potential correlated factors within the government that may relate to the increase in fatalities in those three regions. As a psychology and ACMS major with a particular passion for finding ways of peace in places of conflict, I wanted to marry my interests and contribute to the growing body of literature on terrorism.

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Ethan Clendening

- Majors: Economics and Chinese
- Adviser: Christiane Baumeister

Abordando el Trilema: Analyzing the Monetary Policy Trilemma in Argentina, 1995–2008

I analyze how different Argentine governments have approached the monetary policy trilemma, which is an economic theory stating that a small, open economy cannot fully pursue a stable exchange rate, independent monetary policy, and open capital markets simultaneously. Ultimately, I plan to use this case study to determine general best practices regarding the trilemma. My interest in the Argentine economy was piqued while interning at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires during summer 2015, and I wanted to delve into the complex politico-economic rationale behind monetary policy decisions there.

Traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Margaret Collins

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Agustín Fuentes and Katy Walter Lichon

Classroom Versus Cultural Education: The Impact of English Language on the Educational and Vocational Opportunities in Isla Mujeres, Mexico

My project focuses on Isla Mujeres, Mexico, over a period of six weeks and aims to define and discuss the nuances of cultural and traditional education. Through this analysis, I show how these different approaches can impact English-language acquisition and future vocational opportunities for Isleños. After doing fieldwork previously on Isla Mujeres and noticing the frequency of youths in the workforce, I wondered whether this had any relationship to the quality and necessity of education.

Received funding from the Department of Anthropology to travel to Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

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Amanda Conklin

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Mary Flannery

Microfinance in Bolivia

I examine the history and economic implications of microfinance institutions on women in Bolivia — considered the hub for microfinance in Latin America. I am interested in microfinance and how it relates to women's empowerment because I spent a summer working in a rural Ugandan village for an organization called Women's Microfinance Initiative. On campus, I also work for JIFFI (Jubilee Initiative for Financial Inclusion) and am intrigued by the idea of financial inclusion as a way to alleviate poverty and empower society's vulnerable members.

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Dakota Connell-Ledwon

- Majors: English and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Joyelle McSweeney

Empty Air

Empty Air is a novel that explores how the themes of grief, death, and isolation are tied to those of humor, sex, and the supernatural. The project draws on a novella I wrote for Advanced Fiction Writing in the spring of my sophomore year. I have always loved storytelling, and I'm interested in experimenting with the form of the fairy tale.

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Jack Connors

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Patrick Deneen

The Political Philosophy of G.K. Chesterton

My thesis aims to bring together the various political works and commentaries of G.K. Chesterton into one coherent political philosophy. I argue not only that Chesterton has a comprehensive philosophy, but that it is of continued relevance in the modern political world. Chesterton has been a major source of my intellectual and personal development during college. This was a chance to explore more deeply the author who has had the biggest impact on my life and contribute to the understanding of an area I believe to be underexplored.

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Madeleine Cook

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Christopher Chowrimootoo

A Dance of Death and Apollo's Lyre: Stravinsky's Evolving Theatricality

Characterized by stories of violence and rioting, the premiere of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* has become a legendary symbol of the modern reaction to theatricality. Showcasing the excessive, the ballet accurately portrays Stravinsky's theatrical tendencies. However, his later work *Apollo* highlights a simplicity in direct contrast to the *Rite of Spring*. What, in the end, is Stravinsky's relationship with the theatrical aesthetic? I find the controversy surrounding the *Rite of Spring* fascinating, and since I am a violinist and former ballet dancer, a thesis involving music and ballet was a perfect fit.

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Emma Cooper

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

Autism Spectrum Disorder in Lao PDR: Determinants of Quality of Life Outcomes Post-Diagnosis

I conducted academic and field research in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the factors that improve quality of life for families after their child has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. I have always been interested in and engaged with programs concerning intellectual and development disabilities. Additionally, I am interested in how health and disability services contribute to the development of countries, especially countries that have not historically defined or diagnosed disabilities.

Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to travel to Lao PDR.

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James Corcoran

- Major: Theology
- Adviser: Margaret Pfeil

Living Humanly in the Fall: William Stringfellow's Theology of the Powers and the Idolatry of American Whiteness

Through a thorough analysis of contemporary scholarship on the Pauline powers, I studied the work of Episcopalian lay theologian, lawyer, and activist William Stringfellow. His writing provides a gateway into the white church's response to racism, discrimination, and inclusivity. Using his writings, I make a case that the understanding of whiteness in America is an idol that requires sacrifice, keeping people from living humanly in a sinful world. I am interested in the church's response to racism and discrimination, and Stringfellow has been a powerful conversation partner in my growing faith and struggle to live a good life.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ellen Coticchia

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

Protecting Paws

Protecting Paws is a campaign designed to educate and spread awareness about the extreme overpopulation of pets in America. To do this, Protecting Paws addresses how important it is to spay and neuter pets. The campaign uses a positive message of protecting animals in order to educate people on the terrible effects of not sterilizing your pet. I wanted my project to reflect my love of animals and my passion to help those in need.

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Brendan Coyne

- Major: Classics
- Adviser: Brian Krostenko

'Libertas apud Saevitiam': Examining the Political Ethic and Genre of Tacitus' Agricola

I examine the long-debated genre classification of a peculiar monograph from the early Roman Empire, Tacitus' *Agricola*. The question of genre classification leads to scholarly befuddlement at the work's intent and purpose. By closely examining the intricacies of one chapter, I arrive at a potential answer to these ambiguities. It began with an examination of the Roman idea of *Libertas*, the meaning of which widely differs from its English cognate, liberty. The concepts of freedom and liberty have taken on great importance to me as I witnessed the past election unfold, and a detailed study of similar topics in the Roman world has offered interesting insights.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

John Darr

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Nan Da

ARCHANGEL

ARCHANGEL is a cross-media project that pushes poetry into alien visual and sonic spaces void of emotion. It tackles the personal, political, and absurd under the guise of automatic, throw-away language. The male voice has always been expected to control emotion with a throttle-like grip. My poetry is choked in form so that it becomes freer in language and content, tackling family division, guilt linked to violence, discarded love, and trauma.

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Tommy Davis

- Majors: History and Biology
- Adviser: Evan Ragland

The Efficacy of Early Modern Medicine

My work looks into the nature of medical practice by housewives in 17th-century England and uses biochemical analysis to show that their medicine could be effective. More than that, however, it is about the women themselves, their understanding of their medicines, and their conceptions of health. This project is their history and the history of the recipe books they compiled, preserved, and passed on, which have survived to the modern day.

Received Nanovic Institute funding for his research.

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Nicole De Francisco

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Latin American Studies
- Adviser: Susan Pratt Rosato

What You Say and How You Say It Matters: Understanding Rafael Correa and Donald Trump's Populist Campaigns

I explore and develop a framework to analyze populist rhetoric used by presidential candidates. I compare and contrast the political rhetoric used by Rafael Correa during his 2006 Ecuadoran presidential campaign and the rhetoric used throughout Donald Trump's campaign in 2016. I have a keen interest in the impact and importance of rhetoric, especially that used by presidential candidates. It sets the tone of the election and allows one to comprehend voters' motivations.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Elizabeth DeLucia

- Majors: Psychology and Economics
- Adviser: Joshua Diehl

Quality of Life and Family Support for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

My thesis examines the relationship between quality of life and family support for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in group homes or supported living sites. I aim to determine whether individuals with greater perceived support report higher quality of life. This research question was inspired by a Summer Service Learning Program with the Center for Social Concerns, during which I worked at a residential facility for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization I worked with strongly encouraged family involvement, and I wondered what research would indicate about the potential benefits of family support.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Dana Deradoorian

- Majors: English and History
- Adviser: Timothy Machan

Poetry, Politics, and Pride: Understanding the Legacy of Halldór Laxness and Independent People

My thesis considers how 20th-century Icelandic author Halldór Laxness grapples with the Icelandic sagas in his novels, particularly *Independent People*. Further, I analyze how his paradoxical tone toward the sagas turns them into a shorthand for a broader understanding of Icelandic history and how the sagas have been used to shape a national identity. I have long had a passion for Icelandic literary culture, and I found in my thesis a compelling intersection between my majors. My research allowed me to uncover how, in this very literary-focused culture, key writings like the sagas can be twisted in different ways and for different political agendas.

Traveled to Iceland with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Daniel DeToro

- Majors: History and Economics
- Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics (FEE)
- Adviser: Paul Ocobock

Emergency Economics

I am studying the economic incentives for the British Empire to conduct counterinsurgency operations in Malaya and Kenya in the context of the decline of British hegemony and capitalism and imperialism. Having studied abroad in London, I am fascinated by the British Empire. The Malayan Emergency and Mau Mau Uprising were both important chapters in the history of the end of the British Empire and were economically important, making them prime areas to research.

Traveled to London with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Nanovic Institute.

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Cassandra Dinaro

- Majors: English and Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisers: Peter Holland and Steve Fallon

Performing Women in The Winter's Tale

My thesis explores the way that productions of *The Winter's Tale* since 1912 have portrayed their female protagonists. By examining acting choices, technical design, theatrical reviews, and performers' writing, I consider whether various productions can be labeled "feminist." I also argue for the importance of considering feminist contexts in production. In spring 2016, I studied abroad in London. Four months of frequent trips to the Globe Theatre and a reader's pass at the British Library reminded me of how much I love Shakespeare. *The Winter's Tale* is a wonderfully frustrating example of some of his best art because of its gorgeous, but obscure, language and its surprising turns. In some ways, it's a great puzzle.

Traveled to London and Stratford-upon-Avon with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

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Stephen DiScenna

- Majors: Italian and Neuroscience and Behavior
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kathy Eberhard

Memory of Actions Described by Sentences in Speakers' First and Second Languages

Certain languages are verb-framed, while others are subject-framed. The format can affect how speakers express motion in their language. I am exploring how Italians may express and remember motion sentences differently than English speakers. I chose this topic because I wanted to include both of my majors in my thesis.

Conducted research in Rome through the Rome International Scholars Program.

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Brianna Dombo

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Chinese
- Adviser: Andre Murnieks

Plus: Empowering Teachers to Teach Creatively

Plus is a web tool for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in grades 4–6 to incorporate the arts into their curricula. Arts integration is an approach where students demonstrate understanding by engaging in creative processes, connecting the arts to subjects like science and math. Despite the benefits of an arts-based education, many teachers need empowerment to teach creatively. Grounded in inquiry-based problem solving and “what if” thinking, arts integration liberates risk taking and draws upon students’ knowledge to strategize and imagine new solutions. It prepares students for life in the 21st century, where the demand for creative problem solving has escalated.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Luke Donahue

- Majors: Theology and German
- Minor: Medieval Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Sr. Ann Astell and C.J. Jones

Writing of Paradise: The Marian Prayers Composed by the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of the Pütrich Regelhaus Found in Cgm 4484 and Their Historical Context

My thesis examines eight sets of prayers to Mary extant exclusively in one late medieval German manuscript, Cgm 4484. The first portion of my thesis investigates the manuscript, focusing on the community in which it was found and the reform movement that impacted the cloister's life. The second includes my own transcriptions and translations of the prayers, as well as annotations in which I investigate the various strains of piety the prayers demonstrate. Many manuscripts have not been investigated any further than basic cataloging, and I was determined to help fill this intellectual gap.

Traveled to Munich, Germany, with funding from the Nanovic Institute and the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kathleen Dooley

- Major: Environmental Psychology
- Advisers: Anré Venter and Lucien Steil

How Physical Structures Create Metaphysical Barriers Between People

Can we design a world which encourages or, dare I say, forces increased human interaction? In a society of decreasing physical connection, how do we as designers introduce previously stratified peoples? I ask, "Is there value in simply putting people face-to-face? Can we build intimacy? Can we design unity?" For my thesis, I built benches, one normal and one skewed, with which I conduct a social experiment to see how people interact. This project allowed me to study how to design using multidimensional social research to improve social health. I believe all fields of study should be interdisciplinary, and that we must consider human health, interaction, and happiness in our intellectual pursuits.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Gregory Eagan

- Majors: Arabic and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

The Mood of Entrapment in Joyce's Dubliners

This essay examines the relationship between physical spaces and the treatment of characters' psyches within James Joyce's *Dubliners*, a collection of 15 short stories. The colonial setting of these stories creates a mood of entrapment that intensifies the existing problematic human condition of the mind being trapped in the body.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kathleen Egan

- Major: Anthropology (Honors)
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

The Diagnostic Journeys of Cluster Headache Sufferers

I analyze the diagnostic journeys of cluster-headache sufferers through a combination of interviews with patients and diagnostic case-study surveys sent to physicians. The themes in my thesis are the association of patient research with diagnostic accuracy, diagnostic delay based on sex differences, and the diagnostic accuracy of physicians through case studies versus real-life patient experiences. After experiencing a long diagnostic delay of cluster headaches myself, I hoped to find out why they are so often misdiagnosed. I presented my thesis this spring in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the Society for Applied Anthropology meeting.

Received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to travel to New Mexico to present her research at a conference.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Elizabeth Escobar

- Major: Sociology (Honors)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Jessica Collett

Domestic Violence Services in the Great Recession

I aim to determine how systematic economic stressors on the state level influence the number of women requesting services at domestic violence shelters throughout the U.S. and if shelters were able to meet this need preceding, during, and following the Great Recession. I compare data from the National Census of Domestic Violence Services to measures of economic conditions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Census through fixed-effect regression analyses. There is limited research examining the effects of the Great Recession on intimate partner violence, and few researchers have begun to determine how the recession impacted domestic violence services.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Xitlaly Estrada

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Adviser: Ricardo Ramírez

Continuity & Change: Analyzing Latino Mobilizing Patterns in the 2016 Election

By analyzing patterns of political engagement and mobilization in the Latino community, I hope to clarify and demystify the rhetoric around the Latino polity. We are not the sleeping giant, and despite many saying the contrary, our vote does matter. I hope to encourage both parties to present a more meaningful political integration of Latinos and move past symbolic pandering. As a Mexican-American, I hope to shed light on our power, politically, financially, and communally, after an election that was very painful for many. This is an ode to my community — a reminder that despite a political climate that is increasingly hostile to our existence, we will persist and resist.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Dearbhla Fay

- Majors: History and German
- Adviser: John Deak

Roger Casement, The 1916 Rising, and the Creation of an Irish Historical Myth

I am writing about Roger Casement's role in the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland and how he has come to be seen as an Irish nationalist hero. I examine the historiography of the 1916 Rising and focus on the time Casement spent in Germany at the height of World War I. I've always been interested in Ireland's role in World War I. More than 200,000 Irish men fought for the British armed forces, and until three years ago, Ireland's role was deliberately ignored in favor of the 1916 Rising. I investigate how this history became essentially clandestine in Ireland over the past century.

Traveled to Berlin with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Alexa Fedynsky

- Majors: Anthropology, French, and Spanish
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Alison Rice

Expressions of Art after Violence

Looking at Ukraine following the Maidan Revolution and France after the attacks at *Charlie Hebdo* and in November 2015, I am comparing art left behind by survivors. Examining graffiti, slogans, songs, and hashtags, I analyze what trends appear in these artistic expressions following violent conflicts. Growing up Ukrainian-American and studying languages, I wanted to focus on an international topic. I also love examining the intersection of culture and politics.

Conducted research in Paris and Nice, France, with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Madeline Felts

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Daniel Philpott

Benvenuti tra gli ultimi e benvenuti tra i primi tra i molti: The People's Pope in Politics

Challenging the once widely held prediction that religion would decline and disappear from public life, Pope Francis operates from a distinct, significant religious sphere of influence. I analyze his involvement in Europe's immigration crisis as a case study to highlight his powerful role in global politics. After a semester in Rome and a summer studying migration policy in Greece, I was fascinated by the relationship between religion and politics embodied by Pope Francis. In one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the modern era, Pope Francis has the opportunity to transcend divisive politics and serve as a moral leader, promoting universal human dignity in an increasingly fragmented world.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Dan Feng

- Majors: Political Science and Economics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: A. James McAdams

Face of the Enemy: A Comparison Study of American versus Chinese Media Coverage on Terrorist Attacks

A terrorist attack, given its unpredictable nature and its humiliating effect on public security, spreads fear among the targeted population as a contingency. My thesis explores how Chinese and U.S. television news outlets portray the terrorist attacks in their respective countries. Are the coverages different? If so, why? If not, what is similar on a deeper level between the two countries' media, political systems, and national agenda? In my junior year, I interned with CBS News and China Central Television in Washington, D.C. The experience gave me a more realistic and practical perspective on the values and constraints faced by the media.

Traveled to Beijing and Washington, D.C., with funding from the Kellogg Institute, Liu Institute, and First Year of Studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Yuan Feng

- Majors: English and Accounting
- Adviser: John Duffy

The Conversion — Exploring the Link Between Language and Perception

My novella explores how language shapes perception, identity, and culture. In the story, a protest against racial inequality takes over America and evolves into a revolution. In the end, in the name of love, the revolution leader implements “The Conversion.” Writing fiction on language and cultural displacement enables me to picture the surprises my own future may bring. My increasing bilingual ability has made Chinese culture a distant longing, and it takes the words of poet T.S. Eliot to illustrate my feelings toward China — “We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease here.” I empathize with both cultures, yet belong to neither.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Diego Fernandez del Castillo

- Major: Finance
- Minor: Latin American Studies
- Adviser: Guillermo Trejo

Democratic Health in Mexico

My project identifies five major problems impeding Mexico from obtaining a healthy democracy. These problems are the democratic institutions set in place by the constitution; the suppression of free speech, particularly regarding journalists; the corruption of elected officials; the corruption of the military and law enforcement; and the stronghold of the powerful drug cartels. Although I grew up in the United States, all of my extended family lives in Mexico, and I have been fortunate enough to visit them regularly. Because my family has been personally affected by the violent situation in Mexico, I wanted to explore this topic further.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Emily Fisher

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Terence McDonnell

“However I Could Navigate”: Parental Advocacy for the Health Care of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

I researched how parents navigate the medical institution on behalf of children with autism spectrum disorder. Interviews with parents in South Bend revealed the need for parental advocacy to obtain effective care for their children. This apparent necessity highlights potential health care inequalities for children with ASD, predicated on parental resources and ability. My thesis reflects my passion for working with children with special needs, a population I intend to work alongside and learn about throughout my career in health care. Working as a client aide for a young adult with ASD inspired me to study local families' struggles with health care access.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Daniel Fitzgerald

- Majors: Economics and Mathematics
- Adviser: William Evans

City and Peer Effects in NFL Players

The NFL draft is a functionally random assignment of players to cities. Using *USA Today's* NFL Arrest Database, I analyze how the variation in crime rates within cities and among teams affects the crime rates of newly drafted players. After working at the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities, I became interested in random assignment and how it can be used in economics. The NFL draft was a cool opportunity to study something I enjoy while exploiting a common technique in economic research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Celanire Flagg

- Majors: Gender Studies and Management Consulting
- Adviser: Pamela Butler

The Politics of Incarceration and its Effect on Motherhood

I look at how incarceration and the policies associated with it affect a woman's ability to be a mother. My paper follows mothers' journeys from their lives pre-incarceration to mothering while incarcerated and upon release. The prison system is separating more and more families and putting more children in the foster care system. But for what? The majority of women — two-thirds of those incarcerated — are in prison for nonviolent offenses. I raise the question of whether the current system is really the most efficient way of punishing some people.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Fleckenstein

- Majors: History and Finance
- Adviser: James Lundberg

Confederate Financial Policies: Prolonging the War Effort Despite Overwhelming Odds

The current narrative condemns Confederate policy as backwards and responsible for the economic collapse. When the parameters of Southern opinion and tradition are considered, however, Confederate financial policies are justifiable; they prolonged the war effort as long as possible despite a lack of resources and a weak central government. My passion for history began with the study of the Civil War in elementary school. When I decided to write a senior thesis, I wanted to return to the topic and incorporate both my majors.

Received funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to travel to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Erin Foldesi

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Industrial Design
- Adviser: Scott Shim

Designing an SCBA for Female Firefighters

Personal protective equipment has historically been designed for a male end user. For women entering traditionally male-dominated fields, this equipment can be not only uncomfortable but also dangerous. I chose to focus on the SCBA, or air tank. Since all firefighters use this piece of equipment, I wanted to design something that works for men and women. Firefighting is a strongly male-dominated field, with a large variety of technical equipment and a lot of misconceptions about what women can or cannot do based on strength. The equipment women use in the field should work with their bodies to make their job easier, not harder.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design for her work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



John Fox

- Major: Chinese
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Lionel Jensen

Personality Cult in China

I examine the “Cult of Mao” to provide historical context to personality cult’s manifestations. I also trace contemporary developments under the regime of Xi Jinping to help answer the question, “Is Xi attempting to build a personality cult?” Since assuming power in late 2012, Xi Jinping has emerged as one of the most dynamic, powerful paramount leaders in decades, during a time of perceived transition in China. The concentration of power and conservative turn during his administration are concerning, particularly to Western observers. There is a potential for personality cult, and its reemergence, however unlikely, would be a significant influence on China’s future.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Fracci

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minors: Poverty Studies and International Development Studies
- Advisers: Sara Sievers, Siyuan Zhang, and Noleb Mugisha

Role of Accompaniment on the Reduction of Stigmatization and the Renewal of Dignity in Women Battling Breast Cancer in Uganda

I investigate how relationships can help reduce the stigmatization of breast cancer and renew dignity in the lives of patients in Uganda. My findings will help hospital administrators improve their counseling departments in order to meet patients' needs. I lost my grandmother to breast cancer, and I have been involved in breast cancer research in and outside the lab since then. It is my mission in life to uncover resources and solutions for two vulnerable populations — the sick and the impoverished.

Traveled to Kampala, Uganda, with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Harper Cancer Research Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ann Gallagher

- Majors: Classics and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Hildegund Müller

Qui Profert Nova et Vetera: A Commentary on the Carmen de Iona and its Place in the Biblical Epic Tradition

My thesis translates and comments on the Latin biblical epic *Carmen de Iona*. An unfinished rendition of the story of Jonah and the whale, the poem allowed me to undertake an original translation, study the interactions between Christian and classical pagan poetry, and perform hands-on work in paleography, philology, and textual editing. I spent last summer in Monteverdi, Italy, researching what early Christians thought about great pagan poetry, how they justified studying texts like Vergil's, and what led Christians to write poems, like the *Carmen de Iona*, in imitation of pagan epic poetry. I also traveled to Rome, Florence, and Siena, where Christian artwork and architecture demonstrate the integration of pagan antiquity with Christianity.

Received the Monteverdi Prize from the Program of Liberal Studies to research in Italy.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Louise Gallagher

- Majors: Anthropology and Art History
- Advisers: Maurizio Albahari and Elyse Speaks

The Politics of Gender and Identity as Expressed in the Work of Shirin Neshat

My thesis focuses on Shirin Neshat, a contemporary multimedia artist and how she depicts the experience and identity of Muslim women. I analyze her first and last photographic series in order to determine how her conception and representation of Muslim women has evolved over time. I find Neshat's images and subject matter very provocative and engaging, yet somehow confusing, and I wanted to better understand the questions about gender and identity politics she poses in her work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Galo

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Olivier Morel

Presidential Campaigns, Candidates, and the Press Corps: How Media and Campaign Relations Have Evolved in the Age of Trump

Since the election of 2000 — the famous dimples and chads — the media has played an outsized role in presidential campaigns and candidates. My research explores the relationship between the candidates, their campaigns, and the campaign press corps, and what that means in the era of President Donald Trump. As an aspiring political staffer, presidential campaigns have always fascinated me; the botched election-night coverage of 2000 only piqued my interest more. Now, with Trump as our new president, the relationship between the media and presidential campaigns has changed dramatically, and it is directly related to the future of our democratic process.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Rachel Ganson

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Italian and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Emilia Justyna Powell

Teaching Men to Fish: International Law and Inter-State Cooperation in Mediterranean Fisheries

I use the Mediterranean — one of the most overfished areas in the world — as a case study to better understand the barriers to inter-state cooperation and the efficacy of international law in overcoming such obstacles. My thesis presents theories on maritime cooperation and common-pool resource governance, evaluates the success of current Mediterranean fishery policies, and analyzes the prospects of effectively reducing overfishing in the Mediterranean. In my first year, I became aware of the dire state of global fisheries and the devastating environmental consequences resulting from mismanagement and non-cooperation. This case presented a unique opportunity to address a challenging and critical global issue.

Traveled to Italy and Spain with funding from the Nanovic Institute, the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, and the Rome International Scholars Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kendall Gaspari

- Majors: Spanish and Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

Comparing Two Subjective Theories of Personal Uniqueness

I am testing a hypothesis that the relationship between parental control and individuation is moderated by a sense of personal uniqueness. There are two ways of thinking about personal uniqueness in psychological literature. One camp thinks of it as an indicator of authentic self-actualization, a contribution to positive psychology, while the other understands personal uniqueness as a construct related to the developmental challenge of separation-individuation. This is the first direct comparison of these perspectives. Through this research, I hope to gain a better understanding of how parenting affects the outcomes of individuation and how personal uniqueness can help or hinder this process.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Shannon Gaylord

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Nicole McNeil

Gender Differences in the Types of Counting Books that Parents Use with Girls versus Boys

Parents' beliefs about the respective math abilities of boys and girls can impact their daily decisions and interactions with their children. My thesis examines the counting books parents choose to read with their children and whether there are differences, such as narrative or tactile differences, based on gender. My experiences working in the Cognition Learning and Development Lab for the last three years inspired my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Katherine Girdhar

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Science, Technology, and Values (STV)
- Adviser: Nan Da

The Leech in Literature: The Scarlet Letter and Sovereignty Politics Exposed by the Physician Character in 19th-Century American Literature

My thesis focuses on physician characters in 19th-century American literature — encompassing the interplay between literature of the age and historic realities that affect the reception of those works. In particular, this requires understanding how physician characters negotiate boundaries of national sovereignty and personal autonomy as they bridge the gap between authorities and citizens, especially in a space as delicate as human health care. I first stumbled upon this idea while studying *The Scarlet Letter*, in which Roger Chillingworth is identified as a doctor. Chillingworth pursues few traditional actions associated with a physician, but the label carries outsized importance in defining him.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Grace Goins

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

A Multicultural Response to Immigrant Students and Families in the South Bend School District

I assess the bilingual services available to immigrant groups in South Bend and whether students and their families feel welcome, comfortable, and understood in their schools and the community. I have worked with migrants in Greece and found that there is more to making a school welcoming than bilingual classrooms. It is important for schools to have the tools and resources to welcome all students, and a multicultural education is beneficial for everyone. It is my goal to give voice to often-ignored populations and give the South Bend Community School Corporation a better idea of the families they are reaching and any improvements that can be made.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Grazzini

- Majors: Economics and Finance
- Adviser: Eric Sims

The Economic Effects of Sports Franchises Leaving Cities

I observe employment data from the past 40 years and look for instances where sports teams have left cities — and I attempt to isolate the effect that those teams have had on local employment. My analysis gives local policymakers information to use when considering whether to fight to keep their team. Over the past two years, both the former St. Louis Rams and San Diego Chargers have absconded to different cities. Given my love of sports and the attachment I have to my hometown teams, I sympathize with fellow sports fans and look to explain with data the tangible effects these franchises have on their communities.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Allie Griffith

- Majors: English and American Studies
- Adviser: Roy Scranton

Home of the Brave

What does it mean to be brave in today's America? My thesis is a written collage of short stories, poems, and flash fiction that grapples with this question. I attempt to reveal the gap between proud, patriotic rhetoric and a darker reality of an anxious, fearful America. Through fiction, I explore how those who call America home now redefine what bravery means in the American context. Fragmented and anxious, America now is not the same America I knew as a freshman in 2013. What better time to write about the peculiarities and anxieties of our nation than in 2017?

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Rachel Grinbergs

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Andre Murnieks

Hub: Reimagining the Online College Student Experience

Hub is an online and mobile tool that integrates functions of academic and student life into a holistic system for college students. In addition to helping them take control of their education, it assists students in building a portfolio that prepares them for success as competitive job candidates in their chosen fields. I have experience with the pitfalls that arise from systems that, though powerful and useful, are managed separately and not intuitively designed. I knew I could respond to these issues and create an intuitive, streamlined platform that empowered students to optimize their college experiences.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Laura Gruszka

- Majors: English and Music (Percussion Performance)
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Adviser: Orlando Menes

The Goddess and the Girl

My thesis is a portion of a novel written in the fantasy genre. It follows Sina, the goddess of darkness, who falls from the Divine Realm and must somehow regain her lost powers. Creative writing is my passion. In writing my thesis, I wanted to approach a trope-heavy genre with the intention of subverting tropes, especially those of race, gender, sexuality, and language. In all popular fantasy, light equals good and dark equals bad. My thesis intends to challenge that.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Guido Guerra

- Majors: Italian and History
- Minors: Art History and Philosophy
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Alberti and Thoreau: Commonalities Across Continents

In the works of the great humanist Leon Battista Alberti, there is an underlying philosophy of nature, which functions through art and thought to intimately link the thinker-observer with their nature. In the works of Henry David Thoreau, particularly *Walden*, there is a similar relationship. These visions are linked by their strongly Neoplatonic roots, the singularity of their protagonists, and the unified, singular pervasiveness of their "nature." In a graduate course, I noted that Alberti referred to nature as "god" (*iddio*), and I realized there are numerous parallels between how he and Thoreau thought of themselves in relation to nature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Virginia Guibert

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Blessed are the Best Minds: Beat Spirituality in Ginsberg's "Howl"

I trace Allen Ginsberg's use of religious imagery in the poem "Howl" to analyze the ways in which each of the four parts communicate an understanding of the term "beat." I argue that the poem is, at its heart, redemptive and hopeful. I have been fascinated by Ginsberg's poetry for years. I chose to focus on the spiritual elements of the poem due to my interest in the interplay between religion and literature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kate Hardiman

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Adviser: John Schoenig

School Choice and Human Dignity

My thesis examines the Indiana voucher program's impact on low-income parents. I conclude that these programs enable equality of opportunity and freedom of religion for all parents, regardless of income, and therefore are valuable. I am passionate about education policy and eventually hope to work in this area as either a litigator who defends school-choice programs or a policymaker. I also hope to teach in the Alliance for Catholic Education program after graduation, and many schools in which ACE serves have been greatly assisted by these programs.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Mary Kate Healey

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Adviser: Sarah Martin

Stitches

There is a long history of women using traditional “domestic” craft in politics. From knitting socks for soldiers to embroidering their bell-bottoms to, recently, knitting hot pink hats with cat ears, needle art and other traditional “women’s” craft forms have been used to create dialogue. This piece captures the stories of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students who have experienced sexual violence to show the stories behind these crimes. For many survivors, these assaults go unreported or even unspoken. This project allows survivors to share their stories in a way that is completely anonymous and deeply intimate.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design for her work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Laura Heiman

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

Emotional Insecurity as a Mediator in the Relationship Between Marital Conflict and Child Anxiety

My thesis investigates the role of emotional security — how secure adolescents feel in their families — and the outcome of anxiety in light of marital conflict. I examine how emotional security within the family might help mediate the negative influence of high levels of marital conflict that could result in increased levels of anxiety. I am interested in the influence that families have on an adolescent's adjustment and how to find approaches that will optimize an adolescent's development.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Hennessy

- Major: Anthropology
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Trajectory of Marxist Anthropology

My thesis covers the historic development of Marxism in ethnography and broader anthropological analysis. I examine current scholarship at Notre Dame that uses dialectical and historical materialist approaches, along with projections of how and where these types of analyses could be applied with beneficial results. I have had an interest in Marxism for a few years, and more recently, I became invested in its application to ethnography and the unique perspectives it provides. Considering recent global and national developments, it was a pertinent topic to study.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Mary Hermann

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT)
- Adviser: Gabriel Radvansky

Effect of Music on Reading Comprehension and Recall

I examine the effect of different noise conditions on a person's memory for learned material. Participants read a few nonfiction articles under one of four noise conditions and were then asked to answer questions on the read material in order to examine how memory was impacted by the noise condition. This topic is extremely relevant in modern education, and previous research did not accurately represent the study environment. The literature is not generalizable to the type of studying most students do, so the results could not be extended. I adapted the methodology to make my findings more relevant.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Caitlin Hodges

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Sustainability
- Advisers: Erika Doss, Danielle Wood, and Rachel Novick

American Carnage: Unpacking the Rhetoric of “America’s Dying Cities”

As the consequences of deindustrialization are continually manifested, politicians and commentators have equated a shrinking population density with a city’s “death.” My thesis investigates the use of terms such as dying, decay, and body to explain shifting urban conditions in post-industrial cities, as well as the implications of these diagnoses. A 2011 *Newsweek* article labeled South Bend as one of “America’s Dying Cities.” Residents’ reactions to this label remain complex, and some municipal officials continue to use this report to justify local policy decisions. My thesis allowed me to use my interdisciplinary skill set to explore a community I care about in a new way.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Moira Horn

- Major: Gender Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

Los Niños Cuestan Mucho: Maternal Identity and Wellbeing in the Sierra Madre of Chiapas, Mexico

My thesis looks at the impact of social welfare and health care policies on maternal health and identity construction in the Sierra Madre mountain region of Chiapas, Mexico. The narratives of young mothers illuminate the impacts of the body politic of the state, obstetric violence, and gendered constructions of motherhood on individual mothers' identities and wellbeing. During a semester abroad in Puebla, Mexico, I shadowed physicians in obstetrics and gynecology. This ignited my interest in how socially constructed norms of motherhood and womanhood in Mexico manifest in the doctor-patient relationship and the care women receive.

Traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Gender Studies Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



C.J. Humes

- Major: Environmental Sciences
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

Social Determinants of Clean Water Access: Use of Waterguard in Fort Portal, Western Uganda

I examined the social determinants of Waterguard use during and after a randomized control trial. The RCT compared the effectiveness of local government and religious leaders promoting Waterguard across 184 villages in Western Uganda from October 2013 through December 2014. I conducted interviews 18 months after intervention to understand villagers' experiences and perspectives. From these interviews, I investigated whether demand for Waterguard was established and whether it has persisted. I am passionate about the environment and public health, particularly local solutions that increase clean water access and reduce the prevalence of water-borne diseases.

Traveled to Fort Portal, Uganda, with funding from the Kellogg Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Mary Humphrey

- Majors: English and Mathematics
- Concentration in Creative Writing (Honors)
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Valerie Sayers

Wings: The Novel

In a world where people with wings are scorned, young orphan Elias is ostracized for his golden, red-tipped plumage. As he bounces from home to traveling circus, he discovers the immense hope that kindness provides and the shattering agony of misplaced trust. Eventually, Elias must face the tension between freedom of expression and self-acceptance. The struggle between who you are to yourself, who you are to the world, and who you might become, is increasingly relevant today. We see Elias's treatment and loneliness, and it leaves a bitter taste in our mouths. But it may be more difficult to recognize that same mistreatment in our world.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Molly Iott

- Majors: Anthropology and History
- Adviser: Donna Glowacki

Pottery Production at Cowboy Wash Pueblo

I have been working under the guidance of Donna Glowacki on analyses of 800-year-old pottery excavated at Cowboy Wash Pueblo in Colorado. My thesis primarily draws upon the paint and design-element data collected. While working on the project, I became fascinated by the intricate artwork on the pottery, and I was inspired to explore it further.

Received funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to travel to Vancouver, Canada, to present research at the Society of American Archeology annual meeting.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Nick Jeffers

- Majors: English and Accounting
- Adviser: Stephen Fredman

The Nature and Consequence of Ezra Pound's "Conservatism"

My thesis is an exploration of the connection between Ezra Pound's political philosophy and his anti-Semitism. I chose it because of my interest in Modernist poetry.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Peter Jensen

- Majors: History (Honors) and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Ted Beatty

Economic Development in the Sultanate of Oman, 1959–1980

My project explores the economic development of the Sultanate of Oman as the country endured a coup, a civil war, and the sudden discovery of several billion barrels of oil. Using records from the British National Archives, I address themes of development and decolonization in the Persian Gulf region. I am fascinated with decolonization and its economic effects on former subject nations. Oman is a unique case, as it was never under direct control but was very much affected by the British Empire in the Middle East.

Conducted research in London with funding from the Kennedy Family Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Evan Joyce

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Dianne Pinderhughes

A Brutally Dark Time: An Illustration of Police Brutality of African-Americans in the United States

In a broad sense, my research shows that African-Americans are disproportionately killed by police officers each year in this country. I provide a statistical analysis, historical context, and policy proposals related to the problem. Over the past five years, I have become increasingly concerned about the issue. I have many African-American friends, and I feel their frustration as they watch news stories and videos of African-Americans falling victim to police violence. I was moved to research the problem and propose what I believe are effective solutions to this polarizing issue.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sreeraahul Kancherla

- Majors: Economics and Mathematics (Honors)
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: James Sullivan

Distributional Consumption Smoothing Effects of Unemployment Insurance

While positive average effects of unemployment insurance are well documented, there is significant heterogeneity in workers' consumption losses. As a result, these estimates perhaps miss UI's distributional impacts. I thus apply quantile regression methods to better estimate UI's impacts for workers with high consumption losses. Since UI is intended to mitigate consumption loss from unemployment, my work effectively analyzes UI's success. I wanted to apply my mathematics and programming background to my research interests in labor and public economics. By leveraging my skills toward the statistical and data requirements, I hope to better understand a salient and worthwhile question: What are the benefits of unemployment insurance?

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



James Kane

- Major: American Studies
- Adviser: Erika Doss

Framing the "Other": The Politics of Figurative Representation in American Photography

This thesis analyzes three American photographers — Richard Avedon, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Renee Cox — and how they approached photographing the "other" in American society. My argument looks at depictions of masculinity and the American worker (Avedon), homosexuality (Mapplethorpe), and race and religion (Cox) and how each artist subverted the canon surrounding the body in these categories. As a photographer, I am interested in the nuances of representation. Hopefully, this thesis will serve as a catalyst for discussion on the importance of figurative representation in American photography and society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Ryan Kearney

- Majors: Political Science and Finance
- Adviser: Amitava Dutt

Betting the House: Tracing the Relationship Between Public Policy and Personal Financial Uncertainty Faced by Mortgagors

One's home is supposed to be the epitome of economic stability. As such, public policy since the New Deal has focused on assisting individuals on the fringe of the "Ownership Society." My project analyzes the causes of the uniquely American affinity for homeownership and asserts that 20th-century public policy actually exacerbated mortgagors' financial uncertainty by encouraging excessively leveraged home purchases and contributing to home-price volatility. I chose this project because my family experienced fallout from the housing crisis. Fortunately, my family chose not to purchase a home in this environment, unlike many Americans who stretched unwisely to pursue an asset that ultimately destroyed their financial security.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Daniel Kendall

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Erin McDonnell

Assessing the Sociocultural Determinants of Medical Brain Drain in Kampala, Uganda

Sub-Saharan Africa currently bears 24% of the global disease burden, yet is home to just 3% of the global health workforce. Despite this crippling burden, nearly 45% of graduating physicians in Uganda plan to emigrate upon graduation. Through in-depth interviews with medical students at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, I attempt to elucidate the complex factors that affect their emigration decisions. While past research points to low pay and high overburden on health professionals as the impetus of the brain drain, my project identifies sociocultural factors that influence emigration in order to uncover potential solutions.

Traveled to Kampala, Uganda, with funding from the Kellogg Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kathryn Keough

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisers: Laura Miller-Graff and Thomas Merluzzi

Effects of Maternal Interpersonal Trauma Exposure on Mother-Child Interaction

I explore how maternal exposure to interpersonal trauma over a lifetime affects mother-child interaction and how maternal resilience may mitigate the negative effects of that trauma. I collected data from interviews with a diverse sample of pregnant women and videos of structured parent-child play. I chose this topic after working in the Building Resilience After Violence Exposure Lab on the BRAVE Young Families project, where I transcribe and code recorded mother-child play.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Khan

- Major: Science
Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: International
Development Studies
- Adviser: Amy Langenkamp

Understanding Maternal Knowledge in a Guatemalan Nutrition Program

I observed and interviewed mothers at a maternal education program focused on nutrition at Casa Jackson in Antigua, Guatemala. I assessed the effectiveness of interventions and education and provided suggestions for possible improvements. My findings are encouraging and show that a program like Casa Jackson's is capable of improving maternal knowledge. I chose this topic because the level of malnutrition in Guatemala is high — even with the amount of fresh produce available in local markets. Casa Jackson allowed me to look at malnutrition through a mother's eyes, as well as through the eyes of health professionals.

Traveled to Guatemala with a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ji Yeon Kim

- Majors: Political Science and Economics
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

How Does a Country's Underlying Political Philosophies Impact the Equity and Quality of its Early Childhood Education Programs?

My thesis compares the political structures and philosophies of Finland, Germany, and the U.S. to determine if equity and opportunity are products of social norms. I follow the history of U.S. public education and how it led to the current policy landscape, then detail my interviews with public preschool administrators in Helsinki and Berlin. U.S. federal policymakers have long used America's geography, size, and decentralized education system as an excuse to not directly intervene in providing quality education to all students. Differences in citizen attitudes, however, create starkly contrasting environments for social policy. This led me to take a closer look at the universal preschool systems in Finland and Germany.

Traveled to Helsinki and Berlin with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarang Kim

- Majors: English and Accounting
- Concentration in Creative Writing (Honors)
- Adviser: Joyelle McSweeney

Mother and Me Do Gurlisque

My project is a tribute to female poetics that emphasizes a birth, death, and rebirth of "Mother," who is loving, perverted, weak, abusive, pitiful, contagious, and sacrificing through a child-like voice. My poems plunge readers into a suspended, self-encased, warped world littered with grotesque sea imagery that will clog them with conflicting emotions they never thought they'd feel by reading poetry. Welcome to Wonderland, Alice. I have been influenced by many female poets who have carved out a poetic space that society would not define as "feminine" or, perhaps, "lady-like," including Kim Hyesoon, Sylvia Plath, Chelsea Minnis, and Cynthia Cruz.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Ashley Knipp

- Majors: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT) and Accounting
- Adviser: Susan Ohmer

The Evolution of Immersive Spaces at Disney Parks

Walt Disney repeatedly claimed, "Disneyland will never be finished," foreshadowing the cycle of evolution that Disney Parks have experienced since 1955. My project identifies the significance of the parks' immersive environment and attractions, analyzes Walt Disney World's renovations for New Fantasyland in 2007, and compares Disney's latest park, Shanghai Disneyland, to the first domestic parks. My favorite part of Disney World is feeling like I'm walking through my favorite movies, and I wanted to delve into the importance of immersive spaces. The parks' evolution also offers insight into cultural differences over time and around the globe.

Received funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to travel to Shanghai Disney.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Koerwer

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Medieval Studies
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

Forget Me Not: Archives, Museums, Memory, and Nostalgia

My thesis explores the topic of memory as presented in archives and museums. Both institutions create environments in which things of the past can be remembered. I argue that while archives and museums are mnemotechnics, they do not necessarily speak of the past but rather an idealized past that is entrenched in nostalgia. After a summer internship in Hesburgh Library's Rare Books and Special Collections, the concept of archives intrigued me. I wanted to explore them as a materialization of memory, which led me to questions about why people collect things and the driving force behind the societal memory found in archives and museums.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Steven Kos

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Adviser: Walter Nicgorski

Recovering a Democratic Republic: Wisdom and Consent in the Political Thought of Thomas Jefferson and Leo Strauss

I explore the democratic theories of Thomas Jefferson and Leo Strauss, particularly the surprising similarities in their conceptions of democracy. I became interested in the topic while doing directed readings with Professor Nicgorski during my junior year.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Marissa Koscielski

- Major: Mathematics
- Advisers: Michelle Wirth and Cindy Bergeman

The Longitudinal Magnitude of Stress Dissipation as a Predictor of Pathophysiological Mechanisms

Physiological health will suffer under chronic psychological stress. However, if a person can allocate resources to dissipate stress, the physiological consequences are anticipated to be less severe. I study this relationship over a five-year timespan and analyze the physiological interdependence of these mechanisms using SEM. I use additional statistical analysis to evaluate the change in stress dissipation over time as a predictor of pathophysiological outcomes. Stress is becoming a public health crisis, and little research has explored this relationship. My thesis is an opportunity to analyze a relatively new subset of stress-related research and builds on my work as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Psychology's Emotion & Stress Physiology Laboratory.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Clare Kossler

- Major: History
- Supplementary Major: Mathematics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Rory Rapple

Spies of the Spanish Armada: The 1588 Campaign

My thesis explores the use of espionage during the Armada Campaign of 1588, a naval operation in which a fleet of 130 ships sailed from Spain intending to invade England. My research grapples with what constituted espionage in the campaign, what role it played, how and why it was pursued and by whom. After a semester abroad in Spain, I wanted to explore early modern Spanish history. My previous coursework on Tudor England made the Spanish Armada — an intersection of Spanish and English history — the clear choice. Plus, I'm fascinated by spies.

Traveled to Simancas, Spain, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Liza Kowalik

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Benedict Giamo

Millennium Australia: History, Identity, and Representation at the Sydney 2000 Olympics

My thesis explores how Australia utilized the 2000 Olympics in Sydney to reframe itself as a nation. First, I situate Sydney 2000 in its historical context. Then, I explore historiographical debates on Australian identity. Lastly, I analyze three major components of the Olympics in order to understand how this young country chose to define itself at the turn of the new millennium. I studied abroad in Australia, and while there, my history professor would always mention how self-conscious the nation is.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Department of American Studies to do research in Sydney, Australia.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Warren Kraemer

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Advisers: Peter Casarella and Jennifer Newsome Martin

The Role of the Papacy in Restoring Cuban-American Relations

My thesis details the history of the papacy during the last century in regard to the restoration of Cuban-American relations. Starting with Pope John Paul II and moving to Pope Francis, I trace the important role the Catholic Church plays in international affairs through papal visits and back-door diplomacy. I traveled to Cuba twice before attending Notre Dame and became fascinated with the role religion played in a socialist country.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Joe Kuhns

- Majors: Studio Art and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Advisers: Jeff Spoonhower and Jason Lahr

Bison by Sundown

Bison by Sundown is an animated short that I have been writing, developing, and producing this year. I chose this project because I wanted to experience the process of bringing a story from inception to completed product. I have written scripts, developed concept art and storyboards, animated, and created a sound design to bring my story and characters to life.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Annie Kuse

- Majors: Anthropology and Political Science
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Political Engagement and Identity in Morocco

My thesis explores the changing political and social identities in Morocco after the adoption of a new constitution in 2011, with particular emphasis on the monarchy, public perception of politics, and the competing value systems visible in everyday life. Morocco is an amazing and complex place, and living and learning there was one of the best things I've ever done. Because Morocco is a Muslim-majority country that is moving toward democracy, this topic also has broader global implications, particularly in today's international order.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Leah Landry

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Majors: Peace Studies and Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

The Future of the South Bend Group Violence Intervention

I explore the interactions and collaboration of community stakeholders involved in the working group of South Bend Group Violence Intervention. I heard about the Group Violence Intervention when Mayor Pete Buttigieg came to speak on campus. After working with Reading for Life and detainees in South Bend's Juvenile Justice Center, I saw how horrific group violence can be and how damaging the effects are on the community. I was interested in researching GVI because it is one of the only initiatives that has successfully decreased gang violence in cities.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Katie Laskey

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Peace Studies and Catholic Social Tradition
- Advisers: Korey Garibaldi and Bill Purcell

Integrating Race in the Classroom: A Curriculum for Change in Diverse Catholic High Schools

My thesis is an interdisciplinary racial education curriculum designed for Christ the King Prep, a Cristo Rey school in Newark, New Jersey. The curriculum seeks to complicate and expand the U.S. racial narratives presented in social studies curricula to develop students' sense of self, justice, and purpose in their communities. I taught English at Christ the King last summer and spoke with students about current events, such as police shootings of unarmed black men and the 2016 election. The discussions were fruitful and inspired me to create a curriculum that could be historically nuanced and socially relevant to modern crises.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



John Lee

- Majors: Philosophy and Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Alexander Jech

Anxiety: A Kierkegaardian Response to Augustine's Problem of Original Sin

St. Augustine's discourse on original sin presents two seemingly contradicting notions — original sin as a state of corruption and original sin as an act worthy of guilt. I attempt to show Kierkegaard's response to this problem through *The Concept of Anxiety*, in which he takes a psychologically oriented approach to solving the dogmatic issue of hereditary sin. After taking a Kierkegaard class last year, the Danish philosopher's work has intrigued me to no end. I wrote my thesis on Kierkegaard not only to delve more deeply into his work but also explore my Christian faith from a new perspective.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Hannah Legatzke

- Majors: Anthropology and Environmental Sciences
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

Language Preference and Physiological Effects of Language Anxiety in Spanish/English Bilingual Family Conversations

My thesis examines whether individuals in Spanish-English bilingual families have different language preferences. I look at whether language anxiety, as a potential psycho-social stressor, causes increases in cortisol levels during conversations between family members in both languages. I have been involved with a club on campus that teaches English to adults in South Bend. Working with English language learners made me curious about how language preferences affect family communication. Working with Professor Gettler on projects examining family interactions and their impact on health made me eager to address this question from a biological, socio-cultural, and linguistic anthropological standpoint.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Kevin Lentz

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: German
- Adviser: Andrew Gould

Germany's Migrant Crisis: Demography, Nativism, and Party Politics

My thesis looks at the correlation between the influx of asylum seekers in Germany from 2011–2016 and the electoral shift toward anti-immigrant parties. I focus on national and state levels and use qualitative sources to put forth possible causation for the given correlation. I believe that immigration policy concerning refugees will be an increasingly important political issue. Forced human displacement reached record numbers in 2015, at 65.3 million people, and with the rise of terrorism, many see immigrants as security threats. Both of these factors have led to an increasing politicization of an issue that drastically affects millions of people every year.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Gabriela Leskur

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

Invisible Pain from Chronic Medical Conditions

About 96% of individuals with chronic medical conditions show no outward sign of their affliction. My project brings the pain of invisible illness to light through three performance art pieces. Through physical enactments of what invisible pain feels like, the external appearance of normalcy is shattered. I have experienced firsthand the stigma of having an invisible medical condition. Further, I have seen those with lupus and diabetes have their pain questioned. My goal is to help legitimize the suffering of those with invisible conditions and to raise awareness.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Maya Lewis

- Majors: Anthropology and Music (Theory and History)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Susan Blum

Mushrooms, Seaweed, Abalone, and Elderberry: Foraging in the Four Kingdoms

My thesis explores the practice of gathering wild products from nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. I seek to determine why people forage even when it is not necessary for survival, and what impact foraging has on them, especially how foraging affects human-environment relationships and attitudes. I am interested in various ways that people interact with nature, especially in a society that is relatively disconnected from it.

Traveled to the San Francisco Bay Area with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Jacob Lindle

- Majors: Medieval Studies and Philosophy-Theology
- Advisers: John Cavadini and Alfred Freddoso

Mercy unto Death: The Spiritual Spectacle of the Martyrs in the Sermons of St. Augustine

Augustine frequently preached on the “birthdays” of the martyrs. My thesis seeks to determine what Augustine is communicating to his congregation. I analyze Augustine’s method of presentation and his particular situation in North Africa. Ultimately, Augustine holds up the martyrs as models of mercy who continually enrich the imagination of his congregation and form their hearts. In his article “Dionysius versus the Crucified,” René Girard presents the fundamental choice Nietzsche brought to the surface — power or mercy. Seeking an answer to this conflict, I encountered Augustine’s sermons, in which Nietzsche’s deconstructive and skeptical thinking is found, but with a different answer.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Paul Lipari

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics (FEE)
- Adviser: Michael Pries

The Effect of Dividend Announcements on Stock Prices

Leveraging panel data on security prices, dividend announcements, and dividend cash amounts from 1990 to 2015, I examine whether the announcement of a dividend payout affects corresponding security prices. Under the assumptions that markets are efficient, the events in question are exogenous, and there are no confounding events, I apply the market model to measure abnormal returns during a small window surrounding each dividend announcement. This topic fascinates me because of its direct application of the foundations of financial theory and its implications for the efficient market hypothesis and investing more broadly.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Michael LoBasso

- Major: Science
Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: Science, Technology,
and Values (STV)
- Adviser: Chuck Crowell

Effect of Visual and Auditory Feedback Modalities on Balance Recovery

My thesis examines the use of Wii Balance Boards to aid in physical therapy for stroke patients. We have created WeHab Balance Software that offers a competitive, objective, and economically friendly alternative to traditional physical therapy. I conducted a study of more than 100 Notre Dame students to analyze which of three feedback modalities provides the most optimal results. This project aligned perfectly with my interests and allowed me to better understand the interactions of technology and medicine. I was also able to sharpen my research and collaborative skills in a medical environment by recording physical therapy sessions at Memorial Hospital.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Daniel Lopes

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Industrial Design
- Advisers: Michael Elwell and Scott Shim

Sous

Sous is a system of kitchen tools that enables the beginner cook to become more comfortable and confident. By offering invaluable tactile lessons, Sous pushes learning into the physical realm, helping to ease anxieties and encourage fast, everyday cooking. Our society is experiencing a widespread deskilling across a variety of everyday activities, and cooking is no exception. This loss of autonomy has left many dependent on mass-produced food with no control over its source, quality, or processing. The skills and confidence developed with this system will help us regain control over our nutrition.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design for his work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Samuel Lucas

- Major: Science
Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: Anthropology
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Jaimie Bleck

Villager Status and Public Goods Access in Rural Southern Malawi

I analyze villagers' access to public goods and services, particularly health services, in the rural southern regions of Malawi, based on their status in local government, as well as their gender, religion, and other factors. I am interested in how access to public health services is mediated by the social behaviors of its recipients, as opposed to the practices of its providers.

Traveled to Zomba, Malawi, with a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Katherine Luotto

- Major: History
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Gail Bederman

Storytelling in the 19th-Century American West

My thesis celebrates the voices of women who immigrated to California in the 19th century, through their own words preserved in diaries and letters. I look for the ways in which the rawness of their rural surroundings interacted with their understandings of womanhood, life, and death. It has been fulfilling and humbling to hear the voices of women from the past and to view how they found and created meaning amidst the difficult circumstances inherent to life on the frontier.

Traveled to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Patrick Lyon

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

Myth and Magic: Tolkien's Christian Fairy Story

Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* is one of the most popular and influential books of the last century, yet it tends to be underestimated or relegated to "fantasy" shelves in bookstores. The work is an attempt to construct a myth, or a fairy story, which connects us to a transcendent truth inherent to Christian understanding. I have been a lifelong fan of Tolkien's books, and I have felt more and more that *The Lord of the Rings* is almost criminally underestimated. It is arrestingly strange when compared with other works, and its character deserves to be examined.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Laura Machado

- Majors: English and Psychology
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: John Duffy

Historical Transformations: Education on the Azores Islands and its Impact in the U.S.

I explore the ways in which the Portuguese government's involvement in education during the 1950s and 1960s shaped Portuguese national identity, as well as the identities of those who migrated out of Portugal. Using interviews, textbooks, memoirs, and secondary sources, I look at what it means to be Portuguese for Azorean-Americans and Azorean-Portuguese. This topic gives me the opportunity to explore my family and cultural background through the lenses of literacy, memory, and history.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Nanovic Institute to travel to Portugal.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Gabriela Malespin

- Majors: Political Science and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Clark Power

Community School Partnerships and their Impact on Latino Student Civic Engagement

Community school partnerships recognize that education reform efforts must address systemic factors — such as poverty, malnutrition, and mental health — in order to effectively help students of low socioeconomic status. In addition, these schools can foster strong bonds among community entities and model appropriate behaviors of civic engagement for students. I examine whether these organizations increase civic participation among Latino students. I wanted to explore whether these programs could function on a larger scale and how school programming could effectively incorporate civic engagement programs.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Michelle Mann

- Major: Africana Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Richard Pierce

Shunned Soldiers: 20th-Century Black LGBTQ Political Activism

I explore the ways black LGBTQ people participated in their own liberation, through the civil rights movement, the gay rights movement, and the many organizations made by and for black LGBTQ people. As an Africana studies major, I have studied a number of topics related to the lives of those in the African diaspora. Yet during this time, conversations on the intersection of race and sexual orientation have often been secondary to larger narratives. My thesis uncovers the stories that we often forget to tell.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Makayla Manta

- Majors: Economics and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Tom Stapleford

The Supernatural in Gothic Fiction: A Comparison of Dracula and The Woman in White

The exploration of the “Other” in 19th-century Victorian fiction is a prevalent theme in gothic and sensation literature. The Other represented all things foreign to experience, reality, and especially the self. In *Dracula*, the Other are vampires, and in *The Woman in White*, they are foreigners. Bram Stoker’s invocation of the supernatural in *Dracula* not only accelerates the period of discovery among the characters, but reveals human truths that Wilkie Collins never touches upon. The novels from Victorian England built a special place in my heart, and I wanted to explore the nuances of the genres at the time.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Maria Paulina Manzur Martinez

- Majors: Sociology and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

The Tragic Nature of Retributive Justice: Punishment and Suffering in Greek Tragedy

Retributive justice is intrinsically tragic because it attempts to compensate the suffering of victims by harming other members of society. Greek tragedy produces tragic feelings because it portrays applications of retributive justice. Ancient Greeks found a way to strengthen citizens' support for the institution of justice by depicting the punishment of criminals as just and necessary. I have always been obsessed with Greek tragedy, and this topic allows me to combine my interest in ancient literature with my passion for justice.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Aerionna Martin

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Africana Studies
- Advisers: Darcia Narvaez and Thomas Merluzzi

Race, Childhood Experience, Maladaptive Perfectionism, Creativity, and Academic Motivation in College Students

Research has demonstrated that parenting practices and behaviors experienced during childhood have significant effects on later creativity, maladaptive perfectionism, and academic motivation. However, research has not determined whether race/ethnicity moderates the effect on these outcomes. I seek to investigate the moderating effects of race/ethnicity on the relationship between experience of evolved developmental niche and creativity, maladaptive perfectionism, and academic motivation.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Martin

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Ricardo Ramírez

Tyranny Over the Minorities: How California's Ballot Initiatives Affect Racial Minorities

In the past, Californians have voted in controversial laws, such as banning affirmative action. The initiative process is supposed to help the masses retain their power over special interests, but some hold that the opposite is achieved. I use the voting patterns of minorities in California on ballot initiatives identified as racially targeted to see if minorities are adversely affected by this process. Upon coming to Notre Dame, my identity as a Californian became stronger, and my passion for my state's politics grew. Some research has attributed California's fiscal and political crises to these direct democracy measures, and I wanted to further explore this complicated process.

Received funding from the Department of Political Science for his research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Hollianne Kaheke Martinson

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Julia Marvin

The Invention of Good Women: Exploring Ideals and their Manipulation in Chaucer's The Legend of Good Women

My thesis focuses on Chaucer's depiction of women as victims of male cruelty or as devoted, sacrificial wives and the implications of equating these traits with "goodness" and "virtue" on the role development of women in society. I've always been interested in the way women are perceived and treated in various periods across the world, and I wanted to take a feminist view on a controversial work regarding women.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Gabrielle Marzke

- Major: Gender Studies
- Advisers: Vania Smith-Oka and Connie Snyder Mick

Rhetorics of Motherhood and Reproduction in the Context of Indiana Social Services

My research explores the relationship between welfare policy and perceptions of female welfare recipients' maternity and fertility. I seek to deconstruct the rhetoric of Indiana's Family and Social Services Agency and its affiliates and to situate it in the larger context of welfare discourse. In doing so, I demonstrate the ways in which the state's institutional language surrounding motherhood and reproduction reflects and departs from political rhetoric and public opinion. My passion for reproductive justice informed my decision to pursue this project, and I believe my home state of Indiana makes a fascinating case study.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Lauren Mathias

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

Kinder

Kinder is a simple, multi-step approach for teaching kindergarteners to recognize and regulate emotions. Its three components work together in a simple way to give every child the tools necessary to learn. A universal investment in our youngest members of society should improve the whole of society in years to come. In a complicated adult society, the inability to properly understand and deal with one's emotions can hinder performing even daily tasks. Nevertheless, this skill is typically only taught after a need is demonstrated for any particular child, not as a universal.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design for her work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Emily McConville

- Major: History
- Supplementary Major: Italian
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Adviser: Felipe Fernández-Armesto

Portrayals of Power in the Works of Oriana Fallaci

My thesis examines the Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci's political development during the 1960s. I show how Fallaci's increasing skepticism of state power and loss of faith in both the promise of capitalist prosperity and revolutionary utopia reflect the worldwide deconstruction of ideologies that previously dominated political and intellectual life. I started this research looking at Fallaci's articles in the National Library of Rome's microfilm collection. After writing a paper on her experience in Vietnam, I expanded the project for my thesis, focusing on the Cold War more broadly and Fallaci's conception of power more specifically.

Traveled to Boston to look at Fallaci's personal collection with a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and conducted research while in the Rome International Scholars Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Megan McCormack

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: French
- Minor: Art History
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

Politics, Memory, the Environment, and Stories

How do politics affect the shape and genre of stories? What is the point of stories when the world is coming to an end? In my creative thesis, I explore a dystopian future world that has fallen into political and environmental chaos through the eyes of two young women, Elle and Risalah. I chose this topic because of how our current political climate is shaping our nation's fears and hopes for the future, especially regarding the treatment of the oppressed in our society. Themes of memory and storytelling are also prevalent because of my interest in the human mind as it ages.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Amanda McGann

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Adviser: Jill Lany

Object Categorization in 9-Month-Olds

This study looks at how infants' ability to form mental categories is related to several other variables, namely language input. Sheer quantity of language input versus quality of language, measured in amount of language directed at the infant, is assessed against object categorization. I have worked in Notre Dame's Infant Studies Lab for the past three years, and I was looking to develop my research skills and to assess the link between language and mental abilities in one of the most rapidly developing age ranges.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



John McGinn

- Majors: Mathematics (Honors) and Irish Language and Literature
- Adviser: Brian Ó Conchubhair

An Camán

I analyze the bilingual Irish and English language newspaper *An Camán* (1931–1934). A joint project between Conradh na Gaeilge and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, the self-proclaimed “Organ of Irish-Ireland” promoted the Irish language, games, and industry and featured a variety of contributors, including literary figures such as “Máire” (Séamus Ó Grianna). Although many Irish and bilingual newspapers that preceded it have been researched, little has been written about *An Camán*. It provided a true variety of reading material, from news stories and match reports to short stories and political writings, from an even greater number of authors.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Mary McGraw

- Major: Studio Art
- Adviser: Martina Lopez

Listen with the Ear of the Heart

My project is a series of photographs documenting the life of monastic Benedictine nuns in rural Connemara, Ireland. The photographs highlight the contemplative essence of this community in their day-in, day-out work. The eight nuns — all 60 or older — and their 17th-century abbey are a reminder of a rapidly dwindling lifestyle. This project began as an exploration of my Irish Catholic roots but grew to encompass the value in vocational life. As an art major, I understand my practice to be a lifelong journey, and I wanted to better understand the ways in which vocational life is valued.

Traveled to Connemara, County Galway, Ireland, with funding from the Keough-Naughton Institute and Nanovic Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Maria Corina Mendoza

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Latin American Studies and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- Adviser: Michael Coppedge

Political Polarization in Venezuela Under Hugo Chávez

Through an analysis of survey data, embedded in a reconstruction of Venezuela's political narrative under Hugo Chávez, I seek to understand the dynamics of polarization during his administration and the opposition it engendered. Scholarly interest in and popular discussion of polarization has dramatically increased in the past decades, yet it remains without systematic evidence and undertheorized in the study of Latin American politics. Venezuela has emerged as the paradigmatic case for the study of polarization. As a daughter of Venezuelan immigrants who came to the United States 16 years ago, the country is also of personal interest to me.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Lindsey Miyazaki

- Major: Music (Piano Performance)
- Minor: Liturgical Music Ministry
- Adviser: John Blacklow

Piano Performance Senior Recital

I am giving a piano recital to fulfill the requirement for my concentration in music performance. For this recital on Saturday, April 29, I am performing works by Schubert, Bartók, and Chopin.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Scott Moore

- Major: Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kirk Doran

Transport Costs & Immigration Levels

Over the course of history, transportation has become faster and cheaper. Economists have shown that declines in transportation costs cause increases in bilateral trade. Less well understood is whether these declines can also account for increased immigration levels. My thesis explores that potential relationship. Immigration is a critical issue in the modern world. In addition, transportation innovations are occurring with greater frequency. If self-driving cars, affordable personal jets, and quicker, cheaper air transport are all developed in the 21st century, understanding how these inventions might impact immigration could help societies better prepare for expected migrant flows.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



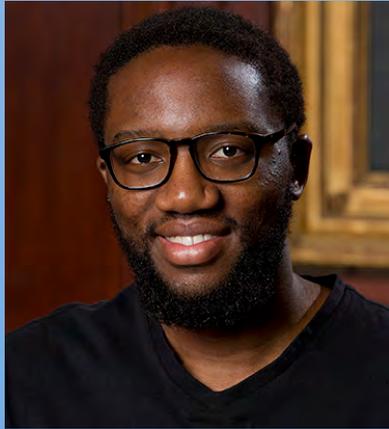
Caelin Moriarity Miltko

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Irish Language and Literature
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Adviser: Diarmuid Ó Giolláin

Language, Folklore, and Literature in Native America and Ireland

My thesis is a comparison of 19th-century folklore and contemporary poetry/language use in Irish, Navajo, and Cree. I explore the way that folklore has shaped perceptions of these groups and the way that language and folklore have been used to reclaim identity in recent years. I grew up in Montana and witnessed part of the language revival process on Native American reservations near my hometown. When I began studying Irish, I became aware of how large the issue of minority languages actually is, and I became intrigued by the ways that those movements intersect and diverge.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Brian Mukhaya

- Major: Accounting
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Wyatt Brooks

Comparative Analysis of Mentorship and Classical Training in Stimulating Growth for Small Business Owners

Governments, NGOs, and other partners have invested considerable amounts of money in training small business owners in developing countries. However, business women in Dandora, an informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, on average had more than a 25% increase in their profits when they received mentorship, as compared to training workshops and classes. My research seeks to analyze and understand why. I also analyzed how the recipients of these initiatives thought the programs could be improved to help them succeed.

Traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, and received funding from the Kellogg Institute, the Nanovic Institute, and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kayla Mullen

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: A. James McAdams

Cuba, Communism, and the Catholic Church

I analyze the relationship between the church and the state as depicted in articles in the largest Cuban newspaper, *Granma*, concerning the Cuban papal visits in 1998, 2012, and 2015. I evaluate the tone and material to examine how the newspaper — an arm of the Cuban Communist Party — reconciles the papal visits with the communist view of religion. I wanted to study the tension between theoretical communism and communism in practice, and my knowledge of Spanish made Cuba the best choice. I also am very interested in the intersect between media and government.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Munro

- Majors: English and Economics
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Orlando Menes

Seven Stories

My thesis is a collection of seven short stories dealing with themes of communication, isolation, and action versus intention. I chose this topic because it seems that people have never had more means of communication but less ability to actually communicate.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Nicolas Munsen

- Majors: Theology and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Daniel Groody, C.S.C.

Where Mercy and Justice Meet: A History of Sanctuary

My thesis strives to understand the theological underpinnings of the concept of sanctuary, as it is expressed in the biblical, medieval, and modern eras. My goal is to understand how sanctuary has changed in its usage and to conclude if sanctuary today is a legitimate successor to the tradition of sanctuary. Hailing from Tucson, Arizona — where sanctuary continues to be a salvific reality for people of great need — I wanted to understand more fully the origins and motivations behind this practice.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Conor Murphy

- Majors: History and Political Science
- Adviser: Daniel Graff

The Baseball War: The Federal League and the Battle for American Identity

My thesis examines the so-called “Baseball War” of the mid-1910s. I argue that the outpouring of opinion generated by the upstart Federal League’s once-famous but now-forgotten challenge of organized baseball elucidates how closely baseball was entwined with American identity in the early 20th century and offers insight into the sport’s enduring cultural significance. I find the Federal League’s story fascinating and I think it needs to be rescued from obscurity because it can serve as a tangible link between baseball and a distinctly American character.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Robert Myak

- Major: Spanish
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Diana Roxana Jorza

Ecclesiastical Corruption and Failed Transgression in Leopoldo Alas's La Regenta

I re-examine the traditional reading of the novel *La Regenta*, which proposes that Ana de Ozores, the protagonist, escapes the stagnant, ultra-conservative Vetustian society through her adultery. I propose that she accepts her status as a Vetustian early in life for survival purposes, implying that adultery does not qualify her as an exception but rather the norm. Despite attempts to transgress, she fails due to corrupt ecclesiastical guidance. During my first stay in Spain, my host family introduced me to *La Regenta*. Ever since, it's been my goal to study the novel because, despite its importance, it is not popular in the U.S.

Received funding from the Nanovic Institute to travel to Madrid, Barcelona, and Oviedo, Spain.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Ariel Navotas

- Major: Mathematics
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Andrea Christensen

The Effect of Math Camps on Student Understanding of and Beliefs About Mathematics

In my thesis, I explore how the culture and practices of math camps affect students' beliefs and understanding of math. I hope to inspire people to think about math and math education with new lenses — to explore its potential, consider the flaws in how it's taught, and to appreciate not just its utility but also its inherent beauty. I studied abroad in Budapest, where I was able to observe and learn about Hungarian math camps. I also worked at a U.S. math camp over the summer and was intrigued by an exciting form of instruction.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Jinggang Ng

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Victoria Tin-bor Hui

Chinese FDI and Public Favourability Toward China in Latin America

In recent years, China has dramatically ramped up its efforts to acquire soft power abroad. In this thesis, I explore whether these efforts have been successful in Latin America by assessing the relationship between Chinese foreign direct investment and public favourability toward China in Latin America. China-Latin America relations are becoming increasingly important, yet are still relatively understudied. As a Chinese national with a strong interest in Latin America, I was naturally drawn to this topic.

Traveled to Beijing with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Hana Nguyen

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Adviser: Andre Murnieks

Cheque

Through the mobile app I designed, I hope to provide individuals with an efficient and organized method of managing their finances by encouraging budget planning, tracking savings, and taking control of their financial situation. The app also allows people to predict the negative effects of payday loans and provides resources and alternatives to payday lending — information that is not readily available now. After joining the Jubilee Initiative for Financial Inclusion at Notre Dame, I saw firsthand how dangerous the \$46 billion payday loan industry is for desperate borrowers, especially in South Bend.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program for her work.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Grace Nickels

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Gender Studies
- Adviser: Perin Gurel

Movements for Change: Dance as a Political Platform for Indigenous Peoples in the United States and Australia

My thesis investigates how the art of native dance in two white settler colonies, the United States and Australia, impacts the politics of recognition for indigenous peoples. Although native dance is vulnerable to commodification and misappropriation by outsiders, I argue that indigenous communities have also used dance as a tool to promote change in both nations in recent years. While studying abroad in Australia, I spent a week with an indigenous community in an isolated coastal region and was fortunate enough to learn about Aboriginal culture firsthand.

Traveled to Sydney, Australia, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, and the Department of American Studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Eva Niklinska

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minor: Anthropology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

A Biocultural Analysis of Talent, Competitive Dynamics, and Social Hierarchy on a University Fencing Team

Interactions between sports team members contribute to a perceived hierarchy based on talent and team involvement. The dynamics and the accompanying psychobiology have been explored in team sports, but less so in an individual sport with a mixed-gender team such as collegiate fencing. I evaluated team hierarchy and dynamics in fencing through ethnographic interviews, as well as the impact on physiological response and competition through salivary data. For my thesis, I wanted to combine my greatest passions — fencing, biology, and anthropology. The project developed my skills as a researcher and allowed me to leave a lasting impact on the Notre Dame fencing program.

Received an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant for her research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Robert O'Brien

- Major: International Economics (Arabic)
- Adviser: Abigail Wozniak

Salary Expectations of Students in the United Arab Emirates

My thesis analyzes a survey on salary expectations and demographic information distributed to three universities in the United Arab Emirates. Key questions involve the effect of nationality and gender on salary expectations. I am very interested in the labor force nationalization effort of the UAE, as well as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. Assessing the expectations of Emirati youth is crucial to finding the structural barriers in place between a UAE citizen and gainful private-sector employment.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Michael O'Callahan

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Declan Kiberd

A Terrible Beauty Deformed: Revisiting the Easter Rising Poets

My thesis explores the legacy of the poets and leaders of the Easter Rising in Ireland. Analyzing nationalism and religious imagery in their poetry, I argue that the poems are more an exploration of an interior crisis than a direct call for religious martyrdom, and I push back against the way their poetry has been read historically. Studying in Dublin during the centenary of the Easter Rising, I discovered the rebel leaders' poetry and found the imagery hugely powerful. Criticism of their poetry is often one-dimensional and ignores the interior conflict, and I wanted to offer a new, poetry-based reading.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ryan O'Donnell

- Majors: Psychology and Biological Sciences
- Adviser: James Brockmole

The Influence of Implied Action and Interaction on Encoding and Chunking Visual Working Memory

While most studies of working memory use simple objects, the world exists in terms of interactions between objects, which cannot normally be studied without using real-world objects with associations to others. My thesis observes the importance, influence, and interaction of different object pairings on the encoding and chunking of visual working memory. Examples of object pairing include both semantic relatedness (e.g., a pitcher and a cup) and functional interaction (e.g., a pitcher pouring into a cup). It is important to study how these interactions influence our memory, which speaks to how we understand the world.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Cory O'Donohue

- Major: Psychology
- Minors: Business Economics and Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT)
- Adviser: Dan Lapsley

Morality's Moderating Effect on Posture and Willingness to Pay: Manipulating Moral Identity Through Placement of Objects

When reaching for an object, consumers create a certain posture. We hypothesize that reaching up for an item on a shelf — creating an expansive posture — will initiate a feeling of power. This morally disengages consumers, causing them to increase their willingness to pay. We hypothesize the opposite is true for reaching down for an item. I am interested in behavioral economics, which proposes that people are irrational — the opposite of the theoretical basis of economics.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ijeoma Ogbogu

- Major: Anthropology
- Adviser: Alex Chávez

African-American Humor and Digital Folklore

My thesis explores a dimension of African-American social humor that through digital space and the historical process of “blackness” creates a realm of ambiguity, discontinuity, and camaraderie within the virtual world. I touch on topics such as slavery, police violence, and systematic and prison oppression. I was curious about the ramifications of social media such as Black Twitter and Instagram, especially among African-Americans at Notre Dame. I was also curious about the rise of internet activism, such as #BlackLivesMatter.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Marisa Olsen

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: David Gibson

Experiential Barriers to Maternal Healthcare Access in South Africa

I look at the experiential barriers to comfortable and convenient health services for expectant mothers. I collected data at a clinic to help understand a woman's comfort level by focusing on perceived levels of privacy, respect, and care. I also collected data on women's fears about pregnancy and logistical frustrations. An improper use of time and a lack of formal scheduling were important barriers. I am passionate about maternal health and hope to pursue a specialty in this area of medicine. I was fascinated by the norms, expectations, and desires that surround motherhood and pregnancy in different countries.

Received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to travel to Johannesburg, South Africa.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



**Ricardo Daniel
Pagulayan**

- Majors: Anthropology and Arabic
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Exploring Philippine Indigeneity: Examining the Role of “Indigenous” Cultural Memories on Itawis Ethno-Linguistic Identity

The Philippine government considers the Itawis of Northern Luzon, Philippines, to be indigenous peoples. But my findings suggest that the Itawis do not see themselves as such. I seek to understand how the Itawis conceive of themselves in Filipino society, and how this relates to the broader, national definition of indigeneity and “Filipino-ness.” Filipino society is composed of more than 170 ethno-linguistic groups, some of which are considered minority or indigenous. Coming from one of the smaller ethno-linguistic groups myself, I wanted to explore the cultural systems that created the divide between “mainstream” and “indigene.”

Received funding from the Department of Anthropology to travel to the Philippines.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Elizabeth Pagura

- Majors: Anthropology and Spanish
- Adviser: Karen Richman

Latino Immigrants and Developmental Disability in the Michiana Area

My thesis is an anthropological and cultural analysis of how disability affects family units and how individuals with disabilities interact with their caregivers. Research shows that disabled individuals usually have a higher quality of life if they are at home with family and integrated in a social network. My aim is to explore the family and social dynamic in the Latino immigrant population of Michiana. While this population is doubly marginalized by linguistic/cultural barriers and lack of disability services, I also want to demonstrate the advantages Latino immigrant families have when navigating life with developmental disabilities.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Katie Paige

- Major: Psychology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Advisers: Thomas Merluzzi and Laura Miller-Graff

Pathways Between AUD and MDD in Adolescence

Alcohol use disorder and major depressive disorder often onset in the critical period of adolescence. Many neurobiological changes occur between ages 12 and 16. While the developmental mechanisms are not well understood, several theories have been presented to possibly explain the comorbidity of AUD and MDD — both of which are serious public health concerns. The comorbidity is notable and requires research into the similarities underlying the mechanisms of these illnesses in order to better understand and prevent them. The lack of conclusive scientific findings regarding the pathways between the disorders also calls for further investigation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Melchior Perella-Savarese

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Italian (Honors)
- Adviser: Stuart Greene

A Tale of Two Schools: A Comparative Analysis of Public Education in the United States and Italy

I studied the intricate relationship between students in public high schools and their surrounding environments. My essay explores the overarching contexts of each country and its relation to public education. Education is a passion I have fostered over the past four years. I will be teaching with Alliance for Catholic Education after graduation, and I wanted to explore education while abroad.

Conducted research in Rome as part of the Rome International Scholars Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Cornelia Perry

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Africana Studies
- Adviser: Darcia Narvaez

Parenting, Morality, and Race

My project explores the connection between college students' experience of the evolved developmental niche during their childhood, their socioeconomic status, cultural background, and morality. Morality in this study has been conceptualized using the four-component model, which includes moral sensitivity, moral judgment, moral motivation, and moral character. I investigate the moderating effects of race on the relationship between early experience and morality. I have always been interested in how race and parenting interact, and when I started working with Darcia Narvaez, I became interested in moral development as well.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Isabel Piechowicz

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

MODify: Conscious Clothiers

MODify is a fashion brand consisting of garments that transform in some way through the use of zippers, mechanical fasteners, and fabric manipulation. Constructed from sustainable fabric and meant to be worn multiple ways, these garments focus on sustainability and ethical clothing production, reducing resources used and textile waste in landfills. I have always had a passion for fashion and graphic design, and this was a chance to combine my interests. Fashion is a necessary part of today's society, but does not need to be cruel or unethical.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design and an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant for her project.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

John Pietrowicz

- Major: English
- Adviser: Cyraina Johnson-Roullier

Timshel — An Examination of The Family Quest in The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao and East of Eden

The Arthurian quest narrative has fascinated writers for decades, dating back to *Le Morte d'Arthur*. We've seen Arthurian motifs across many writers' works, such as those of T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, and — most notably for my thesis — John Steinbeck. However, the Arthurian influence doesn't end with these writers. I argue that it extends all the way through Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Tara Pilato

- Major: Music (Viola Performance)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Tricia Park

Viola Senior Recital

On March 26, I performed an hourlong recital, including works by J.S. Bach, Henri Vieuxtemps, Rebecca Clarke, Carlos Gardel, and Antonin Dvorak in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Natalie Pottschmidt

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Studio Art
- Adviser: Michelle Wirth

Hypothalamus-Pituitary-Adrenal (HPA) Axis Activity and Depressogenic Variables in a Sub-Clinical Population

There is a large body of literature available for how stress and depression may interact in different models, but no consensus on how this occurs. I focus on the relationship between an individual's response to social stress and the levels they endorse of several variables associated with the development of depression. An individual's psychological and physiological response to stress has been implicated in depression development for decades, and some ideas have been proposed for treatment interventions that target the stress response. But without more specific details, research about these interventions cannot continue.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Leah Powers

- Majors: Political Science and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Julia Marvin

Language at its End: The Ninth Circle of Hell and the Celestial Rose in Dante's Divine Comedy

My paper explores the roles that language and non-language have throughout Dante's *Divine Comedy* by examining the two extremes of Dante's spiritual journey — the City of Dis in the *Inferno* and the celestial rose in the *Paradiso*. I read *The Divine Comedy* in a PLS seminar during my sophomore year, and I really enjoyed the text.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Erin Rice

- Major: Design
- Concentrations in Industrial and Visual Communication Design
- Adviser: Scott Shim

Manual Dexterity Phone Use Aid

Many individuals with cerebral palsy have manual dexterity impairments that make it hard to fully participate in activities that require touchscreen mobile devices, particularly taking photos. For my thesis, I came to understand different types of manual dexterity issues and created a device that would provide equal access to those with these impairments. I volunteered at St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Occupational Therapy Unit and worked with children with cerebral palsy. Their diverse abilities and adaptations to the use of everyday objects inspired my thesis.

Received the Judith Anne Wrappe Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design for her project.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sizhen Qu

- Majors: Economics and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Steve Fallon

Freudian Psychoanalysis of Hamlet's Oedipus Complex

Hamlet's delay in killing Claudius is the central problem of the play, and many critics have come up with different explanations. I wanted to address the problem with Freudian psychoanalysis and demonstrate that Hamlet's Oedipus Complex is the primary cause of his hesitancy. After considering a psychology major and taking some Freud classes during my first year, I wrote about this topic for my second literature tutorial and decided to further develop it for my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Abigail Radomsky

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Lacey Ahern

Retrospective Analysis of Intrapartum Stillbirth Data: Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda

From 2013 to 2015, the birthweight-specific mortality rates of normal birthweight babies increased from 12.1 to 19.2 intrapartum stillbirths per 1000 births, indicating a gap in care during labor. To identify potential gaps, I conducted a retrospective analysis of broad maternal register data, as well as in-depth patient case sheet data using the BABIES Matrix Methodology. In 2015, there were 2.6 million third-trimester stillbirths worldwide, and 50% occurred during the intrapartum period. However, stillbirths are invisible in most countries due to stigma that families face, as well as internal feelings of shame and failure. This invisibility makes it difficult to understand the true burden of stillbirths and to create high-quality interventions.

Traveled to Fort Portal, Uganda, with funding from the Kellogg Institute and the Eck Institute for Global Health.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Petra Rantanen

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: David Gibson

Patient and Physician Attitudes Towards Hospice and Life-Prolonging Treatment in the UK

I explore how people attribute meaning to care in hospice and life-prolonging treatment in the United Kingdom, and how these types of care can coexist. My thesis discusses the negative meanings assigned to hospice by patients and physicians, the commonality of life-prolonging treatment in conjunction with hospice, decision-making surrounding hospice, and the connections between these concepts. The U.K. provides the best hospice care in the world and offers life-prolonging treatment in conjunction with hospice care, unlike the United States. This makes it a unique place to conduct research and provides ample learning opportunities, with implications for improving American hospice care.

Traveled to London with funding from the Nanovic Institute and the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Abigayle Rhode-Pausina

- Majors: Arabic and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: G. Felicitas Munzel

The Development of Authoritative Methodology: Descartes, Bacon, and the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

Assessed in relation to a modern consequence, my senior essay examines the philosophical origins of the shift between metaphysics/ethics and scientific inquiry. It begins with a survey of Hellenist practical philosophy, provides an in-depth study of Cartesian and Baconian methodology, and ends with an examination of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. It was fascinating to explore the historical origins of scientific inquiry and the shifting role ethical concerns have played over the ages. I was especially interested in examining a modern example where I believe scientific inquiry went too far.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrea Ringer

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Kevin Donovan

The Impact of Bridge Construction on School Attendance: Evidence from Nicaragua

I investigate the question of how missing infrastructure affects access to education by evaluating the impact of new footbridge construction on educational attendance in rural Nicaragua. I wanted to explore development economics, which uses statistical and economic methods to answer questions about international development.

Traveled to Nicaragua with funding from the Kellogg Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Robinson

- Majors: Sociology and Accounting
- Adviser: Terence McDonnell

Amateur Expertise, Serious Leisure, and Other Contradictions: The Motivations of Yelp Elites

Using interviews and surveys of Yelp Elites, my thesis addresses the reasons why they contribute so extensively to Yelp without compensation. Ultimately, I propose a dynamic relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, where social, community, and self-interest factors can lead to intrinsic motivation. I chose to study Yelp Elites because I am interested in the relationship between amateur and expert opinions, and Yelp Elites form a middle ground between the two.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to conduct interviews in Chicago and St. Louis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Peter Rodgers

- Major: Political Science
- Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

Realism and Positive Theory

What makes realism distinctive within international relations theory? I argue that realism is a positive theory, meaning it explains the world as it is. Other IR theories are normative, describing how the world should be. Realism is positive since it recognizes that war is ineradicable, and it is not influenced by an underlying ideal reality. I am particularly interested in understanding what constitutes the heart of realism since many scholars labeled as realists are often at cross-purposes.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Daryl Rosenblum

- Major: Psychology
- Adviser: Julie Braungart-Rieker

Early Parental Attunement and Subsequent Parental Sensitivity

My thesis examines how parental language may inform the parent's emotional knowledge, allowing them to perform more sensitively when their child becomes a toddler. Attunement is the accuracy of parental comments about infant internal states, and sensitivity is appropriate parental response to infant cues. I evaluated attunement in parent-infant interactions when the infant was 3, 5, and 7 months old, and I coded for sensitivity in interactions at 20 months old. I also considered change in attunement over time and possible differences between mothers and fathers for both constructs.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Stephen Santos

- Major: Theology
- Supplementary Major: Medieval Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Maxwell Johnson

The Validity of Anglican Orders

I'm writing about the issues surrounding the validity of Anglican orders. I chose this topic because I attended an Episcopal high school and middle school and wanted to explore Anglican ordination issues.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Anna Schaffer

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: French
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Cemetery by the Sea

Paul Valéry's *Le cimetière marin*, a classic of 20th-century French poetry, poses a translator with many difficulties, including its rhyme scheme, musicality, and allusions. My thesis is a verse translation of the poem, with an accompanying prose translation and linguistic research. Translating a poem rather than writing an analytical paper allowed me to engage with language, poetic form, and thematic content in a new way.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Elaine Schmidt

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Latino Studies
- Advisers: Peter Casarella and Jennifer Newsome Martin

Un Oído al Pueblo: Finding Grace and Beauty in the Catholicism of the Peruvian Andes

My thesis highlights how Andean spiritual practices and cosmological beliefs have been enculturated into the practice of Catholicism. By interviewing farmers, priests, street vendors, and fisherman from Chucuito, Peru, I create a cohesive narrative of how locals understand humans' relationship to God, the communion of saints, and how humans are called to live and act in community. After teaching English in Peru last summer, I was struck by how Peruvians approach their faith lives differently than American Catholics. I wanted to see if and how liberation theology has affected the beliefs and practices of rural, impoverished Peruvians.

Traveled to Puno, Peru, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Taylor Seeman

- Majors: Sociology and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”: An Existential Elegy

I analyze T. S. Eliot’s poem “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” as a deeply pessimistic work. I explore the influence of Eliot’s life on the poem, as well as deleted sections that did not appear in the final draft. My goal is to determine why the poem profoundly affects the reader. Why are we equally drawn to poems with such negative subject matter? How do these poems retain beauty and value despite their pessimism? Eliot’s poem is not only one of my favorite works, but also one of the most popular poems of the 20th century.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Leah Selmek

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

Discourse Analysis of Legislative Hearings on SB 1070

My thesis is an analysis of the justifications Arizona senate and house members gave for their votes on SB 1070. I am interested in immigration and law. This project allowed me to research how legislative bodies are able to pass clearly discriminatory bills and the methods they use to do so.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Elena Silla

- Major: Psychology
- Minors: Business Economics and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Nicole McNeil and Matthew Kloser

How is Math Equivalence Taught in Classrooms?

I look at whether teachers are using practices that are shown to help children understand math equivalence — the relation between two interchangeable quantities — or if teachers use practices that may be detrimental to this understanding. I observed in second- and third-grade classrooms in South Bend, Indiana, and conducted pre- and post-observation assessments. Working in Nicole McNeil's lab for three years allowed me to gain in-depth knowledge about how math should be taught, according to research. As a future teacher, I am also interested in how math actually is taught in the classroom.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Arielle Sims

- Major: Gender Studies
- Minor: Classical Civilization
- Advisers: Pamela Wojcik and Perin Gurel

Real Recognize Real? South Korean Music Culture as Appropriation or Exchange

With the rise of economic and political globalization, cultural entities enter into new discursive relationships where exchange and adoption occur. Often, this leads both individuals and groups into ideological traps, including appropriation and assimilation. My objective is to chart how the rise of modern globalization has affected South Korean and Black American popular music and youth culture. I became highly invested in Korean culture and in understanding and negotiating cultural capital through friends and musical artists.

Traveled to Seoul, South Korea, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and a Genevieve D. Willis Gender Studies Senior Research Grant.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Caitlin Sisk

- Majors: Psychology and English
- Adviser: James Brockmole

Does Location have Special Priority in Memory-Driven Attention Allocation?

I explore the function of location as an object feature within the theoretical framework of visual working memory. Under certain circumstances, task-irrelevant object features held within VWM can guide attention. Because location appears to be “special” as an object feature, I predict that task-irrelevant locations held within VWM will capture attention when other features, such as color or shape, would not. This topic may have real-world implications for individuals who are called to remember locations while completing other tasks, such as air traffic controllers or lifeguards.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Alexander Slavsky

- Major: Philosophy-Theology
- Advisers: Adrian Reimers and David Fagerberg

Love and Freedom: Pope John Paul II's Theology of Redemptive Suffering

The human person and his dignity are contained in the belief of the person as both the subject and recipient of love, in an inalienable way. Dignity is intrinsically connected with the exercise of freedom, which has meaning and value when considered and understood within the context of suffering. My past studies have involved Pope John Paul II's philosophy of the human person and theology of suffering. This topic gave me the opportunity to work on the life and teachings of the Church's first Polish pope and saint.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Ash Smith

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: Poverty Studies and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Elizabeth McClintock

Queer Television and Queer Perceptions: How Television Impacts Perceptions of the LGBT Community's Socioeconomic Status

Americans today spend more hours in front of the television than ever, and their support for the LGBTQ+ community has likewise increased. But this growing support is fraught with misunderstandings about the socioeconomic situation of the economically disadvantaged LGBTQ+ community. How much are stereotypical representations in the media to blame? Queer people experience high rates of poverty, yet many Americans believe in the “myth of gay affluence.” Since our perceptions influence our political choices, stereotypes matter.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Kelly Smith

- Major: English
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Romana Huk

How the Local Becomes Universal: The Writings of Small Communities in the Works of Bruce Springsteen and John K. Samson

I examine the ways that songwriters write their hometowns, particularly Bruce Springsteen and his native Freehold, New Jersey, and John K. Samson and his relationship with Winnipeg, Manitoba. I focus on the use of “between” spaces and how they allow the subject matter to transcend the localities about which they are written. I grew up loving Springsteen’s music and more recently became fascinated with Samson. I became curious about why places I had never been could have such a powerful impact on me.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Molly Stewart

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Minor: Anthropology
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

#YOLO: A Study of Internet Poets Tao Lin and Steve Roggenbuck

I examine the way internet culture and poetry merge in the work of Tao Lin and Steve Roggenbuck. I argue that their work, while located within the tradition of carpe diem poetry, is transformed by the social media persona and the invisible nature of digital mediation. I was inspired to study these poets because they've been excluded from contemporary scholarly criticism — except when their work has been dismissed as "not real poetry" or "bad poetry." I am fascinated by the internet as a growing source of literary and cultural production.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Joseph Strasz

- Majors: Classical Civilizations and Italian (Literature and Culture Concentration)
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Pier delle Vigne and the Influence of Imperial Ideology on Dante

The aim of my thesis is to trace the politico-philosophical thought in the works of Dante, culminating in the *Commedia*, through previous generations of Italian writers. I attempt to show how much of his writing on the subject of empire derives from or is influenced by the writings of Pier delle Vigne of the Sicilian School. This topic was the natural next step after a research project in my junior year, in which I conducted a general survey of the Sicilian School poets and Dante's works and drew thematic and linguistic parallels between them.

Traveled to Rome for his research with a Ravarino Grant from the Italian Studies program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Elizabeth Tafesse

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

Voxa

Voxa is a new way to think about the future of voting. I have gathered insights from voters, poll workers, and social justice advocates who see a lot of room for improvement. I want to make voting universally accessible and engaging — showing voters that each voice matters to encourage higher voter turnout. Our country is described as polarized, but we can all agree that we want our vote to matter. Our current voting experience is out of touch with modern users' needs, and Voxa is the first step in changing the experience.

Received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History & Design and the Franklin E. Doan Scholarship from the Department of Africana Studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Courtney Thompson

- Majors: Political Science and English
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

Whether or Not the Current Child Custodial Arrangement Is Still Pertinent

My thesis is written as a brief discussing why the Tender Years Doctrine should be overturned. The Tender Years Doctrine helped form the traditional custodial arrangement we know today. I argue that this tradition is no longer in the best interest of children in divorce cases, because it discourages fathers from being involved in their children's lives. Not only do I have a personal history with this issue, but I also plan on spending my life as a family law attorney helping children in these situations.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Olivia Till

- Major: Political Science
- Adviser: Andrew Gould

Sufis and Secularists: Senegalese Muslims in France

My thesis investigates the religious and political cultures of France and Senegal with regard to Islam and laïcité (i.e., secularism). It culminates in an exploration of how these cultures come into conversation through Senegalese Muslims in France. My academic interest in religion, culture, and politics led to an independent study of the political impact of West African migration to Spain in fall 2015, and to studying abroad in Dakar, Senegal, in spring 2016. My thesis has been an incredible opportunity to explore these topics in more depth.

Traveled to Paris with funding from the Nanovic Institute.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Megan Toal

- Majors: Spanish and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Juan Vitulli

The Representation of Women in Baroque Spanish Literature

Women in Baroque Spanish literature are typically depicted as incredibly oppressed. While that is not entirely untrue, Baroque Spanish women actually had more complicated lives. I studied how Baroque male and female authors depicted Spanish women. I love analyzing books and learning about the representation of women. I took a Spanish class two years ago that featured novellas by Cervantes and Maria de Zayas and decided that I wanted to write my thesis on their works.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Mary Trainor

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Dianne Pinderhughes

Critiquing the Median Voter Theorem: 2016 and Donald Trump's Path to Victory

A demographic shift in the United States is occurring, but in the 2016 election cycle, a lot of rhetoric took aim at those sections of the population growing at the fastest rates. This did not seem to add up—why would a political party alienate a growing cohort, especially when parts of its base were shrinking? Further, how could that party succeed and for how long? I seek to understand the recent success of the Republican Party in light of these changing demographics by analyzing the Median Voter Theorem and the institutional limits placed on it by the Electoral College system.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Scott Tully

- Majors: Political Science and Finance
- Adviser: Sotirios Barber

The Federal Open Market Committee: Unconstitutional and Unaccountable

Political gridlock in Washington, D.C., has slowed the appointment and confirmation of Federal Reserve governors, leading to a historic number of vacancies and leaving the remaining governors in the minority faction of the Federal Open Market Committee for the first time in history. This circumvents the intended structure of the FOMC and leaves disproportionate power in the hands of business leaders. I am interested in the immense power of the Federal Reserve System, especially in the aftermath of the Great Recession. As the U.S. conducts monetary policy in more complex ways, it is increasingly important to ensure that this institution is accountable to the interests of all Americans.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Tajae Turner

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Dan Lindley

Rebels of a Feather: Ideology, Underbalancing, and the Syrian Civil War

My research demonstrates how ideological differences between Sunni powers limit their ability against Iran, which challenges conventional sectarian and balance-of-power logic. I use the Syrian Civil War as a case study to demonstrate how ideological concerns shaped the Assad regimes' military strategy and helped fracture the Syrian rebel groups. I chose this topic because I wanted to make sense of the horrific Syrian Civil War.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Justine Uy

- Majors: Political Science and Arabic
- Adviser: Emilia Justyna Powell

Constitutional Design and Development in the Middle East: Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria

The ongoing civil war in Syria will have a host of consequences, and it is critical that options are available for the transition period immediately following the hostility. A viable, well-informed draft constitution represents one contribution academics can make toward the undoubtedly lengthy rebuilding process. That is my ultimate goal. This topic allows me to interact with my majors in a thoughtful manner, while exploring three diverse Middle Eastern states that remain vital actors in the international political sphere.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Victoria Velasquez

- Majors: Political Science and Management Consulting
- Adviser: Ricardo Ramírez

The Unique Political Bench of Latina Elected Officials from 2000 to 2014

Using a longitudinal dataset, I compare the career paths of Latina state legislators and their Latino male counterparts to determine if Latinas are more likely to have served in lower levels of office for longer lengths of time. I hypothesize that this distinct movement upward through the local pipeline creates a unique political bench of Latinas from which to recruit candidates for higher levels of elected office. This research will help political parties identify high-quality Latina candidates to recruit and further diminish the gender gap in elected office.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Noemi Ventilla

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Luis Fraga

Olympic Aspirations and the Power of Prestige: Assessing the Governance Legacies of Olympic Urban Regimes

Given the prestige and challenges associated with bidding for and hosting the Olympics, host cities' institutional structures and functioning must undergo rapid and substantial changes in order to achieve their goals. These changes have short- and long-term impacts on urban development and the regime in general. I am fascinated by why cities bid for the Olympics when it is documented that mega-events like the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup do so much harm to them. There is a major discrepancy between rhetoric and reality, and I wanted to explore it.

Traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Barcelona, Spain, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program and Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Edward Vogel

- Majors: Music (Vocal Performance) and Marketing
- Adviser: Mary Frandsen

Journeys in Song: A Senior Recital

This hourlong recital explores different types of journeys — those of the mind, body, and spirit — through song. The program features works by Ravel, Mozart, and Schumann, and will close with Ralph Vaughan Williams's masterwork, *Songs of Travel*. Our college experience is one of the most formative, important journeys we take because it is when we begin to discover who we truly are and what we want out of our lives. For me, this journey has manifested itself in one of my final public musical performances at Notre Dame.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Sienna Wdowik

- Majors: Arabic and Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Michael Desch

Beyond the Torture Debate: Non-Physically Coercive Interrogation and U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy

Rather than engage in the often-convoluted debate surrounding torture, I argue that non-physically coercive interrogation is a valuable alternative which is as or more effective than physical coercion, but doesn't involve similarly high costs. My paper discusses psychological evidence in support of NPC techniques such as rapport-building, the importance of cultural and linguistic training in interrogation programs, and a case study of effective NPC interrogation in World War II. While there is an abundance of research into effective tactics and techniques, my project fills an important gap in outlining a comprehensive interagency interrogation program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Jeremy Weaver

- Major: Music (Piano Performance)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Daniel Schlosberg

Senior Piano Recital

I will be performing the first movement of a Schubert sonata, a Chopin etude, and a Bartok piece based on Romanian dances. My studies in music classes at Notre Dame over the past four years have brought me particularly close to these composers. I relish the opportunity to bring their works to life.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Weyenberg

- Major: Science Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

“The Help Never Reaches Us”: A Case Study of Uganda’s Foremost Sickle Cell Clinic

My project explores experiences with sickle cell disease and examines the strengths and challenges of treatment at Uganda’s primary sickle cell clinic. I conducted in-depth interviews with patients, caregivers, and health care workers at the clinic in Kampala in June and July 2016. While spending a previous summer in Uganda through an International Summer Service Learning Program, I learned that one of my students had sickle cell disease, and I saw some of the compounding effects firsthand. I was inspired to return to do research to better understand and document the efforts to address the disease.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to travel to Kampala, Uganda.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Jacqueline Wilson

- Majors: Political Science and IT Management
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

Medicaid Expansion and Section 1115 Demonstration Waivers: An Analysis of Conservative Approaches

My thesis explores how red states can combine conservative principles with Medicaid expansion by using Section 1115 demonstration waivers. I examine how conservative states use waivers, their current successes and failures in terms of political and policy effectiveness, and their potential lessons for the future of state and national Medicaid programs. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act and subsequent Supreme Court rulings, Medicaid expansion became a political issue that left millions in conservative states without access to health insurance. I examine potential bipartisan solutions to significant health-policy challenges.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Cole Wintheiser

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Vincent Phillip Muñoz

One Nation Under God: An Examination and Defense of Justice Clarence Thomas' Evolving Establishment Clause Jurisprudence

Justice Clarence Thomas is the only sitting Supreme Court justice to advocate a theory of establishment clause interpretation known as non-incorporationism. I begin by examining the gradual development of Thomas' establishment clause jurisprudence, then evaluate the merits and weaknesses of his proposed non-incorporationism, and finally, apply his theory to a pending, lower circuit establishment clause case to see what a non-incorporationist understanding of the clause would entail. In a class on civil liberties and civil rights, I was fascinated by the logical, clear, and concise opinions authored by Justice Thomas, and I wanted to further analyze his method of interpretation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects

Xinhe Wu

- Major: Philosophy
- Advisers: Jeff Speaks and Curtis Franks

Sorites Paradox, Context Sensitivity, and Modality

My thesis explicates, compares, and assesses different kinds of solutions to the sorites paradox, including simple, three-value logic solutions, context-sensitivity solutions, and epistemic solutions. In assessing a solution, I focus on its logical consistency, its ability to handle higher-order vagueness, and its ability to accurately capture linguistic phenomena. For context-sensitivity solutions, I use Scott Soames' solution as a paradigmatic example; for epistemic ones, I use Williamson's solution as a paradigmatic example. The sorites paradox satisfies all of my interests — philosophy of language, philosophical logic, and paradoxes.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



Jean Carlo Yunen Arostegui

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Supplementary Major: Environmental Science
- Minor: Studio Art
- Adviser: Anne García-Romero

The Marble Floor

For my thesis, I wrote a play that deals with grief, memory, innocence, and childhood, and I'm putting it on stage as a workshop production. I felt inspired to write *The Marble Floor* because the themes resonated with me, and I am very interested in the creation of new work for the theatre.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2017 Senior Thesis Projects



**Zhixing (George)
Zhang**

- Majors: History and Mathematics
- Adviser: Julia Adeney Thomas

Planting the Seeds of the Modern East Asian Dilemma: Myths and New Interpretations of the Japanese Invasions of Korea (1592-1598)

By examining the frequently conflicting historical narratives of two Japanese invasions of Korea from 1592 to 1598, I have created my own detailed account of the war and examined its repercussions on the politics and relations of Korea, Japan, and China. The geopolitical impact of this 16th-century transgression still resonates today, shaping political tensions and national cultures in East Asia. All three countries inculcate in their citizens their own nationalist narratives of the conflict. I used the Korean, Japanese, and Chinese archives to excavate what is hopefully a historically grounded account and to understand how the competing nationalistic narratives have shaped each other.

Traveled to Japan, Korea, and China with funding from the Kellogg Institute, Liu Institute, and Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.