



Rosemary Agwuncha

- Major: Theology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

Compassionate Care in Anambra State, Nigeria: Perceptions and Obstacles

My research explores perceptions of compassionate care from the viewpoints of patients and health care providers in Anambra State, Nigeria. Understanding these perceptions, the obstacles to compassionate care, and how compassionate care affects patient satisfaction are important components in creating better health systems. I wanted to understand what the concept of compassion means for patients in the region of Nigeria I call home. Through this research, I want to promote higher quality care that offers a more holistic and dignified experience for patients because this work has not commonly been prioritized.

Traveled to Nigeria with funding from the Kellogg Institute.



Claire Alexander

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Nathan Rose

Reliability and Validity of the Cognigram: A New Computerized Cognitive Task for Concussion Assessment

This study focuses on the correlation between the CogniGram brief cognitive battery and clinical decision-making by neuropsychologists evaluating concussion in boxers. It also examines the reliability and validity of the CogniGram, as compared to established computerized testing. Concussion testing is a sensitive but extremely important topic, and computerized cognitive testing has been aiding the process of correctly diagnosing concussions and keeping patients from further traumatic brain injury. It also relates to my career path in clinical neuropsychology, as I would like to focus on traumatic brain injury, neurodegeneration, and rehabilitation.



Matthew Alexander

- Major: Sociology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

Political Language in Churches Since Trump

I looked into the political language used by churches in the Phoenix, Arizona, area before and after President Trump's election. I compared the use of language by 10 churches representing five denominations — each with one church in a majority Latino area and the other in an area without a Latino majority. Studying sociology at Notre Dame has inspired an interest in the sociology of religion and immigration, and this thesis topic was the perfect way to advance my knowledge in these areas and explore my interest in politics.



Emily Alff

- Majors: English and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kate Marshall

Ergodic Literature and the News: An Analysis of How We Read and What We Do

The news is the only kind of literature where the public affects its presentation, and its presentation affects the public. Consequently, the news shares a special dialogue with its audience. This relationship parallels how the contemporary genre, ergodic literature, manipulates its medium to influence its reader. I qualify news as its own subgenre of ergodic literature, discuss what impact ergodic literature holds on the news, and evaluate how the material format and technical qualities of the news create meaning within a community.



Cecelia Allison

- Majors: Neuroscience and Behavior and Spanish
- Adviser: Juan Vitulli

Desnudo o Vestido: Cómo las Pautas en Revistas de Moda y Revistas Médicas Limitaban el Papel de la Mujer en Sociedad Española entre 1830 y 1910

My thesis investigates the creation and justification of women's domestic roles in Spanish society through fashion magazines and medical journals between 1830 and 1910. In my studies of neuroscience, I have observed a difference between the concept of the body in medicine and in public society. Although the body is treated differently in these fields, they seem to influence each other. Since I have a particular interest in women's roles in Spanish society in this time period, I chose to investigate the print media that reinforce public perceptions of women's bodies and abilities.



Sarah Catherine Baker

- Majors: English and Biological Sciences
- Adviser: Laura Walls

When First Nations Rise: The People, the Planet, and Their Real-World Counterparts in Frank Herbert's Dune

This project is an ecocritical and anthropological reading of Frank Herbert's science-fiction novel *Dune*. Although Herbert was close friends with a member of the Quileute Native American tribe, the extent to which this association influenced his work has received little critical attention. Like the Quileute, the native people of *Dune* navigate political and ecological crises by cultivating unique relationships with their planet. My thesis explores how ecology shapes society, and the implication this has on how we take care of the earth. I elected to study *Dune* because it focuses on the interplay between humans and the physical environment — and because I love it.



Tessa Bangs

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Erika Doss

A Portrait in Grief: Collective Identity and Memory in Post-9/11 New York

I concentrate on how 9/11 has been memorialized within the United States' collective memory and communal narrative — and how that is a source of consensus and contention. I posit that place plays a role in this contention, and that regions differ in how they choose to remember. I am originally from the New York City region and have distinct memories of 9/11 and its aftermath. Coming to Notre Dame opened my eyes to the ways that others remember and commemorate that day. This thesis is the culmination of a question that has stayed with me since childhood.

Traveled to California, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Asha Barnes

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Africana Studies
- Adviser: Alex Chavez

Religion and Religious Practice in Contemporary Jamaica

An ethnographic study of religion in Jamaica, my thesis explores the tensions and negotiations between Christianity and the West African traditions, religions, and practice. As a person of Jamaican Maroon descent, I felt it necessary to explore the various legacies of slavery and colonialism in Jamaica. I found that in my own family there were tensions and negotiations happening relative to these practices and beliefs.

Traveled to Jamaica with funding from the Department of Anthropology.



Wilson Barrett

- Majors: Economics and English
- Adviser: Benjamin Pugsley

Convenience Services and Their Effect on Labor Supply

I draw on time-use data to show how the rise in convenience services — such as Postmates, Amazon Pantry, and others — has changed the way Americans use their time and how that has affected our country's labor supply. After reading a paper that attributed part of the decline in labor of young, uneducated men to improved video game technology, I wanted to explore how the labor supply has changed with the increased prevalence of services that perform basic household tasks like grocery shopping or food preparation.



Ally Bartoszewicz

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor: Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: John Duffy

The Island of Misfit Humans Sings its Anthem of Rapport

My thesis — a collection of short stories about simple encounters within a web of seemingly very different characters — provides brief and hopeful glimpses past the veil of social separation. I want readers to consider that maybe we're all citizens of the Island of Misfit Humans and that maybe it's not so bad a place to be after all. This project is a simultaneously playful and serious way to challenge the notions of "stranger," "other," and "misfit." Being able to look fellow imperfect humans in the eye and find compassion and humor through sheer relatability is something that has radically transformed my worldview, self-view, and life.

A summer experience in Slovenia with L'Arche International inspired her project.

Anne Batcheller

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Studio Art
- Adviser: Geoffrey Layman

A Comparative Study of the Emergence of Right-Wing Populism in the 2016 United States Presidential Election and the 2016 United Kingdom Referendum

My thesis evaluates the similar right-wing populist movements in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and U.K. referendum. I analyze existing hypotheses, such as economic insecurity and cultural backlash, in order to understand why and when these movements arise. I also decipher what condition(s) make populist movements become right-wing populist movements in modern western democracies. I studied abroad in London in fall 2016 and interned for a Member of Parliament. Interacting with Brexit and the U.S. election inspired me to observe the two movements in more detail.



Adam Battalio

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Lakshmi Iyer

The Factors of Federal Reserve Policy in the United States Congress

I sought to determine whether the Great Recession impacted how Congress created its Federal Reserve policy. To do this, I used the framework set by Gregory Hess and Cameron Shelton's "Congress and the Federal Reserve," which ended its research in the mid-2000s, but found clear patterns in policy motivation. The Federal Reserve is an often discussed, but rarely understood, facet of our national discourse. I am fascinated with the process by which such policy is made.

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Kel Beatty

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Mim Thomas

Narratives of Contemporary Prison Reform: An Analysis and Critique

My thesis critiques and complicates the dominant narratives of the contemporary prison reform movement in America — the history they tell of how mass incarceration developed and the proposals they endorse of how to end it. I've spent the past few years working on issues of mass incarceration in South Bend and plan to continue doing so in some capacity in the future. I chose this topic to think more clearly and deliberately in my work.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Brendan Besh

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: Italian
- Adviser: G. Felicitas Munzel

Recovering a Kantian Conception of the Highest Good in the Midst of a Sartrian World View

My thesis examines Kant's moral project in the light of a culture that has bought into the idea that there is a lack of human purpose in the moral sense due to the irrationality of the world around us. Kant's articulation of the highest good provides a way to recover a conception of moral purpose that articulates a congruent view of human teleology that has underpinnings in antiquity, especially the works of Cicero. The idea of rediscovering and rethinking the moral project has fascinated me since I first began taking classes that deal with these ethical questions.

Harlin Bessire

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Economics
- Adviser: Tarek Dika

Quantum Physics & Consciousness

Since Descartes first proposed his famous “cogito ergo sum,” natural science has largely been viewed as a hostile force against mind-body dualism. In my thesis, I argue that quantum physics defies this stereotype and reintroduces the notion that consciousness is something fundamentally distinct from physical reality. I chose this topic not only because of my interest in the philosophical implications of quantum mechanics, but also because I believe that the mystery of consciousness reflects the most fundamental questions about what it means to be human.



Kelly Bishop

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Concentration in Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Julie Braungart-Rieker

Cortisol Reactivity During Marital Conflict in Dual- vs. Single-Earning Couples Related to Division of Labor

I believe that conflict over division of household labor is a growing issue in the modern family, and an issue so central to family happiness deserves attention. My study uses data from a larger project, the Family Interaction Study, to examine this aspect of marital dynamics in modern single- and dual-earning families. The study's premise is that higher degrees of conflict over division of household work will largely influence a couple's overall marital stress and detract from marital quality, which was measured using cortisol reactivity during a marital discussion in the lab. Earner status and marital satisfaction were analyzed as moderators.



Daniel Bland

- Majors: English and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Laura Knoppers

***“Some Subtleties o’ th’ Isle”*: Moderating Postcolonial Discourse in *The Tempest* through the Green World Framework**

Postcolonial interpretations of *The Tempest* have contributed greatly to our understanding of it. However, the postcolonial reading has become such a default that every reading is ultimately litigated through that lens. This often flattens the play’s characters, casting aside their complexity. I propose a reading of the play through Northrop Frye’s Green World framework to demonstrate the value of alternative readings. I became interested in *The Tempest* due to its fascinating hybrid structure, which is part revenge tragedy and part comedy, and due to the complicated nature of Caliban — possibly one of the most litigated characters in all of Shakespearean criticism.

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Nadezhda Braun

- Major: Russian
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Mark Berends and Julie Dallavis

Education Law and Charter School Mission Statements in Detroit and Indianapolis

My thesis is a qualitative analysis of education law in Indiana and Michigan, which is then applied to the mission statements of the charter schools in Indianapolis and Detroit. I became very interested in charter schools after taking my Introduction to Education, Schooling, and Society course. This project gave me a chance to further explore their connections with the states they are located in, as well as the differences between states.



McKenzie Brummond

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Constitutional Studies and Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Leonard DeLorenzo

The Discipline of Harmony: An Examination of the Hope for Christian Unity Through Synesthesia, the Psalms, and the Saint John's Bible

I researched the implications of color-sound synesthesia — in which one sees colors when they hear — in praying through the Psalms, and the composition of the Saint John's illuminated Bible's psalter in relationship to a renewed understanding of the possibilities and need for Christian unity. I have color-sound synesthesia, and my time at Notre Dame has instilled in me a passion for ecumenical dialogue. In a conversation with my adviser, he explained to me how the Saint John's Bible is meant to be a synesthetic experience and embodies Saint Augustine's theology of the Psalms.

Traveled to Collegeville and Moorhead, Minnesota, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



John Patrick Bruno

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Policy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jeffrey Bergstrand

Estimating Partial and General-Equilibrium Effects of Eliminating NAFTA

In my thesis, I first estimate the partial effect of different types of economic integration agreements (EIAs) on the amount of trade between countries. I then use these estimates to simulate a general equilibrium model which estimates the effect on welfare of a potential dissolution of NAFTA. I am fascinated with trade agreements and all that goes into designing and negotiating them. I also work as a research assistant on the database of EIAs that I use as a main source of data.

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Sophia Buono

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

How Teachers Can Educate Virtue Through Friendship

In education today, there is often a strong emphasis on academic achievement. Although this is a worthy goal, it can distract from the other dimensions of students' needs and capacities. In order to foster holistic development and happiness, teachers need a solid understanding of philosophical anthropology, which compels teachers to foster friendship in the classroom and with each student. In my own high school education, building one-on-one relationships with my teachers as mentors and being part of a school community that fostered generosity and care enabled me to grow significantly as a person.

Received the Neus Family Senior Thesis Grant to travel to Chicago and Washington, D.C.



Molly Burton

- Majors: Gender Studies and Philosophy
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Christine Cervenak

Sex Work Policies & Human Trafficking

A recent trend in sex work policies has been affecting the anti-trafficking world. What role do the policies surrounding the legalization or criminalization of sex work have in the fight against human trafficking? Decriminalization comes to the forefront as the best way to fight human trafficking, but does this mean that it should be unilaterally adopted? Since reading *Half the Sky* in high school, I've wanted to work in international human rights law and policy against sexual and gender-based violence, specifically sex trafficking.

Traveled to Stockholm, Sweden; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Washington, D.C.; and Las Vegas, Nevada, with funding from the Gender Studies Program.



Jack Cahill

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

The Fool in King Lear and the Greek Chorus: Shakespeare's Adaptation of Sophocles to the Modern Imagination

Sophocles' three Theban plays set the foundation for tragedy as a genre. In reading Shakespeare's *King Lear*, I found that many elements of the Greek tragedy were imported into the play. Although the character of the Fool does not fit neatly into the Greek tragic context, I have found that he fills a similar role as the chorus of Sophocles' tragedies. I wanted to study the character of the Fool for his irony, cynicism, parody, and prophecy. The Fool is a fringe character — both acting within the drama and operating beyond it.

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Meghan Cain

- Majors: Music (Vocal Performance) and Psychology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kiera Duffy

Senior Recital

For my thesis, I presented a 60-minute classical voice recital featuring works by Mozart, Sargon, Chausson, Strauss, and more. I aimed to feature compositions from a wide range of time periods, varying in language and style.



Hans Martin Calle

- Majors: English and Marketing
- Adviser: Tim Machan

An Invented Land: The Adaptation of Tolkien's 'Secondary World' from the Page to the Screen

My thesis explores whether Tolkien's idea of the "sub-creation of a secondary world" — which is considered so central to the success of *The Lord of The Rings* — is successfully achieved in, or is even compatible with, Peter Jackson's film adaptations. I address the subject largely from the perspective of story structure and the inherent potential of the two very different mediums, which have different tools available to them. This thesis provides a way to incorporate my interests in Tolkien, English, and film and to examine all three together.

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Katie Campbell

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor: Gender Studies
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

wanderchild

My creative thesis is a narrative poetry collection, focusing on the story of the wanderchild. The Forest that the wanderchild calls home is beginning to decay, and when the wanderchild befriends a princess who has found her way into the Forest, things begin to change. I love the emotion and imagery that poetry is able to convey. After writing poems for years, I wanted to try writing a narrative poetry collection — individual poems that together follow a set of characters to form a cohesive storyline.



Paul Carroll

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Finance
- Adviser: Clark Power

School Choice: Voucher Programs

My thesis explores the effectiveness of voucher programs as a means of alleviating the disparity between students from low-income families and their more privileged peers. I firmly believe that poor education, above all else, perpetuates socioeconomic inequality. Children born into low-income families receive substantially inadequate schooling. If the chasm between rich and poor is ever to shrink, the education offered to society's most disadvantaged must prove capable of granting social mobility. As the public education system currently exists, this is not the case.



Emily Casaletto

- Majors: Psychology and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Advisers: Lee Anna Clark and Yuliya Kotelnikova

Sex Differences in the Role of Interpersonal Dysfunction and Borderline Personality Traits in Predicting Suicide Proneness

My thesis examines the role of interpersonal dysfunction and borderline personality traits for men and women in predicting suicide proneness in a large sample. Study strengths include conceptualizing borderline personality pathology per the Alternative DSM-5 Model for Personality Disorders and multimethod assessment of suicide proneness and interpersonal functioning. Suicide is a global health problem and most people have been affected by suicide in some way. This topic combines my interest in personality psychopathology with identifying risk and protective factors for suicide proneness to improve early detection and prevention.

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Riley Chelsky

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

Sustainability of Olympic Host Cities

This project explores the conditions under which hosting the Olympics will have a net positive effect on host cities. More specifically, I ask why Olympic Games have proven to be sustainable events for some host cities, but not others. I attended the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 while interning for NBC Sports. I am extremely interested in making the Olympics a sustainable event for future cities.



Loren Chen

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

Asian Cultural Values Applied to Cooking: Cookware for the Family

With increasingly busy lifestyles, many Americans seek shortcuts around the transition from stove to table or pan to plate. Yuan is a set of cookware that transforms into serveware, inspired by family-style meals and a deep appreciation for how food is served and shared in many Asian cultures. It bridges the gap between cooking and serving to bring fluidity, efficiency, and value back to the sharing of a meal. As a second-generation Taiwanese American, my thesis explores and combines two elements I am deeply passionate about — Asian heritage and food culture.

Traveled to Japan, Singapore, Nepal, and Taiwan and received the Greif Award from the Department of Art, Art History, and Design.

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Devon Chenelle

- Major: History
- Minors: Italian and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Randolph Ford

And After Thee Shall Arise Another Kingdom: Investigation into the 418 Visigothic Settlement in Aquitaine

This project is an inquiry into the causes, circumstances, and consequences of the fall of the Western Roman Empire. I studied invading or immigrant barbarian groups' relationships with the empire they displaced and the native inhabitants they dominated through research into the land grant conditions of the agreements between the Roman Empire and "barbarians." Among a broad range of cases, I focused on the 418 accord with the Visigoths in Aquitaine. This is a critical event in the fall of the Roman Empire — a historical subject more interesting to me than any other — with implications for ethnogenesis, conflict dynamics, and civilizational collapse.

Traveled to Transylvania, Romania, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Samuel Cho

- Majors: Design and Computer Science
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Adviser: Neeta Verma

How the Perception of Diversity Shapes One's Empathy

My thesis explores the various perceptions of the term “diversity” held by students at Notre Dame and uses their testimonies to create an immersive exhibit that helps cultivate empathy for individuals whose experiences are unlike their own. In my tenure as chair of the Diversity Council of Notre Dame, I realized that conversations at Notre Dame revolving around issues of diversity and inclusion were rarely very helpful. I wanted to explore ways in which empathy could be organically cultivated with the intent of creating a dialogue on campus that is more real, raw, and relatable.



Brendan Clemente

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

Presidential Powers and the Constitution

I examined the spiral of presidential power over time through the perspective of constitutional leadership. This explains how the presidency was constructed and how recent presidents have continued to act outside the original scope of presidential power. Additionally, new challenges have forced different courses of presidential action. After taking a class with Sotirios Barber on constitutional leadership, I began thinking deeply about the extent of power exercised by current presidents and was inspired to write a thesis explaining how we have arrived at Trump's presidency.



Christopher Collum

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

Gerrymandering, Electoral Law, and Political Polarization

My capstone project for the Hesburgh Program surveys the history of politically motivated gerrymandering. Special attention is given to recent case law that has sought to challenge gerrymandered maps, including *Gill v. Whitford*, currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. The capstone culminates with an examination of gerrymandering's relationship to political polarization and considers what — if any — viable policy or legal solutions exist. Some seem to see eradicating gerrymandering as a panacea for a host of political woes. I wish to discern whether gerrymandering can actually be eradicated, and if so, what effects that might have.

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Mary Conklin

- Majors: Anthropology and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Adviser: Lee Gettler

Evolutionary and Biocultural Approaches to Contemporary U.S. Family Systems: Understanding Parental Care, Division of Labor, and Psychobiology

My thesis is an anthropological analysis of local family systems by using evolutionary and biocultural perspectives to explore expectations surrounding gendered parental roles and childcare and their implications for well-being. I drew on a study with 48 local families that tested for correlations of infant temperament with parental care and mental well-being. One core result was that parents of negatively tempered infants had lower well-being and greater marital conflict. My interests in parent-child interactions developed through my anthropology courses and time in Professor Gettler's Hormones, Health, and Human Behavior Lab.

Received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to present research at the Human Biology Association annual meeting.



Jacklyn Cooney

- Major: Environmental Sciences
- Minors: Anthropology and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Abigail Ocobock

Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Rates Facing American Women, and the Health Disparities Driving the Increasing Trends

Increasing maternal morbidity and mortality rates are a significant issue in America — especially in comparison to other developed nations. The increasing rate can be attributed to the health disparities among racial groups and socio-economic classes, as well as the lack of national collaboration and organization to combat these trends. I find it baffling that a country can simultaneously have the lowest infant morbidity and mortality rates and the highest maternal morbidity and mortality rates of the past quarter century. It is a societal, health, and political problem that needs to be addressed and combatted.



Kaitlyn Cortez

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: Bradley Gibson

Integrity of Spatial Dimensions in Visual Processing

My thesis examines whether the spatial dimensions of distance and direction are separable or integral — that is, whether distance and direction can be processed independently or whether they must be processed holistically. After years of working in the Attention and Attentional Disorders Lab, I thought it would be interesting to pursue a project that investigates visual processing.



Caitlin Crosby

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Scourge and Minister: The Duty of a Christian Prince in Hamlet

My thesis explores how Hamlet's sense of duty as a Christian prince — which is influenced by a variety of political texts from the Renaissance — affects his action (or lack thereof) in the play. I originally wanted to study some aspect of religion in *Hamlet*, but quickly realized that such a question would become embroiled in the politics of the play. I settled on the problem of exploring the role of the Christian prince for Hamlet to study the interaction of these two forces in the play.



Meredith Cullen

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

Differing Approaches to the Common European Asylum System by European Union Member States

I examine how and why, in the current refugee crisis, EU member states are forgoing the common system in pursuit of their own national security interests. I had the opportunity to volunteer at a refugee camp during my junior year abroad in Paris, and I saw the terrible conditions that refugees and migrants have to face. My thesis was a wonderful opportunity to dive deeper into a subject I was interested in and would not otherwise have had exposure to in a traditional class. It was also great to work with my adviser individually.

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Connor Davis

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Adviser: Benjamin Pugsley

The Long-Term Local Labor Market Effects of NAFTA

I aimed to uncover the local labor effects of NAFTA with a more long-term lens. I use variation in tariff decline by region and industry to analyze the impact of NAFTA on wage growth, job creation, job destruction, and other important measures of labor market outcomes. I chose this topic partly because of the spotlight it has been under since President Trump decried it as a horrible deal for Americans. I wanted to learn firsthand how the free trade agreement signed in 1993 impacted workers in different regions and industries over time.



Rachel Davis

- Major: Information Technology Management
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: John Schoenig

The Effect of Minnesota Charter Schools on Educational Inequality

My capstone project explores the effect charter schools are having on inequality in our public education system. I looked specifically at Minnesota since it was the first state to adopt a charter school law. I have always had a passion for education and for understanding the ways in which we can increase equality in public education. As charter schools are gaining more attention, especially under our current secretary of education, I wanted to better understand the effect they are having on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.



Anthony Derouin

- Major: Architecture
- Minors: International Development Studies and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Abigail Mechtenberg

(Re)Building the Vernacular: A Closer Look at the Intersection of Architectural Heritage, Education, and Practice in Uganda

My research looked at how architects as curators of the built environment hold a special role in preserving vernacular built environments. By looking at the link between education and practice, we were able to see that engaging with the vernacular is empowering for Ugandan architects. This topic was an interesting intersection of my architecture background and my minors.

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



Connor Devine

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Minor: German
- Adviser: Eric Sims

The Effects of Monetary Structure on Fiscal Multipliers in the Eurozone

My thesis explores how an increasingly centralized monetary regime in the EU has affected fiscal multipliers in member countries from 1950 to 2014. I've had an interest in European politics and economics for many years. After taking a course on European politics, I became curious about the effects that European integration has had on national economic policy.



Kelsey Dool

- Majors: American Studies and English
- Adviser: Korey Garibaldi

Coming of Age on the Page: Exploring Young Adult Literature's Place in the American Canon

My thesis argues for a greater place for authors of young adult literature within the American literary canon, as they are currently largely overlooked. I believe the books that one reads during one's teenage years are incredibly formative and help shape and cultivate values. Especially in light of recent events such as the shooting in Parkland, Florida, it is evident that teenagers have the potential to have a powerful voice in creating social change, and I believe the authors who write with the intention of invoking that voice deserve greater recognition.

Traveled to Long Island University in New York with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Emma Dopheide

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Susan Latham

An Analysis of Emerging Rehabilitative Therapy Services in Gonaives, Haiti

My thesis investigates the implementation of a community-based rehabilitation program in Gonaives, Haiti, with an emphasis on children with developmental disabilities. My goal was to discover and outline the community's needs in terms of rehabilitation and disability services and determine how the clinic was meeting those needs. In addition, I investigated which strategies employed by the clinic could be generalized and expanded to other areas in need of rehabilitation and disability services. I want to be an occupational therapist working with children with developmental disabilities. I was especially interested in exploring therapy programs for children in Haiti, where I had traveled before.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program to travel to Gonaives, Haiti.



Alexis Dorsey

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

Nepal to America: Expanding the Framework of Sustainability

It is common knowledge that Nepal is less developed than the United States. As a culture, however, it is far more advanced in its sustainable habits. My thesis explores these sustainable tendencies to see if and how they could be used to expand the sustainable mindset of the average American consumer.

Sustainability is one of the most defining global issues, yet it is the issue most often ignored by modern society. I chose this topic to help bring awareness to the issue.

Traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal.



Stephanie Dubois

- Majors: Economics and Sociology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kasey Buckles

The Beauty Premium and the Fitness Premium

The way someone looks is an enormously personal decision — with huge social, economic, and physical consequences. After conducting qualitative research on perceptions of the decisions that go into appearance management, I conducted an econometric analysis of the importance of fitness and stature as it plays out in labor market outcomes. My thesis began with the idea of investigating the Lipstick Effect — the notion that individuals invest more in cosmetics and appearance management products during harsh economic times. After working to understand the sociological implications and mechanisms of this, I found a theme that spoke to the importance of fitness.

Traveled to New York City with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Adrianna Duggan

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Adviser: Lira Yoon

Mentorship and Mental Health

I explored whether a correlation exists between identifying as having a mentor and mental health outcomes, as measured by depression, anxiety, perceived stress, self-esteem, behavioral inhibition/approach, and alcohol dependency scales. With mental illness and health issues becoming a rising concern on college campuses, I wanted to see whether mentorship was a valuable avenue to explore for the purposes of mitigating possible mental health issues.



Josefina Durini Wollak

- Majors: Greek and Roman Civilization and Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Art History
- Adviser: Christopher Baron

The Changing Definition of Tyranny

I analyzed the evolving definition of “tyrant.” I argue that the transition from the Peisistratid tyranny to democracy in Athens caused the word tyrant to be maligned, as the new democracy was trying to establish its position by delegitimizing the previous government.



Ben Easton

- Majors: English and Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kate Marshall

‘A Web of Sense’: Narrative Structure and Aesthetic Import in Vladimir Nabokov’s Pale Fire

I explored how the formal elements of *Pale Fire* interact in such a way as to intentionally problematize any attempt at a totalizing hermeneutics. Rather than the interpretation of a text, *Pale Fire* becomes increasingly about the “textuality of interpretation,” resulting in a fundamental rethinking of the relationship between reading and writing. I chose this topic because I believe Nabokov — as one of the last great novelists of the 20th century — does not seek to simply tell a good story, but in so doing, he makes us better readers.



Brittany Ebeling

- Major: International Economics (French)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Abigail Wozniak

Spreading the Wealth: The Effect of Remittances upon Transnational Households in Kolda, Senegal

Remittances sent home by sub-Saharan African diaspora members living in the underbelly of Europe are a significant source of financial transfers, whether made via formal or informal mechanisms. This study addresses the potential wide-ranging effects of those financial flows through the microeconomic lens of the transnational household unit. The investigation entails ethnographic observation as well as the use of structured interviews among families that receive remittances in the Kolda region of Senegal. While working for the Senegal bureau of the International Organization for Migration, I became deeply invested in the socioeconomic effects of Senegalese migration to Europe.

Traveled to Vélingara, Kolda, Senegal, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Carolyn Ebner

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: Rev. Kevin Grove, C.S.C.

Friendship and the Sacramental Life of the Church: A Study of Friendship in Augustine's Confessions, 'Letter to Proba,' and Teaching Christianity

Augustine's understanding of friendship develops alongside his intellectual and spiritual growth. Studying particular friendships in Augustine's life and relying on his own system of sacramental theology, I found that friends, as signs, reveal and affect the Christian identity. Friendship itself becomes sacramental and, by friendship, God immerses persons in His grace and invites them into a sacramental way of being. My interest in the theology of friendship and my love for St. Augustine led me to ponder the role of friends in Augustine's conversion, and a sacramental theology class in my junior year cultivated my own sacramental imagination.



Regina Ekaputri

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

Integrating Art and Mathematics: Does the Visual Thinking Strategies Curriculum Facilitate Critical Thinking in Mathematics?

My project investigates whether Visual Thinking Strategies — a curriculum for observing and discussing art in a small group — could help improve observational, analytical, and flexible thinking in the domain of mathematical reasoning and problem solving. I am very interested in the intersection of psychology and education. I chose this topic after spending two years in Professor McNeil's lab, which studies mathematics cognition and learning, and after spending last summer working in education at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Tommy Emmet

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Advisers: Steve Reifenberg and Catherine Bolten

The State of Trust and Healthcare Utilization in Post-Ebola Sierra Leone

This paper investigates the state of trust in Sierra Leonean medical services after the Ebola outbreak. I found that levels of trust have almost returned to normal and that any mistrust that increased during the outbreak can be explained by existing social and cultural conditions specific to Sierra Leone. Having been to Sierra Leone once before, I wanted to learn more about the outbreak and the difficulties of health care delivery in rural Sierra Leone.

Received funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to conduct research in Sierra Leone.



James English

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Susan Pratt Rosato

Hierarchy, Trust, and Defection: An Analysis of Intelligence Sharing Between the United States and Israel

The United States and Israel enjoy a fruitful, bilateral intelligence-sharing relationship, but the trust deemed necessary for international cooperation has been broken at several moments. My thesis explains variations in cooperation over time and analyzes how a hierarchical structure has helped maintain this relationship and the states' willingness to cooperate on matters of international security. A class on U.S.-Israeli relations sparked my initial interest in the topic, and matters of international cooperation have become increasingly important in recent years.



Julia Erdlen

- Major: English
- Minors: Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT) and Science, Technology, and Values (STV)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Janet Kourany

STEM Women's Rocky Road to Stockholm: The Institutional Obstacles that Prevent Women in Science from Winning the Nobel Prize

Women in STEM have been historically disadvantaged, and only 17 women have won scientific Nobel Prizes. The obstacles and discrimination they face is exacerbated by the institution of the Nobel Prize. My thesis blends narratives of women in STEM with the broader societal issues they face. As a former STEM major and a Science, Technology, and Values minor, I wanted to use what I studied to tell the stories of these brilliant scientists.



Shaun Evans

- Major: Philosophy and Theology
- Supplementary Major: Classics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Ann Astell and Thomas Flint

Scorched Beauty: The All Saints' Day Sermons of St. Aelred of Rievaulx

St. Aelred of Rievaulx, a 12th-century abbot of the Cistercian Monastery of Rievaulx in northern England, produced nine substantial sermons for the Feast of All Saints — five of which remain untranslated. My thesis is a translation of these five sermons from Latin to English, with introduction, commentary, and notes. My love of the Latin language, together with my interests in medieval theology and philosophy and Scriptural exegesis, excited me about the opportunity to engage in close study of several fine pieces of medieval Latin Homiletics.

Traveled to the remains of Aelred's monastery in Rievaulx, England, with funding from the Rome International Scholars Program Ravarino Grant.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Lily Falzon

- Major: Sociology
- Minor: Chinese
- Adviser: Ayesha Ahmad

Conflicting Methodologies and Cross-Cultural Validation: Investigating the Current State of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Focusing on China's integrated health care system — where traditional Chinese medicine operates alongside Western biomedicine at every level — my thesis explores how exposure to Western medicine impacts ideas and attitudes toward Chinese medicine. With 80 percent of the developing world reliant upon traditional medicines for primary care, there is a need for governments to legitimize and incorporate pre-existing traditional medicines into overarching health care systems. China is one of the few countries to have successfully created an integrated health care system. My hope is that it can be replicated and applied to other nations in the future.

Traveled to Hong Kong and mainland China with funding from the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.



Jeanne Farnan

- Majors: Philosophy and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: David Solomon

Liberal Eugenic Philosophy and Prenatal Selection Against Children with Down Syndrome

My thesis focuses primarily on the emergence of liberal eugenic philosophy in practice and the central tension between autonomy and human dignity that it entails. My youngest sister, Annie, has Down syndrome. Liberal eugenic philosophy has led to high termination rates for children with Down syndrome in many countries worldwide. A world that seeks to eliminate Down syndrome in this way is a world that wishes to eliminate my sister. As a future medical student and a philosophy major, this topic combined my love for these disciplines with my great love for Annie and all those who have Down syndrome.

Traveled to the United Nations Headquarters for a conference pertaining to this topic with funding from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.



Michael Finan

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Adviser: David Campbell

Where's the Party?: An Analysis of the White Working-Class Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election and Changing Party Identification in American Politics

As one of the biggest upsets in recent political history, the 2016 presidential election shocked the nation and the world. Throughout the campaign season, it was widely considered an unusual election, yet the exit polls were very typical of recent elections. Perhaps the most important question is whether the 2016 election was truly unprecedented or part of a larger trend. I believe that the unexpected events of the election must be evaluated more broadly in order to understand its true significance and, more importantly, what to expect for future elections.



King Fok

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Advisers: Terence McDonnell and Erin McDonnell

Agency in the Decision-Making Process: Amputees Pursuing a Prosthesis in Ghana

Dubbed by the BBC as the worst country in which to be disabled, 95 percent of people in Ghana have no access to rehabilitative services. My thesis examines how structural and social factors shape an amputee's sense of agency in the decision to get a prosthesis. I chose this topic because I had Legg-Calve-Perthes disease as a child, resulting in two years of rehabilitation and crutches. This was my first glimpse into how socioeconomic challenges may dictate a patient's health outcome and has driven my passion for disabilities studies centered on solving problems of access. I aspire to be an orthopedic surgeon and reform health care systems abroad.

Traveled to Ghana with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Alexandra Franco

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Gender Studies
- Adviser: Anré Venter

Terror Management, Gender Roles, Self-Esteem, and Social Desirability

My thesis primarily explores the relationship between terror management (how we manage the “terror” of our own mortality) and gender role attitudes (the degree to which one believes men and women should act in certain ways). It also explores these variables in relation to social desirability and self-esteem. I have been fascinated with terror management theory since I first learned about it. The existing literature on terror management includes little on gender role attitudes, and I wanted to fill that gap with my thesis.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Pete Freeman

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Majors:
Gender Studies and Peace
Studies
- Adviser: Rory McVeigh

Donor Dilemma: How Evidence of NGO Effectiveness Impacts the Choice of Charity

What kinds of appeals — emotional, logical, ethical — best solicit donor support of an NGO? How might potential donors respond when the same issue or cause is framed by varied rhetoric? Why do donors contribute to a collective good in the first place? The purpose of this study is to better understand which NGOs students prefer to donate to based on different descriptions of a charitable cause. Over the past nine years of my involvement with NGO management, I have been increasingly perplexed by donors' and stakeholders' lack of interest in evidence supporting a nonprofit's effectiveness and long-term impact.

Received a grant from the Eisch Endowment Fund.



Nicholas Furnari

- Major: Anthropology (Honors)
- Adviser: Rahul Oka

The Contagion of Fear: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Populist Movements

I examined what environmental factors are conducive to the rise of populist movements by using historical case studies — namely, the French Revolution and the English Civil Wars — and relating them, in turn, to the modern state of U.S. politics. My interest in economic anthropology began as a first-year student and has grown since, especially due to the influence of my adviser and his colleagues at Notre Dame and around the world. The topic of populism was of particular interest to me because of the 2016 election cycle.



Josephine Gallagher

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Robert Goulding

Aesthetic Impacts: How the British Museum's Justification for Keeping the Parthenon Marbles is Rooted in Initial Aesthetic Reactions

My thesis concerns the initial reactions to the marbles when they were removed from Athens and brought to London and how their impact on British society at the time influences the British Museum's modern justification for keeping the marbles. I discuss the aesthetic and cultural role of museological objects as well as claims made for and against the repatriation of the sculptures. I am fascinated with the controversy that still surrounds the Parthenon marbles and wanted to investigate further. I am also very interested in the relationship between museums and their objects.

Traveled to London.



Jenna Galuska

- Major: Mathematics
- Minors: Education, School, and Society (ESS) and Actuarial Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Nicole McNeil

Stereotype Threat and Students Studying Math and Applied Math

We've all heard before that women are underrepresented in STEM fields. One reason is that women experience gender-related stereotype threat in fields like mathematics — meaning that they underperform compared to men, when they actually have similar skill levels. I wanted to learn more about whether women studying mathematics and applied mathematics at Notre Dame experience gender stereotypes differently. As a math major working in a psychology lab, I was excited to work with a topic that applies to my experiences in college.



Haylee Gans

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Jill Lany

Examining the Effects of Overheard Speech on Language Development in One-Year-Olds

Early speech exposure can have a profound effect on language development, as well as subsequent achievement. Vocabulary size in kindergarten is one of the most powerful predictors of a child's reading ability and later success in school. When babies are first learning words at 12 months, overheard speech can provide a mechanism through which to learn words, contributing significantly to a child's ability to process and encode language. My study evaluates the effect of language input at 12 months on vocabulary size and lexical processing speed at 15 months.



Emily Garrett

- Majors: English and Gender Studies
- Adviser: Cyraina Johnson-Roullier

Dear Cincinnatus C.: A Gendered Reading of Vladimir Nabokov's Invitation to a Beheading

My thesis addresses Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Invitation to a Beheading* through a feminist lens in order to show how Nabokov's unique — and unintentional — use of gender and femininity shapes our impression of the abuse against the novel's main character, Cincinnatus C. I first read this novel in a class on Nabokov and chose to explore the issue of gender in one of my assignments. It was a perspective my professor had not seen before in Nabokov scholarship and he encouraged me to pursue this analysis further.



Grace Garry

- Major: American Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Advisers: Kathleen Cummings and Evan Ragland

Sisters in Science: Challenging Narratives of Faith and Feminism in America

My project concerns the narratives of women religious in the field of science. I researched the experiences of two women in particular to illuminate the reasons for the invisibility, discrimination, and lack of opportunities they experienced during their intellectual pursuits. This project focuses on the intersectionality of faith, feminism, and science and how these women reconciled these identities. This project was fascinating because women religious are some of the most documented citizens in our country, yet we know the least about them.

Traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, and St. Paul, Minnesota.



Maggie Gentine

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: William Carbonaro

Parental Education Attainment and Encouragement Methods for Children's Academic Success

Analyzing two groups of parents — those with at least a bachelor's degree and those with a high school diploma — I explored how parental education level attributes to the difference in how they encourage their children to attend college. After reading Annette Lareau's book *Unequal Childhoods*, I became interested in the stark differences in parenting styles that are dependent on socioeconomic status. Coming from a higher SES, my educational trajectory has been very fluid, and I never questioned the next step. But this is often not the case for lower SES students, and I sought to learn more about these differences.

Traveled to Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



John Gibbons

- Majors: Economics and Program of Liberal Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Robert Goulding

The Catilinarian Conspiracy and the Formation of Cicero's Political Philosophy

My thesis explores the four orations Cicero delivered during the Catilinarian conspiracy of 63 B.C., the year of his consulship. I explore how his political philosophy was developed through this event and was later formalized in his writings, particularly in his *De re publica*. I read Cicero in a class and enjoyed his style and philosophy. After studying abroad in Italy my junior year, I also appreciated the culture and history of ancient Rome, so I decided to explore these two interests with my thesis.



Jessica Gibson

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Philosophy
- Adviser: Jessica Payne

Effects of Power Posing on Physiological Responses to a Psychosocial Stressor

Everyone experiences different levels of stress and power in their lives. This study explores how these two phenomena interact. We predicted that assuming a high-power pose would reduce the intensity of the stress response to a psychosocial stressor and that a lower power pose would increase the response intensity. Stress is pervasive in our society and can have detrimental effects when chronic. After learning about a study that indicated that high-power posing could reduce cortisol, a stress hormone, I was intrigued by the possibility that power posing could temper the stress response during psychosocial stressors.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Annaleis Giovanetti

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Italian
- Adviser: Gerald Haeffel

Self-Distancing May be Harmful: Third-Person Writing Increases Levels of Depressive Symptoms Compared to Traditional Expressive Writing and No Writing

This research used a two-week daily journaling experimental design to test the effect of writing perspective on altering cognitive vulnerability to depression. I hypothesized that writing using self-distancing would be more effective than traditional expressive writing in preventing depressive symptoms for those at high cognitive risk for depression. Contrary to the hypothesis, we found that those in the self-distancing condition reported significantly greater depressive symptoms than in both the traditional and no-writing conditions. I have been part of the Cognition and Emotion Lab since my first year, where we study risk and resilience to depression.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Rachel Goldfarb

- Major: Psychology
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

Factors Affecting the Relationship Between Parental Depressive Symptoms and Adolescent Depressive Symptoms

I analyzed the factors affecting the relationship between parental depressive symptoms and adolescent depressive symptoms, specifically child involvement in conflict and a child's sense of emotional security. The National Institute of Mental Health reported that in 2015, an estimated 3 million adolescents in the United States had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. This number represents 12.5 percent of the population aged 12 to 17. This is concerning, especially given the developmental significance of adolescence. Depression in adolescence is linked to adverse outcomes through adolescence and into adulthood.



Jared Gonzales

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Claudia Anewalt Francis

Are Video Game Loot Boxes Gambling?

My capstone paper evaluates whether “loot boxes” — an in-game promotion that a player purchases to receive a random selection of in-game items — constitute gambling under U.S. federal, state, and case law. Millions of gamers who purchase loot boxes are under 21, the age requirement for gambling in most states. I also look at the economic and psychological consequences of purchasing them. I chose this topic in light of the recent controversy surrounding this now prolific, billion-dollar-generating video game feature, which has stirred passionate debates between gamers, game developers, and governments around the world due to its striking resemblance to gambling.



Alyssa Grant

- Majors: Classics and Art History
- Adviser: Christopher Baron

Rex Infelix? Alexander the Great as a Trope during the Roman Principate

Latin authors of the Silver Age often used Alexander the Great as a trope. He could represent a terrible monarch, a wise general, or even philosophy itself. Almost any mention of him, aside from those in biographical accounts, serves a specific purpose, such as criticism of the Roman Empire. I was interested in why some Roman authors praise Alexander for his success and military prowess and then — within the same work — denounce him as a tyrannical leader. As I continued to read Latin and Greek texts, a pattern began to emerge across many different authors and genres.



Carly Gray

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

Marital Conflict, Adolescent Adjustment, and Competence: An Emotional Security Perspective

I explored the relationship between marital conflict styles and teachers' perceptions of adolescent adjustment problems and competence. I expect that this relationship will be mediated by the adolescent's emotional security, which is a measure of how confident a child is in their family's relationships. I have been involved with the Family Studies Lab for four semesters and have developed an interest in families and their communication styles. I am also interested in education, especially teachers' relationships with and perceptions of their students, and I wanted to combine these interests in my thesis.



Jeffrey Graziano

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

Contemporary Fashion

My thesis focuses on exploring and celebrating flaws within fashion to create an emotionally evocative collection that challenges fashion norms. I am interested in the fashion world, and I believe that I can introduce a new perspective to design as a whole.



Emily Greentree

- Major: American Studies
- Supplementary Major: Statistics
- Advisers: Perin Gurel and Susan Ohmer

Disney's America: The Misrepresentation of American History in the Walt Disney World Parks

My thesis looks at narratives of American progress as told by the attractions in the Walt Disney World theme parks — and the problems of presenting American history as a narrative of progress. My thesis focuses on three attractions — the Carousel of Progress, the Hall of Presidents, and the American Adventure. I wrote this thesis out of a love for Disney and a desire to help others examine the controlled narrative of Disney in a critical way. I hope this thesis allows readers to better understand the media they consume.

Traveled to Walt Disney World with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Matthew Gregory

- Majors: Psychology and Environmental Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Rev. Terrence Ehrman, C.S.C.

Proposing a Model for Integrating New Atheism into the Catholic Educational Context

New atheism poses interesting questions for Catholic education. In my thesis, I propose a model for integrating new atheist thinking into Catholic classrooms. Several prominent public intellectuals maintain a hostile view of faith and religious life. I wanted to understand more about their views and how Catholics should respond to them.

Traveled to the Galápagos Islands with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Andrew Grose

- Majors: Spanish and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Ben Heller

An Ambiguous Nation, A Man in Conflict: Exile, Nationalism, and Dialectic in Roque Dalton's Taberna y otros lugares

I examined the theories of Hegel and Derrida on knowledge before applying them to Salvadoran poet Roque Dalton. In exile, Dalton struggles with a “Derridean dialectic” between artistic and political priorities as he writes about his nation and himself in his most famous work, *Taberna y otros lugares*. It is an exploration of literary theory and epistemology through exile theory and Salvadoran experimental poetry. After a summer doing medical work in El Salvador, I was inspired to return. I am working to develop a better understanding of the political, social, and cultural history of El Salvador.

Traveled to El Salvador.



JP Gschwind

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

The Aristotle Option: Virtue Ethics and Economic Practice in Alasdair MacIntyre's After Virtue and Michael Novak's The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism

I explored how the role of classical virtue ethics in modern capitalism helps to illuminate the divide between traditionalist conservatism and classical liberalism. Alasdair MacIntyre and Michael Novak serve as compelling representatives for their respective schools of thought because they both unite Aristotelian virtue ethics and economic practice with their larger political philosophies. I am deeply interested in the philosophical influences that inform modern American conservatism and the tension between traditionalist conservatism and classical liberalism. Additionally, I enjoy studying virtue ethics and its application to economic practice because it integrates my academic interest in political philosophy with my vocational interest in business.



Emily Gust

- Majors: Economics and Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Andrew Gould

The Rise (and Fall) of Scottish Nationalism: Analyzing the Causes of the 2014 Scottish Referendum on Independence and Beyond

My thesis examines the rise of Scottish nationalism, focusing on the years leading up to the independence referendum held in 2014. Paying special attention to the Scottish National Party, I analyze why the referendum occurred, as well as why it ultimately failed. I am interested in the rise of nationalism throughout the world. I studied abroad in London and worked in Parliament under the Secretary of State to Scotland, which piqued my interest in Scotland specifically.

Traveled to London and Edinburgh, Scotland, with funding from the Kennedy Scholars program.

Alexander Hadley

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

Philology and Poetic Inspiration in Poliziano's "Manto"

I investigated the contrasting notions of poetic inspiration in Neoplatonic and philological theory, particularly in a Neo-Latin poem of Angelo Poliziano, a Renaissance scholar. In his encomium to Vergil, "Manto," Poliziano complicates traditional Neoplatonic ideas about the process of poetic inspiration, proposing a more subtle and nuanced vision. Working with Poliziano's Latin poetry offered the opportunity to blend my studies in classics with my broader work in the Program of Liberal Studies. Poliziano's unusual subversion of intellectual fields proposes a more holistic understanding of knowledge that is strikingly congruent with PLS's approach to education.

Received the Program of Liberal Studies' Monteverdi Award to study in Tuscany, Italy.



Josef Hageman

- Majors: Classics and Economics
- Adviser: Brian Krostenko

Aes Alienum: Debt and Morality in Cicero's In Catilinam II

My thesis examines why Cicero focuses on debt in his second speech against Catiline. First, I explain the role of debt in the Roman economy and argue that there was a debt crisis at the time of the speech. Afterward, I conduct a rhetorical analysis of the speech. I conclude by showing that Cicero is providing a moral framework with which his audience can understand the conspiracy. A discussion of the second speech in Professor Krostenko's class on Cicero and the crisis of the Roman Republic inspired me to combine my economics and classics studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



John Haley

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Ted Mandell

Out on the Streets

The Human Rights Campaign estimates that roughly 40 percent of homeless youth in the U.S. identify as LGBTQ+. *Out on the Streets* is a short documentary film that gives viewers a glimpse of their experience — the reasons behind the challenges they face, their perseverance, and their hopes for a better tomorrow. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I was fortunate to be able to come out to a welcoming circle of family and friends. This experience isn't always the case. LGBTQ+ youth represent an underserved, marginalized population — the result of a problem that has gone unnoticed in our society for far too long.

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

Robert Harig

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Mary Keys

Power, Pity, and Death in The Iliad and The Lord of the Rings

My thesis is a comparison of Homer's *The Iliad* and J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* in reference to the themes of power, pity, and death, as well as the philosophical differences in their worlds. Ever since I read *The Iliad* during my freshman year, I have been drawing comparisons between it and *The Lord of the Rings* and thinking about the fundamental differences between the works.



Catherine Hayes

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Connie Mick

Urban Food Policy

I wrote my thesis on the enablers and barriers to successful urban food policy, centered around a case-study comparison of food policy in Boston and Detroit. I have worked for several nonprofits related to food justice, and it is a personal interest of mine. In addition, my urban policy focus is a good way to combine my political science major and poverty studies minor.



Erin Hayes

- Majors: Arabic and Political Science
- Adviser: Michael Hoffman

U.S. Foreign Policy and Nationalist Parties in Northern Ireland and Palestine

My thesis explores lessons from U.S. diplomacy in Northern Ireland that can be applied to efforts to mediate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I examine differing American stances on nationalist parties in the two cases and how these policies affect both the parties' actions and the effectiveness of peace efforts. My interest in international relations was piqued when my family hosted a student from Belfast and I learned about the Northern Ireland peace process. I chose this topic to tie together my interest in Northern Ireland and my studies of the Middle East.

Traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Saskia Hennecke

- Majors: Economics and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Mary Celeste Kearney

The Effect of the Communist Regime on the Feminist Movement in the Czech Republic

During my semester in Prague, I conducted an independent film study of post-communist feminist thought in the Czech Republic. Through filmed interviews of women who were of working age during the regime's rule, alongside their families, I analyzed the cross-generational impact of communist policies on today's feminist movement and created a conversation about how women realize their goals and roles in society. I wanted to do something productive with my study abroad experience that would push me out of my comfort zone and help me integrate more fully with a foreign city, culture, and language.

Traveled to Prague, Czech Republic.



Jackson Herrfeldt

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Minor: Studio Art
- Adviser: William Donaruma

Basement Bedroom (*A Narrative Film*)

My thesis is a narrative short film about a college student struggling to come out as gay to his friends due to the pressure of hypermasculinity within a male college environment. My focus within film is production, so for my thesis I wanted to write my own film, which I have loosely based on personal experiences. I also wanted to use my skills in film production to direct the film and see it to completion.



Allison Hogan

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Steve Reifenberg

Community Health Workers and Mental Health Care Delivery in Rural Mexico

I partnered with Compañeros en Salud to interview 32 community health workers about their confidence in their ability to deliver mental health care to rural communities in Chiapas, Mexico. I found their confidence stems from a combination of factors that enable them to effectively address an important gap in access to mental health care in Mexico. I am passionate about mental health, and I wanted to explore this topic more in the context of the developing world. Health care is a human right and all persons deserve access to it.

Received funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to travel to Chiapas, Mexico.



**John Michael
Hogue**

- Major: Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: David Lincicum and Anthony Pagliarini

Jesus of Nazareth and Scriptural Exegesis: Benedict XVI's Historical, Faithful, and Relevant Portrait of Jesus

My thesis sketches Benedict XVI's method for Biblical interpretation and illustrates that methodology with examples from his three-volume work, *Jesus of Nazareth*. Benedict respects the work of the historical critical method, yet acknowledges its limits and supplements it with the Church's tradition and with a concern for the text's meaning. Benedict's Scriptural exegesis is inseparable from his theology of history. I first began researching Benedict's compelling exegetical method in a New Testament class. I decided to return to this topic because of the captivating beauty of God's word and because of the tremendous theological consequences of Biblical interpretation.



Evan Holguin

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: David Fagerberg

C.S. Lewis and San Giovanni Calabria: A Study in Ecumenism

My thesis investigates the epistolary relationship between English author C.S. Lewis and Italian saint Giovanni Calabria, focusing on their discussions regarding Christian unity and their differing approaches toward unification. I included an original translation from Italian to English of Calabria's essay, "Ut omnes unum sint." Lewis' relationship with Catholicism fascinates me, so I was immediately intrigued by his personal relationship with an Italian saint. The focus on ecumenism developed naturally from researching their relationship, as it was the central topic of their letters.

Traveled to Verona, Italy, and Oxford, England, with funding from the Rome International Scholars program.



Jane Horvat

- Majors: English and Romance Languages and Literatures
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Johannes Göransson

Triune Goddess

Triune Goddess is a creative nonfiction exploration of identity and the areas of life that help shape it. The narrative tells the non-chronological story of an attempt to accept oneself, while bringing in critical theory, feminist essays, and poetry. The concept of identity is integral to our global society as we struggle to accept and better ourselves. Over the past four years, I realized I had been unconsciously focusing on identity, on how people wear masks without even recognizing it, on how complex my identity had become. Eventually, I decided my search for my identity was the story I needed to tell.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Lawrenzo Howell

- Major: Sociology
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: William Carbonaro

The Role of Race in College Social Experience

My research explores how variation in college satisfaction and satisfaction with campus diversity is dependent on variation in students' race. I also analyze the ways in which students' ability to get along with students from different backgrounds impacts their satisfaction with diversity and college. As a student of color at a predominantly white institution, I have had a very different college experience than my white peers. I wanted to select a topic that incorporated the knowledge and experience I have gained over my four years, as well as the important social science research techniques that have guided my academic journey.



Makenzie Huguet

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Science, Technology, and Values (STV)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jessica Payne

The Effects of Sleep and Emotional Salience on Direct Associative and Relational Memory

This study demonstrated the benefit of sleep in memory consolidation of direct associative and relational memory, as tested by a two-part study with a memory task. Overall, emotional salience played a role in memory consolidation for associative memory only. Further, an interesting correlation between REM sleep and memory was found, suggesting that REM's function is specific to different forms of memory. I have worked in the Sleep, Stress, and Memory lab since my first year, and I chose this topic as a follow-up to a study conducted a few years ago. I am particularly interested in the function of individual sleep stages on our daily lives.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Rachel Iverson

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

Examining the Relation Between Cardinality and the Order Irrelevance Principle

The cardinality principle is well studied and typically regarded as the most difficult aspect of counting for children to understand. The order irrelevance principle has been studied significantly less often and very rarely in conjunction with cardinality. My thesis aims to start filling in that research gap. I was interested in further investigating incidental evidence I had observed during previous experiences collecting data about how children learn to count. Additionally, I was motivated by the great significance that children's understanding of counting holds for their future academic trajectories.



Katharine Janes

- Major: Political Science
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

Exploring State and Voluntary Sector Welfare Provision for the Elderly in Various U.S. States

I explored the relationship between the state and nonprofit sectors in welfare provision in U.S. states. In particular, I considered how federal funding changes impact this dynamic and how health and socioeconomic outcomes for the elderly are affected accordingly. I have always valued philanthropic engagement. However, after taking a course on social policy at Oxford, I realized that individual volunteering is not enough to fix extant systems that marginalize demographics of people. To this end, my project explores how state and nonprofit resources can be employed in conjunction to combat relegation.

Received funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.



Shane Jenkins

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Advisers: Julia Marvin and Declan Kiberd

'I Couldn't Stop It From Starting': The Child-Narrator in Roddy Doyle's Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha and Claire Keegan's Foster

My thesis compares two contemporary works of Irish literature, both written from the first-person perspective of a child-narrator, and their similar portrayals of family dysfunction and Irish history. Where these works differ is in whether they suggest that these children can overcome their circumstances. Spending eight months studying and working in Dublin was an integral part of my thesis research. Through my classes on Irish society and my relationships with Irish citizens, I gained a familiarity with different parts of Irish history, language, and culture that helped me understand the subtleties of these works.



Gregory Jenn

- Majors: Political Science and Romance Languages and Literatures
- Supplementary Major: Latino Studies
- Adviser: Karen Richman

Mexican Immigration: A Dantean Illumination

I analyzed transnational migration through the literary perspective of the *Divine Comedy*. Turning to Dante provides a fruitful lens for seeing and understanding the experience of Mexican migration through the desert, through hell, and, if one survives, a rebirth. I have always had an interest in immigration, and in coming to Notre Dame, I realized my passion for Dante and the *Divine Comedy*.



Steven Jessen-Howard

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Sociology and Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

Justice or Profits? Explaining the Use of Immigrant Detention

I examine how demographic factors and financial incentives to private prison corporations and local law enforcement agencies impact the detention of undocumented immigrants and the outcomes of those detained. I chose to focus on immigration because of the injustice I witnessed in the U.S. immigration system during a Border Issues seminar and because of discussions I've had with my undocumented classmates. I chose specifically to examine imprisonment of immigrants because I am also passionate about mass incarceration and criminal justice in the United States.



**Weronika
Kaczmarczyk**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: David Gasperetti

Economic Inefficiency of Soviet Gulags: A Quantitative and Literary Analysis

Using statistical information and firsthand accounts, I compiled a comprehensive evaluation of the efficiency of applying Gulag labor to complete Soviet economic projects. I analyzed two case studies from both statistical and literary perspectives to assess the functionality of the system as a whole in order to explain the Soviets' motivations and degree of effectiveness in their objective of industrialization. I chose this topic after reading Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* and noting the emphasis it places on the ethical problems of the Gulag. Unlike many other personal accounts, however, it also addresses the Gulag's economic flaws.



Roge Karma

- Major: Political Science
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Mark Roche

Rethinking National Narratives: Developing a Civic Education of Estrangement and Love

The immense polarization and division in America today is rooted in two diametrically opposed American historical narratives: “America the Great” and “America the Oppressor.” In my thesis, I argue that neither of these historical narratives is compatible with the demands of American civic education. Thus, I propose the formation of a new national narrative — one that presents American history not as a one-sided national myth, but a common project to close the gaps between American ideals and current realities. This topic lies at the center of my interests in narrative construction, national identity, education, and foreign policy.



Shea Kelly-Buckley

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Sarah Mustillo

‘Changing the Chairs’: A Case Study of Workplace Hierarchy

Organizational theory suggests that health care organizations tend toward a well-defined hierarchy, but Maple City Health Care Center in Goshen, Indiana, maintains a less-defined, more fluid hierarchy among its employees. How might the “Circle Way” meeting structure contribute to the center’s maintenance of a less hierarchical workplace environment? The way a health care provider experiences her work in turn impacts the way a patient experiences her care. As an aspiring health care professional preparing to enter a field that is increasingly driven by market considerations of efficiency and cost containment, digging deeper into hierarchy in the health care workplace feels timely, both academically and personally.



Casey Kennedy

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

Coordination in Child Welfare in Moshi, Tanzania

For my capstone project, I conducted field research in Moshi, Tanzania, on how government social workers and civil society organizations (NGOs) coordinate within their child welfare system. Coordination is emphasized in policy documents as a means to improve child welfare, but little research has been conducted on how the two groups work together. I found that these new politics emphasizing coordination have a lot of potential and are an important area to explore further. I also have worked with vulnerable children in East Africa and speak Swahili, so conducting research in Tanzania was appealing to me.

Traveled to Tanzania with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Robert Kesman

- Majors: English and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Christine Becker

Tragic, the Comedy

My creative thesis is a television pilot set in war-torn, disease-ridden Athens, circa 430 B.C.E. Currently titled *Tragic, the Comedy*, the story revolves around an aspiring playwright who commits everything he has to win a yearly playwriting competition. I've spent quite a bit of time studying ancient Greek texts by historians, playwrights, and philosophers, and I've fallen in love with the characters and stories. Over the years, I've also discovered a passion for storytelling as well. No TV show has ever tried to dive into the ancient Greek world, so now I'm trying to.

Traveled to Athens.



John Kessler

- Majors: Mathematics and Philosophy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Don Howard

Virtuous Artificial Agents

My thesis explores the possibility of developing artificial moral agents. I advocate for designing AIs that operate under Aristotelian virtue ethics, as well as potentially expanding our definition of moral patient to include inorganic objects. This topic allows me to blend philosophy with computer science, in which I intend to work.

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Sophia Kiernan

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

Health Provider Experiences with Somali Immigrants in Northeastern Wisconsin and London: A Comparison Study

I compare interviews with individuals in London and northeast Wisconsin in order to contribute to the limited body of knowledge about caring for Somali immigrants—an underserved population that is increasing in size, especially in Wisconsin. I am from northeast Wisconsin, and my high school was incredibly diverse. We had a substantial number of Somali immigrants at my school, which sparked my interest in this topic. This project also combines my interests in sociology, health care, and poverty studies.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program and the Department of Sociology to travel to London.



Molly Knapp

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Daniel Philpott

Transitional Justice in Post-Dictatorial Argentina and Chile

By examining four critical practices of transitional justice within Argentina and Chile — truth recovery, criminal prosecutions, reparations for human rights violations, and reform of laws or other institutions — I assess the role of an array of independent variables associated with the appearance and disappearance of practices of transitional justice and seek to offer a new account of what explains transitional justice. My research fuses my interests in democratization, judicial systems, restorative justice, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.



Reilly Kohn

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

Letting Matter Matter: Tom McCarthy and Conceptions of the Contemporary

In my thesis, I analyze the philosophical and cultural theories that drive the fictional and critical works of Tom McCarthy, as well as his treatment of literary sources and tradition. The relationship between McCarthy's texts offers insight into his understanding of the connection between literature and theory. This topic allowed me to connect my primary areas of study. Drawing upon contemporary theory also exposed me to philosophers and writers that I may not have otherwise studied.



Stephanie Konrady

- Majors: English and History
- Adviser: Susan Harris

The Effects of Slam Poetry and Its Competitive Nature on the Poetic Genre

My thesis examines a form of modern poetry called “slam poetry.” Developed in the 1980s, it is a melting pot of performance poetry, hip-hop, oral traditions, and competition. I analyze manifestations of the “slam” in America and in the U.K. to better understand its ingredients and what effects its competitive style might have on the poetic genre. I have loved slam poetry for a long time — it feels alive and dynamic, and it’s a genre the literary community is still trying to pin down and interrogate. I’m also fascinated by how crowds respond to poetry. The slam movement has made poetry cool again, and I want to know how and why.

Traveled to England for research.



Calvin Kraft

- Majors: Neuroscience and Behavior and Program of Liberal Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Francesca Bordogna

The Use of Neuroscience in U.S. Criminal Law

My thesis investigates the increasing use of neuroscientific evidence in American criminal courts and the implications of this change for individual rights. I chose this topic because it is a good synthesis of two of my interests — neuroscience and philosophy.

Traveled to Washington, D.C., with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Claire Kramer

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Theology and Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Annie Coleman and Rich Jones

Man Down: ESPN's Coverage of Injury in the NFL

The concussion crisis has rocked the National Football League and changed the way fans and teams think about injuries. I examine how ESPN covers injuries and concussions in the NFL — especially considering its close commercial relationship with the league — and how this coverage has changed. The concussion crisis may have permanent effects on players and their families, and I wanted to study how the community created by football and media is made aware of this phenomenon. I'm passionate about storytelling and connecting communities, and the way media report on the game changes how fans, players, teams, and the league view it.

Traveled to ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

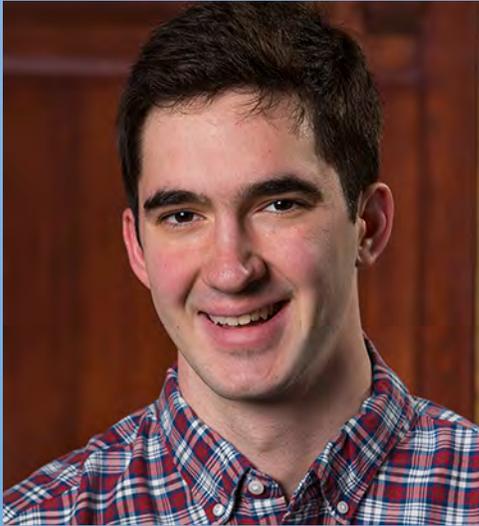


Nathan Kriha

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Denis Robichaud and Maria McKenna

Augustine's Dialogues As They Relate to Pedagogy

My thesis explores the pedagogical ideas of St. Augustine's earlier writings. His first works, the *Cassiciacum Dialogues*, have a drastically different tone than his later, more religious texts. My analysis tries to discover what Augustine's pedagogy was like during his early years and offer an explanation for his change (or lack of change) throughout his career. I fell in love with the prose and style of St. Augustine's *Confessions* and knew he would be an enjoyable figure to learn more about. Upon researching for this project, I came across his lesser-known dialogues and found many shocking, yet insightful, pedagogical claims.



George Krug

- Majors: Economics and English
- Adviser: Declan Kiberd

Leopold Bloom and the Situated Mind: Understanding the Family Through Physically Extended Cognition

My aim is to understand the extent to which Leopold Bloom — the protagonist in James Joyce's *Ulysses* — extends his cognitive process into the physical world that surrounds him. Specifically, I examine his thoughts about his family members in relation to the objects and environments that confront him. I am interested in the way Joyce illustrates the cognitive process through his characters and how he allows his characters' thinking to dictate the relationships they have with their surrounding environments.



Joshua Kuiper

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Japanese
- Advisers: Susan Harris and David Humphrey

Breaking Barriers: The Poston Bungei and American Literary Discourse

Part translation project, part literary analysis, my thesis is an exploration of the journal *Poston Bungei*, self-published by Japanese Americans during their internment at the Poston camp in World War II. A particular emphasis is placed on poetry included in the journal and how the pieces both reflect and subvert expectations about Japanese American literature. While discourse exists around the subject of “ethnic literature” in the U.S, it tends to be biased toward literature in English. Conversations about non-English texts — and the value they have for understanding ethnic experience in the U.S — are equally deserving of attention by American scholars.



Patrick LeBlanc

- Major: Mathematics (Honors)
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars
- Adviser: Liviu Nicolaescu

Entropy and Shannon's Coding Theorem

Information theory is a fascinating topic. It describes how to efficiently and reliably transmit information via encoding schemes, and therefore, undergirds our entire electronic system of communication; whenever one sends a message online, the message is first encoded as binary bits. In encoding, we might expect a trade off between efficiency and reliability. I examine this trade-off and how to escape it. I wanted to explore this system, both to gain a better appreciation for the world as we have constructed it and to explore a beautiful area of mathematics.



Davis Lee

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

Examining Shifting Attitudes Towards Health and Well-Being Among the Local Homeless Population

My study examines how and to what degree one's attitudes toward their own health and well-being shift in response to becoming homeless. As a weekly volunteer at the South Bend Center for the Homeless, I got to interact with many of the residents regularly. My background in the sciences and passion for health care made me curious about how the local homeless prioritize their health.



Susan Lefelhocz

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Adviser: Laura Walls

Brownson and Merton: Catholic Responses to Industrial Culture

Orestes Brownson and Thomas Merton were Catholic thinkers separated by about 100 years. One was a former transcendentalist and social reformer; the other was a Trappist monk. Both were Catholic converts concerned with social justice. My project explores how they respond to social injustice in industry and how we can learn from them. The project began with my love for coffee — and an uncomfortable awareness that it's often produced unjustly. After some research, I realized that nearly everything in our society is produced unjustly. Having recently returned to the Catholic faith, I began to look for spiritual responses to this issue, which led me to Brownson and Merton.

Rachel Lewis

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Susan Ohmer

The Human Element: Death and Disney

My project is an exploration into the different aspects of death within and around the Walt Disney Company, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, movies, theme parks, and other facets of Disney. I absolutely adore the Disney Company and what it stands for. I also wanted to use this thesis as an opportunity to learn more about the Disney Company as a possible future career path.



Qiran Li

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Adviser: David Thomas

Reconciliation of Science, Rationalism and Spiritualism in Sherlock Holmes

I studied a paradox of Arthur Conan Doyle's life — the creator of the rational Sherlock Holmes converted to spiritualism in 1896 after the publication of his first Sherlock Holmes story, "A Study in Scarlet," in the 1880s. I give possible explanations of this paradox by applying different interpretations of the word "spiritualism" to some of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Conan Doyle, who was originally interested in a career in medicine, later developed an interest in writing and created a diverse range of works, including fantasy novels, science fiction, poetry, plays, and romance and historical novels.



Amy Liang

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

Ohm | Meditation for Millennials

Ohm is a device that changes how millennials view meditation. Ohm translates the process of meditation into a physical and digital experience through its three components — a wearable, a vessel, and an app. Meditation has helped me overcome everything from trauma to daily stressors. I see its importance, especially for people my age. However, meditation may seem difficult, outdated, or too cultural for some people to feel comfortable practicing it. I wanted to make meditation more accessible to millennials, using concepts that are familiar to them.

Traveled to Los Angeles, California, and Kalamazoo, Michigan, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Enle Lien

- Majors: Italian and Russian
- Minor: Philosophy, Religion, and Literature
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Dantean Similes in Inferno

I explored the functions of Dantean similes in *Inferno*. I was especially interested in looking at how medieval literary theories shaped Dante's understanding of the rhetorical figure and how Dante uses similes in an innovative way considering his unprecedented usage of metaphors. Reading a seminal prose work by Osip Mandelstam led me to realize that Dante uses similes very creatively. I am also intrigued by the cantos in *Inferno* in which extensive similes play important roles.

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John Linczer

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Dr. Mark D. Fox

A Crisis in Dispute: The Primary Care ‘Shortage’ and Disparity and the Effects of Provider Incentive Programs

My thesis focuses on the dispute surrounding the shortage and geographical disparity of primary care physicians. I also evaluate the effectiveness of incentive programs — such as loan repayments or scholarships — designed to encourage medical school matriculates and physicians in training to work in federally designated health professional shortage areas. I chose to write on the primary care shortage and disparity after seeing its effects myself while working as a scribe in St. Joseph Regional Medical Center’s Emergency Department.



Amelia Lindstrom

- Majors: Spanish and Mathematics (Honors)
- Adviser: Carlos Jáuregui

The Gospel of Emiliano Zapata: Corridos and the Christian Emplotment of the Revolutionary Hero

I examined the story of the Mexican hero Emiliano Zapata, emplotted in a series of corridos from the revolutionary era. Zapata's sung story constitutes a "gospel" of political redemption informed by the life of Christ. He's a messianic figure who as a boy amazes elders with his wisdom, fights for his people's redemption, is betrayed and sacrifices himself for a cause, and is finally resurrected in later social revolutions. It matters how heroes are narrated. After a professor introduced me to a few particularly moving corridos about this hero's life and death, I wanted to bring to light the man in the collective memory of common people.



Jessica Linton

- Majors: Psychology and Sociology
- Adviser: Terence McDonnell

Co-Op Mode: Structure and Identity Formation of the Gaming Subculture

I examined the subgroups within gaming subculture, how they interact, and how new or differing identities form with membership. Specifically, I explored the inclusivity and exclusivity of gaming groups, the pressure to confirm or deny the mainstream's stereotype of gamers, and the shift of the meaning-making process as gaming subculture begins to enter the mainstream. Gaming is a uniquely 21st-century subculture, and ideally, a study of this kind will inform subculture studies in the years to come. I am an avid gamer and wanted to add my perspective to the scarce academic pool of knowledge on this topic.

Traveled to the Music and Gaming Festival in National Harbor, Maryland, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Daniel Loesing

- Major: Philosophy
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Robert Audi

Rossian Intuitionism: Problems and Prospects

In the past several decades, Sir David Ross — a champion of the once dark-horse intuitionist school — has come to be recognized as one of the major ethicists of the last 100 years. By explaining and interpreting his ethical theory and addressing some of its major issues, I hope to illustrate the promise of intuitionist ethics. In reading Ross's major work, *The Right and the Good*, I was struck by how sharply its genius contrasted with the fact that neither I, nor any undergraduate philosophy student I talked to, had ever heard of Ross, his book, or intuitionism.

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Rosemary LoVoi

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Phillip Sloan

‘The Best Education For All’: The Great Books Legacy and the Formation in the 20th Century of an American Style of Liberal Education

I examine the transition in liberal education from being elitist to truly democratic in the American Great Books programs, beginning with John Erskine at Columbia University. I explore how Erskine incorporated aspects of John Dewey’s pragmatism into his program, which broadened the scope of the project on the national level. I am interested in how America makes education accessible for all citizens. I believe education is absolutely necessary for a functioning democracy, since a democracy demands critical thinking and decision-making from all citizens. I also am interested in how liberal education could be used to heighten this critical judgment in American citizens.



Clara Macfarlane

- Major: Philosophy
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Adviser: Paul Weithman

Judith Butler's Theory of Ungrievability and Post-Incarceration Life in America

Judith Butler's theory of grievability and ungrievability provides a framework for understanding the reality for those living in America after incarceration. The lack of support for these individuals' needs, such as employment, housing, and voting, demonstrates this country's view of them as ungrievable — they are not a life and are able to be lost. I chose this topic because I have spent considerable time with individuals and communities affected by the criminal justice system, and their stories inspired me to further investigate the issue of mass incarceration.



Kathleen Mackin

- Major: History
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Rory Rapple

Insulting Elizabeth: Catholic Rhetoric and the Queen

My thesis looks at the insults English Catholics used against Queen Elizabeth during her reign. Catholic literature sought to insult the queen through her lineage, gender, and religion. I explore the change in Catholic rhetoric over time and what that says about how Catholics saw the queen, women, and their own place in Elizabethan society. I've always been interested in the Reformation and the Tudor period in England. I also studied abroad in London and was able to do research there to refine my interests and sharpen my archival skills for this project.

Traveled to London and Durham, England, with funding from the Kennedy Scholars program.



Luisa Mader

- Major: Psychology
- Minors: Theology and Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT)
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

Self Overestimates of Positive Conflict Behaviors

My thesis examines feelings and behaviors during and after a marital conflict, in the lab and in the home. Data were collected during the pre- and post-tests of a conflict intervention study. Partner 1's self-reports of feelings and behaviors during a conflict were compared to Partner 2's self-reports and Partner 2's reports of Partner 1's feelings and behaviors. I sought to develop an understanding of the disparity between self-report and belief of the other's behaviors.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Liam Maher

- Majors: Art History and Political Science
- Adviser: Michael Schreffler

Kikis, Death Drops, and A Whole Lotta Werk: Drag Performance Art in America

This paper defines modern drag art as the deconstructing and reassembling of gendered and racial attributes to artistically express one's sexuality. I trace the lineage of drag and distinguish two distinct artistic periods — early drag (1916-1957) and modern drag (1957-present) — which I analyze based on their approaches to sex, gender, and race. I was inspired to write this thesis after taking a seminar with Nicole Woods on 20th-century performance art and the body. Many of the overarching themes were directly applicable to drag performance. I wanted to explore the medium through an academic lens and contextualize the artistry of these performers from a rare perspective.

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Luke Maillie

- Majors: Physics and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Sara Sievers

A Lottery of Lament: How Access to Care is Left to Chance for Rural Cancer Patients in Tanzania

This project is an exploration of how rural cancer patients in Tanzania are forced to rely on transient systems of health care, instead of health systems. I have spent three summers traveling to Tanzania and working with different non-profit organizations and physicians who are working to treat cancer patients in Tanzania.

Received funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to travel to Tanzania.



Mara Makasiar

- Major: Psychology
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Adviser: Laura Miller-Graff

Maternal Depression and Children's Resilience: Exploring the Roles of Intimate Partner Violence-Exposure and Negative Parenting Behaviors

This project examines the potential mediating role of parenting behaviors on the effects of maternal depression on children's resilience, comparing a subsample of intimate partner violence-exposed pregnant mothers and their children to their non-exposed counterparts. I am very interested in elucidating the various ways that violence exposure can affect resilience outcomes in children. I also hoped to enrich the literature on IPV-exposed pregnant women and their families, as this is a particularly vulnerable population. I will present my thesis at the Midwestern Psychological Association's 2018 annual meeting in Chicago.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

Valentina Marquez Montero

- Major: Theology
- Minors: International Development Studies and Business Economics
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

Empty Harvest: The Reality of Mexico's Small Producers

Mexico has always relied heavily on agriculture as the backbone to its economy. Yet, farmers are, by contrast, one of the most marginalized groups, constituting the majority of the population living in moderate and extreme poverty. In line with the theory of human capital, I analyzed whether there is a clear relationship between education attained and agricultural production. However, my interviews and surveys shed light on deeper and more troubling issues. Rural communities rely on agriculture for income, but do not earn enough profit to escape poverty. We have a responsibility to aid those who need it most, and these people desperately need help.

Received funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies to travel to Mexico.



Olivia May

- Major: Classics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Catherine Schlegel

Rusticus es, Corydon: Generic Self-Consciousness in Vergil's Eclogue 2

My essay seeks to demonstrate generic self-awareness in Vergil's *Eclogue 2* — as the shepherd Corydon attempts and fails to reconcile the differences between him and his beloved, he simultaneously raises our awareness of the conflicts within the pastoral genre. I chose this topic because I was fascinated with the incongruities in pastoral — its sophisticated style and rustic setting, its emphasis on leisure in a strenuous walk of life. Reading *Eclogue 2* for the first time, I was particularly struck by the pathos of its love story, and I wanted to explore how the generic norms of the poem worked alongside this emotional angle.



Marek Mazurek

- Major: History
- Minors: Medieval Studies and Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Adviser: Rory Rapple

The Elizabethan Succession

My thesis focuses on two succession tracts written in the late 16th century that deal with the impending death of Elizabeth I and the inevitable succession. I chose this topic because I have always enjoyed English history, and succession battles and debates make for exciting reading.

Traveled to London.



Megan McAdoo

- Major: English
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Kate Marshall

What We Talk About When We Talk About Autofiction

I explored the genre-bending, definition-defying literary category of “autofiction” using several methods, including an examination of historical framework, computational literary analysis of scholarship, and a close read of Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts*. I am especially drawn to contemporary literature, and within that field, genre hybridization is a hot topic. I am interested in the way genre hybridization reflects the value of the interdisciplinary and the way some authors use interdisciplinary art to explore other questions of boundaries and transgression.



Caitlin McAuliffe

- Major: English and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Modalities of the Sublime in Wordsworth's Prelude

My thesis examines the different modalities of the sublime as represented through different types of landscape features present in *The Prelude*. Through this examination, readers will come to understand more fully the way Wordsworth's experience with the sublime changes over the course of his life. William Wordsworth has been my favorite poet since my sophomore year Lyric Poetry class. Examining this poem allowed me to not only spend more time with his work, but also learn about his life.



Elizabeth McGough

- Majors: Anthropology (Honors) and Biological Sciences
- Adviser: Natalie Porter

Examining Factors That Impede Dental Health Among Minority Populations in South Bend, Indiana

Through a series of interviews and ethnographic observations at the Sister Maura Brannick, C.S.C., Health Center's dental clinic in South Bend, I investigated how economic, sociocultural, and linguistic factors impact the dental care minority patients receive. While the field of medical anthropology has been an important part of health-related research for many years, extending this field to include dental anthropology is equally valuable. As a future dentist, I believe it is important to identify the challenges that patients face in attaining oral health. The importance of oral health to an individual's overall health provides further impetus to draw attention to these challenges.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Jacob McKenna

- Major: American Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Perin Gurel and Denise Della Rossa

Culture Kraft: Christopher Emmet, the American Council on Germany, and Cold War Cultural Activism

My project analyzes the work of Christopher Emmet and the American Council on Germany in order to understand how they manipulated German and American culture during the Cold War to turn Germans from enemies to allies. I chose this topic because I am particularly interested in the time period, and the historical movement of Germans from our enemies to our allies has always struck me as worthy of further exploration. It was also a great opportunity to do original research on a topic that has not been deeply explored.

Traveled to the Hoover Institution at Stanford University with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Madeline (Maddie) McKenna

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Science, Technology, and Values
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Kristin Valentino

Maternal Broad Autism Phenotype as a Moderator of Emotion Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorder

My thesis looks at maternal broad autism phenotype — the idea that parents of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder can also display autistic traits without a concrete diagnosis — as a mediator in the severity of preschool children’s autism spectrum disorder, particularly in regards to their ability to respond appropriately in emotional situations. Over the past three years conducting research in the Development and Psychopathology Lab, I have become very interested in the subject of emotion regulation. I wanted to use my thesis to expand this research into the still-developing field of autism spectrum disorder.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Theresa McLean

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing (Honors)
- Adviser: Orlando Menes

Amaria & Daniel

In a fantasy world torn by political turmoil, the heirs of two kingdoms, Amaria and Daniel, must travel to rescue Daniel's sister from the clutches of their neighboring enemy kingdom. Ever since reading Harry Potter, I have wanted to create my own fantasy world. Writing this as my thesis is the beginning step I need to become an author.



Mary McNulty

- Major: Classics
- Adviser: Elizabeth Mazurek

Ovid's Hersilia: Conditrix Urbis Romae

I examine Ovid's portrayal of Hersilia, the wife of Romulus. She appears in his *Fasti*, an elegiac poem about the Roman calendar, and *Metamorphoses*, an epic poem tracing the history of the world through myth. In both poems, she overshadows Romulus. I then examine how Hersilia's depiction might have resonated with an audience familiar with the authority of Livia, the wife of Augustus. The Augustan period has always fascinated me. I wanted to research how women in Roman foundation myths reflect, challenge, and negotiate the role of women at the time they were written.



Juliana Mestre

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Theology
- Adviser: G. Felicitas Munzel

Literature and Contemplation: Platonic Aesthetics in Contemporary Thought

My thesis first explores contemplation and its importance. Then, I compare the recent decline in contemplation to the parallel decline in reading. Next, I investigate Platonic aesthetic theory to establish a metaphysical relationship between reading and contemplation. Finally, I pull this ancient theory into the contemporary through Heidegger. I think the decline in reading, though studied in the fields of psychology and statistics, has largely been ignored in contemporary philosophy. If reading inspires contemplation, as I posit, then it is important to understand how and why from a metaphysical perspective.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Nandi Mgwaba

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Supplementary Major: Africana Studies
- Advisers: Anne García-Romero and LaDonna Forsgren

Routes

My thesis is a screenplay centering on two Afro-American women and their cross-country journey to “lay to rest” artifacts belonging to a maternal, enslaved ancestor. Much like *Thelma and Louise*, the protagonists hit the open road in defiant search of freedom, not only for themselves, but also for those before them. Their journey unearths questions of identity, home, and belonging. I am interested in creating complicated, nuanced cinematic representations of black womxn, particularly with respect to their sexualities and relationships, and creating images in which the Afro-diasporan can locate themselves and find community. I have enjoyed visualizing healthy spaces on screen for our community to talk about colonial trauma, slavery, and activism.

Traveled to New Orleans and South Africa.



Abigail Midlige

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

Maternal Healthcare in Uganda: Assessing the Delay in Seeking Care

My project examines the relationship between professional and traditional maternal health care in western Uganda. I specifically looked into the use of traditional birthing attendants and sought to understand women's motivations when choosing a delivery site. This topic lies at the intersection of my two fields — biology and international development. I was compelled to understand why mothers might choose to deliver with a birthing assistant who did not have clinical training, rather than at a professional health center.

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



Olivia Mikkelsen

- Major: Design
- Concentration in Visual Communication Design
- Minors: Anthropology and Collaborative Innovation
- Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

Academic Clarity and the Discernment Process

Our goals as students often shift from studying our passions to studying what will make us the most successful in life. With 80 percent of college students nationwide changing their major at least once, accompanied by a variety of pressures, I wanted to design a solution to assist the process of academic discernment by exposing a full spectrum of academic and professional possibilities. My experience was one of confusion and frustration with the discernment process. As a designer, I was excited to create an intervention to help incoming students hopefully avoid these feelings.



Nicholas Miles

- Major: Philosophy-Theology
- Advisers: John Cavadini and Shane Duarte

Augustine and Benedict XVI: Crude Apologist or Tactful Evangelist?

By analyzing Augustine's treatment of the Neoplatonist Porphyry in Book X of *The City of God* and comparing them to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's treatment of Karl Marx in *Spe Salvi*, I show the efficacious nature of both crude apology tactics and tactful evangelism. I have loved apologetics since my sophomore year in high school, and this was why I studied philosophy and theology. I wanted to focus my research on the process of evangelization from both historical and contemporary accounts.



Kathryn Minko

- Major: English
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Sara Maurer

To Climb or Not to Climb: A Question of Educational Purpose

My thesis explores the contradiction between education seen as a means of upward mobility and the thankless role of the educator. My project first examines the motif of duty in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*. I then place my analysis in a contemporary high school AP classroom, where I formulate a lesson plan discussing education as a thematic element in *Jane Eyre*. I have always had a passion for education, and this project helped me explore my curiosities, fears, and enthusiasm for it. Ideally, I want an AP English teacher to read my thesis and feel fully equipped to discuss a taboo topic — the educator's purpose.



Adam Moeller

- Majors: History and Economics
- Minor: Education, School, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Paul Ocobock

A Queer Threat: The History of Uganda's LGBTI Movement

My thesis examines the history, rapid growth, and effects of the LGBTI movement in Uganda over the past two decades. I examine tools, such as education, media, law, and violence, used by Ugandan political and religious leaders to maintain and consolidate their power and control. Throughout, I highlight stories of queer Ugandans and focus on the human impact of the country's battle over homosexuality. While teaching in Uganda after my sophomore year, I witnessed a religious retreat at the school inundated with vitriolic homophobia. As a queer person deeply interested in post-colonial societies, I became interested in uncovering Uganda's history surrounding sexuality, morality, and identity.

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



Robert Mogollon

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

Montaigne and Skepticism

I explore the relationship between Montaigne's skepticism and his religious faith to try to find the truth. He says one can find the truth only in God, but he also reaches some moral conclusions that he sees as true. I first read Montaigne during my freshman year and was immediately drawn to his writings. Many of his ideas seem modern, which is weird for an early Renaissance writer. I think there is much we can learn from him, but before any truth can be gleaned, we need to know where he finds the truth.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Mia Mologousis

- Majors: Italian (Honors) and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Cesare Lombroso Oltre la Tomba (Cesare Lombroso Beyond the Grave)

My thesis examines how Lombroso's theory of atavism transformed and was manipulated to influence Italian fascist thought, as well as how it was transmitted to the Italian public via fascist propaganda at the height of Mussolini's power. While studying abroad last spring, I conducted research on Lombroso's influence on Italian law and its enforcement. I was so interested in his work that I decided to build on my research to complete a thesis examining a new element of his vast influence.

Traveled to Rome and Turin, Italy.



Chandler Moorer

- Majors: English and Biological Sciences
- Adviser: Ian Newman

The One of Many: The Role of Character Identity in William Blake's Jerusalem

I explored the influences that radicalized religious sects of the 18th century, specifically Swedenborgianism, have had on Blake's concept of identity through an examination of Los's character. By fulfilling a variety of roles — that of Adam, God, and Jesus — within the single narrative of *Jerusalem*, Los achieves a fluid character identity that defies strict order, in turn reflecting Blake's own attitudes toward the fallibility and corruption of institutionalized Christianity. I am drawn to the characters of Blake's mythology and the often shifting allegory that surrounds their narratives. I wanted to explore the diverse nature of identity within these characters.



Chloe Moreno

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Gender Studies and European Studies
- Adviser: Melissa Miller

The Various Representations of Lyudmila Pavlichenko in the Media

With the release of the film *Battle for Sevastopol*, the story of Lyudmila Pavlichenko is remaking its rounds through popular media across the globe. An incredibly successful Soviet sniper in the Great Patriotic War, Pavlichenko is best known in the U.S. for her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt. My project tracks the different ways Pavlichenko has been represented in American and Soviet media over time. While studying abroad in Russia, I visited a small museum focused on the Great Patriotic War with an exhibit on Soviet snipers. After seeing that and watching *Battle for Sevastopol*, I knew I wanted to focus on Pavlichenko's story.



Daniel Moylan

- Majors: Economics and Science Preprofessional Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: David Betson

Short of Breath

I analyzed the primary care physician shortage in the United States and projections of future shortage. I propose that while the United States has enough primary care physicians in aggregate, there is a distribution issue that causes regional shortages. This topic was a meaningful intersection of my interests in health care and economics. I sought to examine a problem that is prevalent in health care literature through an economic lens. As an aspiring physician, I hope to be able to use my multidisciplinary education to improve health care.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Hannah Mumber

- Majors: Spanish and Science-Business
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Dominic Vachon

Comparative Study of Medical School Training in Areas of Empathy and Patient-Physician Relationships in Latin America and the U.S.

I conducted a cross-cultural study to uncover how education in empathy and communication skills compares between medical schools in the United States and those in Latin America. This thesis expounds upon research I conducted in South Bend, Indiana, in Nicaragua, and in Cuba. After taking the Compassionate Care in Medicine course and reflecting on my own observations in clinical settings, I became intrigued by what makes a good patient-physician relationship.

Traveled to Cuba and Nicaragua with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2018 Senior Thesis Projects



Hannah Mumber

- Majors: Spanish and Science-Business
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jaime Pensado

La Medicina Ilustrada: Las Representaciones de la Medicina Tradicional en México por las Artes Visuales

My Spanish thesis explores the representation of traditional Mexican medicine through the Mexican visual arts of murals, film, and photography. I studied abroad in Puebla, Mexico, and was introduced to traditional medical practices in both rural and urban settings. After studying Mexican film and art history, I became intrigued by how these visual arts portray traditional medicine and by the social implications of their portrayal.



Daniel Munoz

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Robert Goulding

Exploring Artificial Intelligence Through Classic Texts on the Mind

Can machines think? My thesis explores this question through an evaluation of current debates and classic texts concerning the philosophy of the mind. From Aristotle and Augustine to Nagel, Turing, and Searle, I evaluated how the question of machine intelligence impacts our understanding of what it means to be human. My PLS natural science classes have sparked my interest in this field.



Jens Henrik Munthe-Kaas

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Sullivan

Moral Paternalism and Material Rationalism: Tory Aristocratic Responses to Societal Sattelzeit, ca. 1820 – 1850

I investigate the tensions between high and liberal Toryism as distinctive attitude and responses to the gradual process of industrialization and widening political participation in England during the first half of the 19th century. I highlight two conceptions of political stewardship and their respective ideas of progress in moral and/or material terms. I was inspired to pursue this topic through readings on the history of economic thought and the idea of progress in early Victorian England, both of which touch on the ongoing tension between a society's economic and social priorities.

Received funding from the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program.



Clare Murphy

- Major: Classics
- Supplementary Major: Environmental Science
- Adviser: Christopher Baron

Mē Mnēsikakein: Reuniting Athenian Society through Social Memory

I reassess the oath “not to recall wrong” sworn by the Athenians following tyrannical rule and civil war in 404–3 BCE. The oath has been traditionally interpreted as an imposition of “civic amnesia” and a genuine forgetting of the past. I propose that the amnesty was instead a conscious, collective decision not to use the past in retaliation. I also compare the amnesty and reconciliation policies employed after the American Civil War and dismantling of the Third Reich, as I am interested in how societies recover from and remember trauma. The Athenian example shows the power of social memory to heal divided societies and encourage future unity.



Samantha Murray

- Majors: Psychology and Sociology
- Adviser: Jessica Collett

Defying Defiance: The Implications of Morality, Parenting, and the Parent-Child Relationship

I surveyed and interviewed graduates of Defiance High School (in Defiance, Ohio) to discover how parenting and parent-child relationships reflect parents' moral values, as well as the role these relationships and values play in children's decisions on where to live as young adults. I am interested in the impact of parenting and morality on the country-wide emigration of young adults from their small hometowns in the Midwest to large cities. Furthermore, I am interested in how this mass exodus of young people impacts the small towns left behind.

Received funding from the Eisch Endowment for Excellence.



Zach Myszka

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

The Local Becomes Global: Constructing Cheju Island's Identity

My thesis focuses on how the Cheju Provincial Government of South Korea is trying to preserve Cheju Island's local culture through museums, memorials, and educational materials. This preservation is historically situated in a post-Korean War paradigm and directed toward the global community — i.e., UNESCO, foreign tourists, and foreign academics. Japan, China, and South Korea each have complex and interwoven histories that are often taken at face value. I chose this topic because of my passion for studying East Asia and my commitment to investigating the way people and organizations write history.

Traveled to South Korea with funding from the Charles Reali Cultural Enrichment Fund.



Phoebe Natale

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Science, Technology, and Values
- Adviser: Kristin Valentino

Maternal Childhood Trauma, Diurnal Cortisol, and Social Support: Predictive Factors and Moderators of Maltreatment

This project investigated how a mother's childhood trauma history, physiological (dys)regulation, and perceived social support predict whether she has maltreated her preschool-aged child. Direct and moderating effects of these variables were examined. Child maltreatment continues to be a significant public health issue with detrimental, and sometimes fatal, consequences for the victims. Furthermore, the majority of the perpetrators are the children's mothers. If we can identify factors that predict maltreating behavior in mothers, we can take better, more deliberate steps toward protecting at-risk children.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Laura Neis

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

Rare Women and True Martyrs: Female Martyrdom under Queen Elizabeth I

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), Catholics were considered traitors to the crown, a crime that merited execution. Because of this, hundreds of Catholics met their death during these years. Only three were women. My research examines how the state viewed executing women, and why these three were executed. These women's lives were impacted by the interplay between religion and politics — a subject becoming increasingly applicable to the modern world. Although historians have studied Catholicism under Elizabeth, the treatment of female Catholics is in need of a deeper look.

Traveled to London.



Joseph Nelson

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Phillip Sloan

Beethoven's Ninth: From Chaos to Elysium

My thesis explores Beethoven's relationship with the writings of Kant, Herder, and Schiller regarding natural history and the theory of the sublime. I argue that an understanding of these texts and their influence on Beethoven deepens our understanding of his *Ninth Symphony in D Minor*. I've had a lifelong interest in music and the ideas it is capable of expressing. Beethoven is one of my favorite composers, and the first movement of his *Ninth Symphony* has always fascinated me.



John Nolan

- Majors: English and Computer Science
- Adviser: Stephen Fredman

‘The Words are Only Speculation’: The Ethics of John Ashbery’s Flawed Pictures

John Ashbery garnered universal praise for his poetic abilities but faced accusations — given his overriding interest in aesthetic matters — that his work was not sufficiently engaged with ethical questions during the Vietnam War, an accusation also directed toward Wallace Stevens during World War II. I would argue, by considering philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein’s view of ethics, that Ashbery writes ethically by leaving out what is truly important. Wittgenstein has been a continual source of fascination for me, especially his mysterious use of silence. I also admire Ashbery’s poetry, and feel he shares with Wittgenstein some cognizance of language’s limits.



Lauren O'Connell

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Minor: Latino Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

Envuelto en Estrés (Wrapped in Stress): Health Decision Making and Tobacco Use Among Medical Students in Puebla, Mexico

Tobacco use among medical professionals in Mexico is higher than among the general population. What cultural and social factors influence the decision to smoke despite extensive scientific knowledge of the negative consequences? How does this impact a physician's ability to counsel patients on cessation? I chose this topic after studying abroad in Puebla, Mexico, and noticing the popularity of cigarettes among medical students. As a student interested in culture and global public health, I was intrigued by this trend and wanted to explore further.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

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Haley O'Connor

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Gender Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Sotirios Barber

The Constitution and Transgender Rights

Using previously established constitutional arguments, namely from landmark gay rights cases, my thesis explores the applicability of other marginalized communities' constitutional questions and answers to the case for transgender rights. As a pre-law student with majors in political science and gender studies, I wanted to explore the intersection of my passions. After taking Professor Barber's course exploring gay rights and the Constitution, I was eager to research the next frontier in progressive social issues and legal questions — transgender rights.



Rachel O'Grady

- Major: Political Science
- Adviser: David Campbell

Mitt Romney and the 2012 Election

I wrote about Mitt Romney's campaign for the presidency in 2012, and all of the important parts of his life that contributed to his run. My thesis explores the Romneys' background in business, the Mormon church, and politics and compares the business of running a company with the business of running a campaign. The 2012 election was one of the first times I felt truly inspired by politics, and Mitt Romney has fascinated me since then.



Madeleine O'Mara

- Major: Political Science
- International Security Studies Certificate Program
- Adviser: Michael Desch

Replacing Formal Defense Alliances with Foreign Military Sales

My thesis examines the relationship between formal defense alliances, foreign military sales, and U.S. entanglement in conflicts. I propose that the United States should follow a grand strategy of restraint, and that under this strategy, it should replace formal defense alliances — such as NATO — with foreign military sales to these countries. If the United States can influence the balance of power by selling weapons to countries with whom it has shared interests, it can help an ally engaged in a military conflict without becoming militarily engaged itself.



Sam O'Melveny

- Major: Civil Engineering
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Alexandros Taflanidis

The Eye of the Storm: Agriculture's Role in an Ever-Urbanizing Pokhara, Nepal

My paper outlines reactions to urbanization and the effectiveness of current solutions in Pokhara, Nepal. Urban agriculture is a popular approach to combat urban problems and I focused on whether it was feasible. As a civil engineer, some of the responsibility of growing cities will fall on my shoulders. I wanted to learn about issues that affect engineers but that may not be at the center of solutions.

Traveled to Pokhara, Nepal, with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Emily Okupski

- Major: History
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kevin Whelan

‘Doing Her Bit for Ireland’: Manifestations of Irish Female Nationalism, Pre-1916

I studied the motivations of women in the Irish cultural revival and nationalist movement that arose in the early 20th century. I wanted to see how these movements drew women together despite extreme disparities in class and lifestyle and what inspired women to take an active role in deciding their nation’s destiny. I found out about a female Irish paramilitary organization, Cumann na mBan, through a friend whose great-grandmother was a member. She used to carry messages across enemy territory in her hair curlers. Hearing these stories was fascinating, and it’s been interesting to discover how tightly woven culture and nationalism were and continue to be.

Traveled to Dublin.



Daniel Olivieri

- Major: Science-Business
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Ann Mische

Contrasting Cuban Challenges to the Future Through Participatory Scenario Planning

I analyzed the resiliency of the Cuban health care system, given recent geopolitical changes. Through interviews and focus groups, I sought to understand the ways Cubans will face challenges in the next decade, such as the increasing effects of tourism and the emergence of capitalism. My analysis helps Cubans evaluate their and their community's sense of self-efficacy to be better prepared to confront future challenges. I combined the two themes that have informed my undergraduate research experience at Notre Dame — participatory scenario planning as a research assistant for Professor Mische and public health research through the Kellogg Institute.

Traveled to Havana, Cuba, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Maddie Organ

- Majors: Economics and Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Adviser: Kasey Buckles

Retail Clinics and Children's Health: A Study of School Absenteeism

This research explores the possible relationship between retail clinics — medical clinics housed in retail venues such as Wal-Mart, Walgreens, or CVS — and children's health, as measured by their attendance rates in school. I used a rich dataset of Wisconsin public schools from 2005-2016 and the corresponding clinic locations that opened and closed during that time. Although retail clinics have grown rapidly, their implications on health, particularly among children, are not well understood. While clinics can allow for more convenient and less expensive care in select services, the American Academy of Pediatrics has opposed the use of retail clinics for children.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Henry Orlowski-Scherer

- Majors: Philosophy and Psychology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

Moral Foundations and Epistemic Orientations

This thesis investigates the relationship between moral intuitions and epistemic cognition, or the ways in which people understand argument and evidence. We hypothesize that people who understand the relationship between evidence and conclusions in simple terms will have more moral intuitions involving authority, purity, and loyalty, whereas people who have more sophisticated epistemic cognitions will have moral intuitions involving kindness and fairness. I am interested in moral philosophy and research psychology, and this study was an obvious way to integrate the two.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

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Carlysa Oyama

- Major: American Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Advisers: Jason Ruiz and Terence McDonnell

The Early HIV/AIDS Epidemic: A Medical and Cultural Crisis

I unpack the subjective choices made by the Centers for Disease Control during the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I analyze the information being disseminated to the public in order to see how this governmental institution worked to counter the moral issues surrounding the epidemic. I, in turn, look at how these choices failed to reach marginalized populations being heavily affected. Next year, I will be attending medical school, so I wanted to write a thesis that would combine my passions for American studies and medicine. The social stigma surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic provides an interesting intersection.

Traveled to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Benjamin Padanilam

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: F. Clark Power

Fame or Blame: An Ethical Evaluation of Major League Baseball's Steroid Era

A large portion of MLB players used steroids from the late 1980s to 2000s, a time in baseball that became known as the “steroid era.” I evaluate those players’ decisions through two case studies, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, and their claims to recognition in the Hall of Fame. My evaluation was done through a dialogue between three philosophers — Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, and Immanuel Kant. I really enjoyed the ethics class I took in PLS, and combining it with my passion for sports made the research process even more enjoyable.

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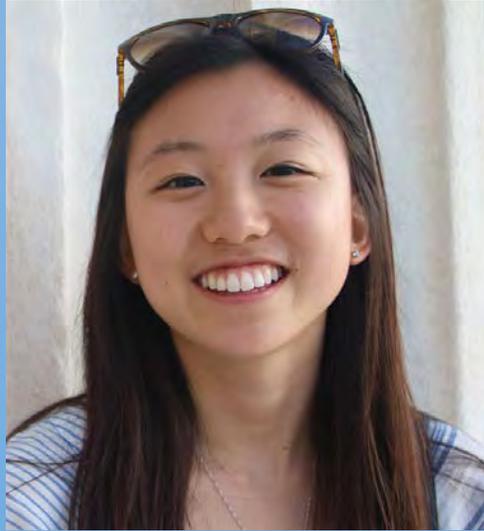


Caroline Palmer

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: James Sullivan

The Economic Impact of Recreational Marijuana Legalization

My thesis evaluates the economic impact of recreational marijuana legalization on young people ages 18–25. As more states move to legalize the recreational use of this controversial drug, it is important to further explore its effects on employment, labor migration, and education. I wanted to explore a unique policy shock and use the skills I acquired as an undergraduate research assistant. As a native Washington resident, I also have a personal interest in the impact of legalization on my peers.



Candice Park

- Major: Biological Sciences
- Minor: Anthropology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Vania Smith-Oka and Mark Schurr

Analysis of Stable Isotopes and Socioeconomic Status of a New Delhi Population

I investigate whether differences in dietary patterns among populations of varying socioeconomic status can be captured by carbon and nitrogen isotopes of fingernails among residents of New Delhi. To accompany the collected fingernail samples, I distributed brief demographic questionnaires and 24-hour diet recall surveys to participants. I became interested in Indian culture after participating in the Kellogg Summer Internship Program and traveling to India for eight weeks with Child Family Health International. I wanted to combine my previous research experience in stable isotope analysis with my interest in food and nutrition in India.

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

Loren Park

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Korean and Business Economics
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Yeonhee Yoon

The Issue of Comfort Women in China, Korea, and Japan

My thesis looks into the issue of comfort women in Japan, China, and Korea, as well as the effects of war, war reparations, and political memory. The lasting effects of Japan's lack of fully compensating for the social and economic reparation of comfort women, in the eyes of China and Korea, continue to affect all three countries politically. My paternal grandmother lived in Japan growing up, and my maternal side has been indoctrinated in Korean nationalism. Often, I get two different viewpoints, and I would like to bridge the two polarizing perspectives. I also chose this topic because the current generation's response to this political issue worries the older generation.

Lamara Parnell

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Africana Studies
- Adviser: Mim Thomas

Competing Racial Narratives at Notre Dame

My project explores the racial narratives held by students at Notre Dame. I also explore the interactions between student-held narratives and their implications on student experiences. I chose this topic because during my four years as a student here, race relations have largely shaped my experiences. As a result, I have developed a strong interest in the racial perceptions and ideologies of my peers. I hope that my results will shed light on and improve the state of race relations among students at Notre Dame.



Joseph Pennacchio

- Majors: Economics and Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Advisers: Danielle Schiavazzi and Marinho Bertanha

Analyzing Economic Applications with Sparse Regression

In my thesis, I analyzed the sparsity of different economic applications, including the effect of eminent domain and economic outcomes and constructing forecasts of GDP. Algorithms such as OMP and the Lasso were used to perform sparse variable selection. Ideally, all of the applications would be sparse, and only a few predictors would be needed to explain things, but that is only sometimes the case. I chose this topic because I am passionate about applications of math in the real world, especially economic ones. I enjoy economic and statistical analyses, and this project allowed me to combine the two seamlessly.



Rosemary Pfaff

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jessica Payne

The Effects of Power Posing on Selective Emotional Memory Consolidation Under Stress

When presented with emotionally salient images, central objects will be better remembered at the expense of the surrounding background. This phenomenon is known as memory trade-off, an effect enhanced when cortisol is raised during memory consolidation. The recently popularized theory of “power posing” — inducing a neurochemical change through one’s posture — suggests that “high-power” (expansive) poses can reduce neuronal cortisol levels, whereas “low-power” (contractive) poses will have the opposite effect. I chose this topic to further my lab’s research on memory trade-off and test the recent pop-culture phenomenon of power posing.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.

Nicholas Pittman

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Kristin Valentino

Investigations into Diurnal Cortisol and Emotion Regulation in Maltreated Children

I examined patterns of stress physiology and emotion regulation in the context of different forms of maltreatment, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect, for children between 3 and 6 years old. I am interested in the differential effects of maltreatment subtypes on child stress regulation and identifying possible mediators in the relationship between maltreatment and poor emotion regulation.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Anna Poltrack

- Majors: English and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Adviser: Valerie Sayers

The Human Years

In the near future, when android laborers are commonplace and believed to be sub-sentient, Jade struggles to come to terms with the fact that she is not biologically related to the family that raised her. She also finds herself caught in the middle of a secret war between free-thinking androids and those who wish to keep them enslaved. I have always been fascinated with how science fiction is used to explore the present as much as the future. Much of sci-fi is also characterized by a stereotypically male and stoic perspective — I wanted to provide a space for sci-fi to tackle issues surrounding the family and self-identity.



Josiah Ponnudurai

- Majors: Political Science and Theology
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Daniel Philpott

Explaining Responses to Religious Persecution in Malaysia

Religious minorities in Malaysia are facing an increasing amount of governmental and societal persecution as a result of ethnic politics and Islamization. My thesis seeks to explain why different religious actors have responded to this persecution in vastly different ways. I propose four main factors that influence how these actors respond to persecution — political theology, institutional independence, access to economic/social capital, and intensity of persecution. As a Malaysian Christian, I wanted to address the challenge of religious persecution in my country.

Traveled to Malaysia with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.



Katherine Portman

- Major: Anthropology
- Supplementary Major: Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Donna Glowacki

Water Management on the Mesa: Communal Resource Use in Park Mesa, Colorado

Many archaeologists have argued that water management reflects a society's sociopolitical structure. Typically, the more complex a society, the more complex its water management. I challenge that model by examining four reservoirs on Park Mesa in Mesa Verde National Park in southwest Colorado and the changes in their surrounding communities between AD 700-1200. I want to be an archaeologist, and I have recently become interested in how ancient peoples managed water. We all need water to live, and I think it is fascinating to compare how people develop and maintain different systems of water management based on their societal structure.

Traveled to Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.



Hannah Provost

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Valerie Sayers

Collection of Short Stories

This collection of short stories explores the boundaries between realism and the blurry edges and wonder evoked by magical realism or surrealism. I am also deeply interested in how setting can function as character in prose. Short stories allow a writer to distill particular images or feelings in a poignant and striking way. The limitation and constraints of the form — that the details, images, and voice are so compressed — require this power from the story. Surrealism and magical realism have allowed me to explore the unexpected and get closer to naming the indeterminate elements of life.



Jack Puetz

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Vincent Phillip Muñoz

Justice Scalia's Church-State Jurisprudence

In my thesis, I examine Antonin Scalia's free exercise and establishment clause jurisprudence by reading his written opinions, and I attempt to find a consistent theory to unite his church-state views. Scalia is, perhaps, my favorite U.S. Supreme Court justice, and I love reading his opinions. Supreme Court opinions can be dry at times, so it is nice to read someone as entertaining as Scalia.



Madison Purrenhage

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Business Management Consulting
- Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

The Definition of Design Thinking: An Exploration of the Genealogy

In my thesis, I explore the recently popularized business buzzword “design thinking.” To find the best possible definition, I trace the historical use of the term, and its development over time from the 1950s to now. I also explore two primary contemporary texts to gain an understanding of the current connotation of the term. I took a Design Thinking course, and it was incredibly valuable for my problem-solving processes. I am also interested in pursuing further education or a career in fields where knowledge of design thinking will hopefully prove exceptionally valuable.

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Helena Qu

- Major: Science-Business
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Ying (Alison) Cheng

Not Just Senioritis: Why Do Students Not Take AP Exams?

Half of the students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes do not sit for the AP exam at the end of the school year. My thesis analyzes the relationship between various demographic and student-engagement factors that might influence the decision to take the AP Statistics exam and student performance. As a Poverty Studies minor, I am intrigued by the opportunities a strong education can open for the most disadvantaged among us. I am also interested in identifying the factors that stop students from going one step further.



Emma Qualy-Pearson

- Major: Romance Languages and Literatures
- Supplementary Major: Theology
- Adviser: Juan Vitulli

The Arpillera Movement and the Creation of Solidarity During the Dictatorship

My thesis is about the arpillera movement in Chile during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in the 1970s and 1980s. During this movement, women would gather to make tapestries depicting the human rights abuses occurring under the dictatorship. My hope is to demonstrate how this movement led to wider solidarity that made a significant contribution to the eventual end of the dictatorship. After studying abroad in Chile and learning about Chilean politics and society, I was interested in learning more about the arpillera movement because it highlights the voices of female and lower-class victims.



Rahul Ramani

- Major: Science-Business
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Adviser: Terrence McDonnell

Perceptions of Policy Effectiveness: Exploring the Impact of HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy

This study examines various perceptions of the HIV/AIDS workplace policy in Ghana and whether the policy has had an impact in reducing stigma and discrimination. The information I gathered shows that perception of the policy's impact is dependent on factors such as dissemination and a national transition away from HIV-specific programs. This project allowed me to explore the impact that health care policy has on the functioning and well-being of employees.

Traveled to Ghana with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Matthew Rehagen

- Major: Philosophy-Theology
- Advisers: Rev. Kevin Grove, C.S.C and Meghan Sullivan

Rehabilitating the Plagues: Exodus 7:8-14:31 as Virtue Formation in Philo of Alexandria and Gregory of Nyssa

The plagues narrative in the Book of Exodus can be read as an introduction to the formation of virtue, while presenting the interior chaos present in those who reject the truth. Moses and Pharaoh serve as models of actualization and absence of virtue, respectively, so that Pharaoh's inquiry of God's identity is then inverted back to ask the reader, "Who are you really?" Both Christians and Jews tend to shy away from the evocative plagues narrative due to the surrounding stigma, but I wanted to show that it is not something modern readers should avoid. Rather, we should engage this text in its fullness as part of the formation process in our perpetual progress into virtue.

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Natasha Reifenberg

- Major: Philosophy
- Minor: Sociology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Advisers: Paul Weithman and Jocelyn Viterna (Harvard University)

Punishing Gender at the Street Level: Extending Theories of Gender Governance and Street-Level Bureaucracy to Explain Reproduction-Related Crimes in El Salvador

My thesis, a case study of reproduction-related crimes in El Salvador, seeks to refine certain aspects of feminist state theory. I also argue that street-level bureaucracy theory is well suited to provide a theoretical basis for real-life scenarios of gender regulation. Most feminist scholarship of the state conceptualizes it as embodied in abstract principles. By studying cases of women going to prison for “aggravated homicide” after suffering stillbirths, I started to see how institutional gender regimes exist not so much at a macro-political level, but at the micro- level. This thesis also dovetails nicely with the advocacy work I do on behalf of women incarcerated unjustly for reproduction-related crimes.

Traveled to El Salvador.



Megan Resnik

- Majors: English and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Julia Marvin

The Perspective of the Spectacle in Madame Bovary and Anna Karenina

Gustave Flaubert and Leo Tolstoy write two great novels that follow a very similar plot — an unhappy woman commits adultery and, ultimately, commits suicide. However, due to their unique styles and the way they use the idea of perspective, with Anna being looked at by society and Emma examining society herself, each novel has an entirely different feel. Thus, the plot proves secondary to writing style in crafting a compelling work of fiction. I have always enjoyed the works of Tolstoy, and a PLS professor suggested that I look into the relationship between these two similar works, written during the same time period.

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Stephanie Reuter

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Theology
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Jennifer Newsome Martin

Apocalyptic Optics: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Grotesque Fiction of Flannery O'Connor

I argue that O'Connor's fiction can be interpreted as a literary, dramatic performance of Balthasar's theological aesthetics, theo-drama, and theo-logic, on the grounds that both represent species of apocalyptic. Apocalyptic discloses hidden mystery through rhetorical strategies including hyperbole, violence, and visionary-sensory symbolism that shock the reader into a new way of seeing reality. O'Connor's stories are apocalyptic parables that dramatically reveal the presence of God, before whom none can remain neutral. I was interested in exploring how Balthasar's capacious Trinitarian, Christological aesthetics resonate with O'Connor's fiction, which is noted for its violence and grotesque figures and may seem disturbingly ugly at first glance.

Traveled to Emory University, Andalusia Farm, and Georgia College in Georgia. Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program and a Neus Family Senior Thesis Grant.



Jennifer Richardson

- Major: Sociology
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Lynette Spillman

The Influence of Gender on Parent-Child Interaction in Movies

I have examined award-winning and popular movies from the 1950s until today, in order to track how gender impacts parent-child interactions in film. I am also interested in the parents' outcome in the movies, and whether parents who adhere more strictly to their gender norms have more positive outcomes. While watching older movies, I noticed that parents took on very polarizing roles, and those who do not fit into the traditional sphere of the family have negative life outcomes. I wanted to know if the portrayal of parental roles has changed to reflect our society or if we still portray the nuclear family as ideal.



Sarah Ritten

- Major: Sociology
- Minors: Poverty Studies and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Bill Carbonaro

Racial Matching and the Parent-Teacher Relationship

I am analyzing the ECLS-K data from 2013 onward to determine if variance in the amount of parent-teacher relations depends on the racial match or mismatch of parents and teachers. I am going to be a teacher with Teach for America next year and likely will not be the same race as some of the parents I work with. I wanted to know if there is anything I can do to create a better parent-teacher relationship, despite racial and possible cultural differences.



Annamaria Roberto

- Majors: Italian and Management Consulting
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Sabrina Ferri

Skepticism and Italian Journalism: The Aldo Moro Case

There are many conspiracy theories that surround the assassination of Aldo Moro, prime minister of Italy during the 1970s. It was the Cold War era, and tensions were high among political parties. Each party looked to blame the other for the assassination, and the public found themselves in the middle. I explored the influence Italian newspapers had on shaping the citizens' point of view during the case. I first learned about the Aldo Moro case in an Italian course my sophomore year. There are many conspiracy theories that surround the case, and I quickly became fascinated by them.

Traveled to Rome with funding from the Rome International Scholars Program.



Kathleen Rocks

- Majors: Political Science and American Studies
- Adviser: Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

Avenues to Integration: Comparative Approaches to Refugee Integration in Canada, the United Kingdom, and United States

The study of refugee integration is often lumped in with migrant integration of all kinds. My project addresses this gap and focuses on refugee integration experiences in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In my case studies, I focus on integration policies related to political participation and labor market mobility. My interest in refugee experiences was first piqued as a Summer Service Learning Program participant. I met a Dominican sister and immigration lawyer who worked with asylum seekers detained on the U.S.-Mexico border, and I became curious about how welcome or unwelcome newcomers might feel once resettled in their host countries.



Anthony Rogari

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

Think Tank Involvement in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

My thesis explores the role of think tanks in the legislative process, using the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a case study. In particular, I examined the efforts of the Brookings Institution and the Heritage Foundation to influence the stimulus legislation. Given the prevalence of think-tank experts in congressional hearings and on network news shows, I was curious about the extent to which think tanks influence decisions made by policymakers in Washington, D.C., every day.

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Maggie Rogers

- Major: History
- Minors: Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Darren Dochuk

James Cardinal Gibbons: The Agent of Catholic Mobilization and Politicization during World War I

My thesis describes how the Catholic Church in the United States became a significant political actor during World War I while under the leadership of Cardinal James Gibbons. I explain Gibbons' role in the affairs of the church and state and how this changed their relationship for future Americans. This topic sparked my interest during a history course on religion and World War I my junior year. My interest grew as the relationship between church and state became increasingly relevant in my history and constitutional studies classes.

Traveled to Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement.



Matthew Ross

- Major: International Economics (Italian)
- Supplementary Major: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Christiane Baumeister

Italian Fiscal Policy Decisions During the Great Recession

I use a vector autoregression model to analyze the effectiveness of Italian fiscal policy decisions in the period directly before and after the global financial crash of 2007–08. I hope to eventually quantify the fiscal multiplier for Italy during this time and see if there was any substantial difference before and after the recession. I'm very interested in the intersection between global economics and Italian life and culture. I had read about research concerning fiscal policy, but I couldn't find much specific to Italy. I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to extend the research to this very important country.



Jordan Ryan

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: David Anderson Hooker

Women and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

My thesis explores how women have been included in the discovery process of the truth and reconciliation commissions in South Africa, Peru, and Sierra Leone, and how their inclusion has impacted the societal role of women post-commission. I chose this topic because I am interested in transitional justice processes and how women have been incorporated into the rebuilding of a society post-conflict.



Meghan Santella

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

Irish Sentiment toward Refugees

Ireland — a nation previously known for sending refugees — has, in recent years, been tasked with accepting them. I sought to understand the Irish sentiment toward refugees by analyzing a survey completed during summer 2017 across Ireland. I focus on the interplay of religion and public sentiment as it pertains to the refugee crisis. I chose this topic after learning about the direct provision system in Ireland that largely denies asylum-seekers basic human rights. I wanted to know if Irish people understood what was happening in these centers, what their sentiments were regarding the recent influx of refugees, and whether religion specifically impacted these sentiments.

Traveled to Ireland with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Eisch Endowment.



Maria Sasso

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Sustainability
- Adviser: Gerald Haeffel

#Sad: Twitter Content Predicts Changes in Cognitive Vulnerability and Depressive Symptoms

We all know our social environments can affect our mood, but what about social media environments? I looked at how people's Twitter profiles and vulnerability to depression affected their long-term depressed mood. Using text analysis software, we determined that some aspects of a person's Twitter environment could affect their mood for up to two months. These are important issues which affect my and future generations. The rise of social media has been wonderful in many ways, but it's important to examine its dangers as well. As depression rates soar, prevention methods become an essential part of the conversation.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to present research at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology in Denver, Colorado.



Anna Schierl

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Joseph Rosenberg

Flann O'Brien's Quantum Modernism

My thesis explores how Flann O'Brien's novels *At Swim-Two-Birds* and *The Third Policeman* use the language of quantum physics to illuminate something about reality, and as such, how this language makes O'Brien's work distinctly modern. In the spring of my junior year, I read *The Third Policeman* and was struck immediately by the blatant scientific language it contained. There was something within the text that beckoned me, though I could not identify it. It was this elusive quality that hooked me.



Craig Schmier

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Supplementary Major: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisers: Christine Becker and Michael Kackman

The Effect of Streaming Era Changes in Media Platforms and Viewer Consumption Habits on the Function and Structure of the Television Opening Title Sequence

My project tracks the evolution of the opening title sequence on television in the streaming era and analyzes trends in its purpose and composition across different platforms, primarily network TV, premium cable, and streaming services. I also speculate on its future and how the streaming era threatens its function. Growing up watching television, I identified shows by their opening title sequence. Then, when Netflix began creating original content, I was amazed at how long and creative the sequences were getting. I wanted to investigate what motivated this change.



Abigail Schnell

- Majors: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT) and Program of Liberal Studies
- Adviser: Henry Weinfield

Twelfth Night as Tragicomedy

Through a comparison with the ancient tragedy *The Bacchae*, my thesis examines the darker aspects of Shakespeare's last great comedy, *Twelfth Night*. The character of Malvolio is of special interest, as his exile and promise of revenge give the audience insight into the self-destructive chaos inherent in a society obsessed with irony and festivity. I had the great pleasure of playing Malvolio in the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival's 2017 production of *Twelfth Night*, and I wanted to further research his function. Malvolio is such a fully realized character that I could play him for the rest of my life and never be bored.



Emily Schoenbauer

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Theatre as Vehicle for Social Change

I am assistant director of FTT's spring production of *Native Gardens*, a comedy about the relationship between an older, white couple and their new, young, Latinx neighbors. The play covers a dispute over the fence line between their yards, becoming an all-out "border dispute." My thesis analyses the use of the theatre itself, the actors, and comedy in commenting on Latinx stereotypes in America. I have a strong interest in immigration, multiculturalism, and race in America. This research bridges my interests in theatre and Latinx culture, analysing the effectiveness of theatre in creating real social change.



Megan Schomaker

- Major: Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Supplementary Major: Economics
- Minors: Actuarial Science and Studio Art
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Justin Barfield

Internal Conflict Series

My thesis is comprised of five abstracted paintings and an artist statement that describes my inspirations, influences, process, and methodology. The overarching theme is my internal conflict, with each painting focusing on a specific conflict. I explore the distinction between joy and happiness, the contrasting nature of internal and external self-perceptions, and the difficulty of accepting dependence. The arts at Notre Dame have been an especially formative part of my education. Art has always been a means of self-discovery and is instrumental in my personal growth. This thesis allowed me to capitalize on the self-knowledge art provides as I prepare for the next phase.



Christopher Scott

- Majors: Political Science and Spanish
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Guillermo Trejo

The Elections of Populist Presidential Candidates in Democratic States: A Comparative Political Study of the U.S. and Venezuela

In my thesis, I seek to provide a more precise definition of populism and explain the conditions under which populist presidential candidates have been elected in democratic states. Specifically, I explain, compare, and contrast, the conditions under which Hugo Chávez and Donald Trump were first elected in 1998 and 2016, respectively. Ever since my initial studies of modern Venezuelan politics, I have noticed some striking parallels between Chávez and Trump. Although on opposite sides of the political spectrum, both men presented themselves as populists and nationalists during their first campaigns. Also, both were elected under similar conditions of economic crisis, negative perceptions of national economic performance, and national identity crisis.



Salonee Seecharan

- Major: Sociology
- Adviser: David Gibson

Lives On/Between the Lines: The Liminal State of DACA Recipients in the Age of Trump

My thesis constructs a more holistic understanding of DACA recipients' experiences as their identities and rights are contested. Through interviews with DACA students at Notre Dame, I explore their liminal state during the age of Trump, how they grapple with an ever-looming rhetoric, how they manage multiculturalism, and how they are navigating life between the lines. Being from an immigrant community in New York, I've seen how deportation affects families and the hardships they endure because of congressional inactivity. I chose to write on this topic to diversify what we know about these individuals, to try to do justice by them, and to share their strength and powerful stories.



Tim Seida

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Christiane Baumeister

Recovering Market Expectations from Futures Prices in the Copper Market

My thesis quantifies and extracts risk premia in copper futures prices and derives the corresponding market-price expectations, which are an integral component for macroeconomic forecasting. It conducts a forecasting horse race between existing econometric models in the literature to calculate the most accurate estimate of risk premia and therefore recover the implied price expectations. I expected to find my thesis topic by first coming up with a question and then a methodology to answer it. The reverse happened. I wanted to apply Professor Baumeister's analysis of the oil market to another commodity to build my programming skills and develop further quantitative research experience.



Claudia Serrano Cordova

- Majors: Economics and Sociology
- Minors: International Development Studies and Peace Studies
- Adviser: David Cortright

The Perspective of Businesses on the Labor-Market Reincorporation of Ex-Guerrilla Members in Colombia

My capstone investigates the reactions of Colombian businesses to the idea of having former insurgents enter society as part of the labor force. The project aims to start a conversation regarding how the Colombian government should take careful steps in creating a proper plan to feasibly reintegrate former FARC members. As an economics and sociology major who lived in Colombia for a couple of years, I have always been very interested in Colombia's conflict and its peace treaty. I am especially interested in the role that businesses and the private sector play in peacebuilding.

Traveled to Bogotá, Colombia, with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Jesse Shank

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Philosophy
- Adviser: Tarek Dika

Spiritual Exercises of Hume and Nāgārjuna

I compared the analyses of personal identity by David Hume and Acarya Nāgārjuna, centered around an explication of their work as “spiritual exercises,” defined by the French historian of philosophy, Pierre Hadot. A two-day presentation of Buddhist philosophy of mind in a class my sophomore year piqued my interest in this topic.

Traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal, with funding from a Neus Family Senior Thesis Grant.



Lacey Silvestri

- Majors: English and History
- Advisers: Sandra Gustafson and Annie Coleman

Diversity and Complex Narrative in Popular Baseball Fiction

My thesis examines popular baseball fiction and makes the case for its inclusion in the realm of good, serious literature. By investigating issues of diversity in *Shoeless Joe* by W. P. Kinsella, *The Natural* by Bernard Malamud, and *Pafko at the Wall* by Don DeLillo, I attempt to complicate a genre that critics typically do not allow to be complicated. When choosing a thesis topic, I made a list of things I get excited about and could discuss for hours. Two topics stood out — books and baseball. This started the process of research and culminated in a project that held my interest my entire senior year.



Stacie Skwarcan

- Majors: Studio Art and Environmental Earth Sciences
- Advisers: Martina Lopez and Emily Beck

Fragments

I traveled to state parks in the Midwest — including Hocking Hills, Spring Mill, Shades, Starved Rock, Port Crescent, Albert E. Sleeper, and Brown County — and attempted to capture their natural beauty by taking a series of photographs in a horizontal or vertical progression. The separate images were then assembled as fragments in a larger composition to reflect the manner in which humans fragment the natural landscape. I am very interested in understanding the natural landscape in both a scientific and artistic sense. This project also allowed me to explore these protected lands and discover what makes each location worth preserving.

Traveled to state parks in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio.



Carlie Sloan

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Liturgical Music Ministry
- Adviser: E. Mark Cummings and Kathleen Bergman

Parental Employment and Adolescent Adjustment: An Emotional Security Perspective

I investigated how parental employment status could affect adolescent internalizing and externalizing behaviors, as moderated by the adolescent's emotional security. I predicted that adolescents with one or more unemployed parents would exhibit more adjustment problems, but that these problems could be buffered by high emotional security. Many connections have been shown between the quality of the marital relationship, adolescent emotional security, and adolescent adjustment. I wanted to broaden the scope by looking at the impact of a factor outside the home. Emotional security could be an important factor in work-home spillover because it could account for the mixed positive and negative effects described in literature.

Received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Kelly Smith

- Major: History
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: John Deak

Operation T4 on Trial

My thesis sheds further light on the T4 program, which was the Nazi extermination of adults they deemed “unworthy of life” due to disabilities and disorders. I focused on the trials that prosecuted the men in charge, exploring justice in the face of atrocity. Genocide prevention and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are two issues that have marked my Notre Dame experience. I hope my thesis will honor the victims of the T4 program and prompt reflection on the dignity and rights of people with disabilities.

Traveled to Berlin and London.

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Janet Stengle

- Major: History
- Minors: Constitutional Studies and Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Adviser: Rebecca McKenna

Bringing Back the Glass City: A History of Development Projects in Toledo, Ohio

My thesis analyzes a corporate-led development project in downtown Toledo, Ohio, and puts its method of public-private partnership in competition with grassroots movements to revitalize the city in the late 20th century. These historical waves of planning led to a growing excitement for downtown Toledo's promising revitalization plans today. Born and raised in Toledo, I am familiar with its image as a Rust Belt city in decline. But I am fascinated by the significant efforts to revitalize downtown within the past five years. I set out to discover why similar efforts to "bring Toledo back" did not shake off a rhetoric of decay, and why this time might be different.

Traveled to Toledo and Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Taylor Still

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Italian and Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Eileen Hunt Botting

Chi Rappresenta Moi? (Who Represents Us?) What it Means to Act in the Interest of Women from Italy and the U.S.

My thesis challenges the patriarchal underpinnings of political representation. Understanding that women's consent has been distorted in political and sexual relationships, I engage with the contemporary, transnational women's movement to demand greater attention to women's experiences of violence and to advocate for a reconception of women's interests as public interests. While studying abroad in Rome, I was introduced to the Non Una Di Meno (Not One Less) campaign to end violence against women, derived from sister campaigns in Latin America. In the same month, the inaugural Women's March occurred in Washington, D.C. I returned to the U.S. inspired by the vivacity of a transnational women's movement.

Received funding from the Rome International Scholars Program.



Kate Sullivan

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Sustainability
- Adviser: Mark Hoipkemier

Hidden Jihadi Janes: Western Counterterrorism's Problematic Treatment of Muslim Women

My thesis examines the efficacy of Western deradicalization programs attempting to counter the recruiting efforts of ISIS. I explore the contrasting British and French approaches to de-radicalization, with specific focus on these programs' treatment of women. I argue that neither approach adequately responds to the concerns and problems faced by Muslim women. My research reveals a need to reexamine Western assumptions about Muslim women and the roles we assign them. I have always been interested in international security issues, and the rise of ISIS has fascinated me for years.



Katie Surine

- Majors: Music Performance (Honors Voice) and Anthropology
- Advisers: Deborah Mayer and Kiera Duffy

Senior Recital

For my senior voice recital, a variety of classical musical periods and styles were represented on the program, including works by Handel, Harbison, Mussorgsky, Poulenc, and Schubert. Selections were sung in Italian, German, Russian, and French. I chose my musical selections in collaboration with my advisers, so as to best show off my voice and my ability to perform severely contrasting works in several different languages. It was also important that I was passionate about the music on my recital program.



Julia Szromba

- Majors: Philosophy and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Olivier Morel

Calls From Home

Calls From Home is a documentary that follows the production of a weekly radio program in rural Kentucky that records and broadcasts messages from friends and loved ones of those incarcerated in nearby prisons, as a free, alternate means of communication. After creating a documentary last year about a man released on parole after nearly 40 years, I became interested in prison reform. I learned that phone calls out of prison are unregulated, meaning that they're often prohibitively expensive — one study found a prison charging \$14 per minute. *Calls From Home* presents a free alternative, and I wanted to document their work.

Traveled to Whitesburg, Kentucky, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Tianyi Tan

- Majors: History and Political Science
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Katie Jarvis

Media Censorship during the Early French Revolution (1789–1794)

My thesis explores the state censorship, or the lack thereof, during the early French Revolution. With the abolition of official censorship and guilds, the early revolutionaries supposedly effectuated an unprecedented freedom of expression. Nevertheless, the idealistic, absolute civil liberty did not prevail. I show how censorship continued to haunt France through state regulation and the increasing abuse of counter-revolutionary charges. Freedom of expression forms a great prism for studying the complex state and society of revolutionary France. It is equally fascinating to see, through the lens of censorship, the paradoxical nature of the Revolution as both emancipatory and oppressive as it rolled toward the Reign of Terror.

Traveled to Paris.

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Flora Tang

- Majors: Political Science and Theology
- Kellogg International Scholar
- Adviser: Michael Hoffman

Fighting the Good Fight: Exploring a Relationship between Religion, Mobilization, and Protest Resilience

My thesis explores the relationship between religious mobilization and the resilience of non-violent protests in the Middle East, by focusing on the role of Islam in the 2011 Arab uprisings. Using both data analysis and case studies, my thesis sheds light on the role of religion — both institutionalized religion and personal beliefs — in sustaining otherwise secular civil resistance movements under repression. This project was inspired by my semester in Jerusalem, where I witnessed nonviolent street protests in the form of public prayer and sustained by local mosques.

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Joseph Tang

- Major: Music
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: John Liberatore

The Harmony in Us

For this interdisciplinary project, I wrote an original, multi-movement orchestral composition with musical themes derived from the organ systems of the human body. With a long-standing interest in musical composition, I hope to be able to reflect my interest in medicine via this unique pursuit.

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Francesco Tassi

- Major: International Economics
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Advisers: Maurizio Albahari and Ilaria Schnyder Von Wartensee

A Case for Synergy: Migrant Integration in Small Italian Towns' Systems for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR)

I conducted research across six small towns in Italy with a voluntary reception project for sub-Saharan asylum seekers (SPRAR). Through 90 semi-structured interviews and 240 surveys of locals and asylum seekers, I found evidence that synergy between a town's local church/school and its SPRAR significantly increased the perception and reality of shared community between locals and refugees. I have always been curious about how local variables may impact integration of a 'foreign' population. I believe integration requires a change in the local as well as the migrant, and small dissimilar towns with similar reception projects provided an ideal setting to test my hypothesis.

Traveled through five regions of Italy with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Robert Teresi

- Major: Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Illenin Kondo

Uncovering Heterogeneity in the Effects of Chinese Import Penetration

In my thesis, I build upon existing work analyzing the effects of Chinese imports on the American economy. I found that within a labor market, urban centers are systematically protected from the harmful economic effects of Chinese imports that their surrounding areas experience. I then attempted to discover the channels through which this phenomenon occurs. After initially being interested in papers exploring the effects of globalization and increased trade on the economy, I noticed a gap in research on how trade shocks changed economic equilibria within geographic labor markets, rather than just across them.



Fatou Thioune

- Major: Economics (Honors)
- Concentration in Financial Economics and Econometrics (FEE)
- Minor: Middle Eastern Studies
- Adviser: Christiane Baumeister

Can Financial Conditions Influence Economic Activity in the CFA Zone? A Case Study of Senegal

My thesis investigates how changes in financial conditions affect macroeconomic outcomes in Senegal. Specifically, I quantify how supply and demand shocks stimulate the country's business activity and inflation using a vector autoregressive model and an ordinary least squares regression analysis. Although financial conditions are a significant determinant of economic growth in developed countries, the relationship is less obvious in developing countries. In particular, the fact that Senegal's currency, the CFA, is pegged to the Euro raises a lot of questions about its financial independence. This dependency makes the relationship between financial conditions and economic activity even more uncertain.

Traveled to Senegal with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.



**Sarah Tomas
Morgan**

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

A Capabilities Approach for Civil Society: The Capabilities Approach of Martha Nussbaum and the Creation of the Sustainable Development Goals

I explore the role for civil society in Martha Nussbaum's capabilities approach to human development. The creation of the sustainable development goals is used as a key case study to examine the philosophical grounding for a deliberative, whole-of-society approach to global development and the necessity of such an approach for modern development processes. I have been interested in Nussbaum's work since my first semester at Notre Dame because of the way her grounding in classical philosophy has led her to cutting-edge scholarship and practice in global development and human rights.



Mayson Trujillo

- Major: Psychology
- Adviser: David Watson

Depersonalization and Self- and Informant Reports of Personality: A Facet-Level Analysis

My thesis examines the relation between depersonalization — a component of dissociation consisting of experiences of unreality or detachment — and self- and informant reports of personality at the domain and facet level. The purpose of the study is to examine the agreement of these relations and determine the variance of the correlations contributed by each facet. After writing a literature review on dissociation and personality, I noticed a majority of the studies relied on self-reported data, from either clinical or undergraduate populations, and examined the relations broadly at the personality domain level. My thesis addresses these limitations.



Yi Lok Tsang

- Majors: Philosophy and Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Don Howard

The Design and Use of Artificial Moral Agents: A Virtue Ethics Approach

I examine the concept of artificial moral agents and the ultimate goals and consequences of creating such entities. I take virtue ethics, an agent-centered ethical theory, as an alternative model for artificial morality. My research focuses mainly on social robots, such as caregiving robots and companion robots. I am interested in the progress of artificial intelligence, the growing relationship between humans and artificial agents, and how the integration of moral machines in our society would change or enhance our moral and social capabilities.

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

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Genevieve Tuite

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Adviser: Phillip Sloan

The Moral and Technical Limits of CRISPR

For my thesis, I studied the possible future uses of CRISPR gene editing in health care. I also considered whether public unease about the widespread use of gene editing is reasonable. Finally, I suggested a moral regulatory framework for the future of CRISPR gene editing. I wanted to combine my passion for writing and liberal arts research with my interest in medicine. I think my thesis will add depth to my studies in medical school next fall.



Chandler Turner

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

Physician Burnout Causes and Possible Solutions

Burnout is defined as the “physical and mental collapse caused by overwork or stress.” My thesis focuses on specific causes of burnout among physicians and explores possible solutions to this pervasive problem. My hope is to influence the way the public thinks of physicians and to provide the profession with viable feedback to combat this issue. I chose this topic when I was going through career discernment. I wanted to know more about the medical field and its problems so I could properly prepare for my future.

Received funding from Multicultural Student Programs and Services.



Kyra Twohy

- Major: Mechanical Engineering
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Matt Kloser

Investigating STEM Faculty Perceptions of Student Biases in the Classroom

This study looks at the perceived student biases from a faculty perspective, as well as the impact the biases can have when they are enacted in course evaluations. I conducted a short survey of science and engineering faculty to gauge the perceived impact of different variables, including faculty gender, tenure status, class size, and field, on students' course evaluations. The lack of research on gender bias in STEM for higher education, as compared to similar research in the STEM industry, prompted this study.



Andrea Vale

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor: Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
- Adviser: Roy Scranton

The Constant Monologue

I completed a 40-page fiction manuscript that can be summed up as a war narrative without the war. It follows a veteran after his return home as he grapples with his shifting identity and how to reconcile the internal and external of human interaction. I was interested in the constantly employed trope of the Lone Man and whether the pedestal he is often placed on in literature could be torn down if he were made markedly unlikeable. I was also interested in the dichotomy of internal and external that takes place throughout our interactions with each other.



Leanne Van Allen

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and International Economics (Arabic)
- Adviser: Tarek Dika

Historical Interpretations of the Islamic Prohibition of Interest

My thesis explores the historical, theological, legal, and philosophical foundations of the Islamic prohibition against charging interest, or “riba.” I focused on the interpretation of this prohibition in the early centuries of Islam in order to demonstrate the complex relationship between divine revelation (in the form of the Quran) and the economic and social realities of daily life. This multifaceted topic is the perfect conclusion to my undergraduate career. It required me to look at my topic through many different lenses, and it tied together my PLS and international economics majors. It also allowed me to use my knowledge of Arabic.



Charlotte VanderGoot

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Advisers: Kevin Dreyer and Susan Ohmer

Beyond Incidents: The New Autistic Theatre

My thesis is an analysis of disability theatre, with a specific case study of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. I seek to promote greater neurodiversity in the theatre industry, especially on the production side, including practical solutions to make that future a reality. I live and work every day in the intersection between autism and theatre. Writing this thesis has given me the opportunity to be a voice for my community and to promote a more inclusive industry. It has also helped me make connections with other like-minded theatre professionals.

Traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Tatiana Vdovina

- Major: Finance
- Supplementary Major: German
- Advisers: Eva Dziadula and Denise Della Rossa

Labor Market Experiences of German Women Pre- and Post-Reunification

I examine the historical perspective on the German labor market as it relates to female workers and the policies that affected labor market participation, as well as choices regarding education and fertility. Specifically, I explore the difference between East and West Germany pre- and post-reunification in 1990. My mother traveled to East Germany in the early 1980s on a “friendship trip,” which involved interacting with working women during enterprise visits. Many East German women praised the labor market structure and saw a lot of positive aspects when it came to economic choices, such as being able to work even under troubled circumstances and being able to pursue traditionally “male” occupations.



Allison Verrilli

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

The Political Salience of White Identity: The Effect of Perceptions of Discrimination on Whites' Attitudes Towards Immigration

Conducting quantitative analysis on data from the 2016 Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey, I find that whites who perceive high levels of discrimination against whites are more likely to display restrictive attitudes toward immigration policy. This leads to the conclusion that feelings of threat and discrimination play a role in structuring white identity and making it politically salient — a finding that has important consequences for immigration policy and American politics more broadly. I have taken many classes on issues of race and inequality in American society, and before I graduated, I wanted to complete a comprehensive research project exploring the intersection of race, ethnicity, and American politics.



Isabella Vidulich

- Majors: Psychology and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Dawn Gondoli

Predictors of Maternal Weight Teasing in a Sample of Adolescent Females

High school-aged daughters report a relatively high rate of weight-related teasing, much of which comes from their mothers. This is unfortunate because research shows that mothers have a unique influence on daughters' eating and health outcomes. Using data from a larger study, I am trying to identify predictors of daughters' reports of maternal weight teasing. I am very interested in body-image disturbance and eating disorders because it exists at an intersection of two of my greatest interests — feminism and psychology. I have also conducted a literature review on weight-related teasing. Being able to contribute further to this important field is very exciting.

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Anne Vieser

- Major: History
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Advisers: Rebecca Tinio McKenna and Brian Collier

Educational Spaces on New York's Lower East Side, 1880–1920

My project looks at the network of educational spaces, including schools, libraries, and settlement houses, on the Lower East Side of New York City and how they served and were used by Jewish immigrants during the late 1800s and early 1900s. I chose this topic because I am interested in the educative potential of community institutions, as well as the history of New York. It has been fascinating to see how immigrants, in particular, used these local spaces of education to help navigate life in the United States and develop their own ideas of what it meant to be American.

Traveled to New York with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Maria Vigil

- Major: Music Performance (Piano)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: John Blacklow

Senior Recital

I presented a degree recital, consisting of works by Schumann, Schubert, Chopin, and Grieg. This, in conjunction with a recital I gave in April 2017, will be presented alongside extended program notes describing the selections and their composers. As a music major, performance is an integral part of my education. Creating a recital program that presents my technical ability combined with an understanding of the history surrounding the compositions is an apt culmination of my studies.

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Emily Vincent

- Majors: Anthropology and Chinese
- Minor: Business Economics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Eric Haanstad

Power and Face: An Exploration of Foreign NGOs in China

My thesis is an anthropological evaluation of the evolution and current state of foreign non-governmental organizations in China involved with the welfare of abandoned children with disabilities. I chose this topic because I am interested in the trend of child abandonment in China, which I have been studying since high school. I'm interested in the intersection of international relations, cultural pressures, and historical precedent as they affect foreign NGOs that deal with vulnerable child populations in China.

Traveled to Beijing, China, with funding from the Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement and the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program.



Tierney Vrdolyak

- Majors: Program of Liberal Studies and Theology
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: John Betz

From Make-Believing to Being: How Lewis' Literature Makes Mysticism Accessible

The idea that C.S. Lewis has of awakening, ascending, and becoming real stems from his reading of the Scriptures, the lives of Christian mystics, and works of Platonic and Romantic origin. My thesis focuses on what concepts interested Lewis, what people influenced him, and how he translated the themes and practices of his spiritual patrons into a form accessible to children and adults. I was inspired by two courses — one that explored Christian apologetics and mysticism and another that compared Lewis' literature to Eastern Orthodox traditions — and wanted to explore whether mysticism informed Lewis' writing.



Brigid Walsh

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Sarah Mustillo

The Types of Books Parents of Low SES Children in Chile are Reading to Their Children and Its Impact on Literacy Achievement

My thesis explores what types of texts parents of low socioeconomic status preschool children in Chile — specifically, those with the least access to books and teaching — read with their children. And, for the lowest access group, I look at what effect the type of text has on later achievement. Susana Mendive, my faculty adviser from la Católica in Chile, was able to share her research with me and help me explore a new topic in the realm of early literacy development.

Traveled to Santiago, Chile, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Margaret Walsh

- Major: Anthropology
- Minor: Irish Studies
- Adviser: Ian Kuijt

Sacred Trees and Holy Wells: Syncretism in Ireland

Christianity arrived in Ireland in the fifth century, quickly surpassing pagan religion in popularity. Yet paganism in Ireland did not disappear. Rather, the preexisting rituals, sites, and even deities melded into local Christian practices. The preservation of sacred trees and holy wells functions as a physical example of the intersection of these two religions. My thesis analyzes this syncretism in Ireland. I studied in Ireland in spring 2017 and was lucky enough to return that fall for a class. While there, I continually saw evidence of paganism seeping into Christian tradition, and it fascinated me. I wanted to see exactly how the two religions mixed in folklore and archaeology.

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Rachel Warne

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: International Development Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Michael Hoffman

Developing Effective and Inclusive Aid Programs: Outreach to Female Refugees

With 22.5 million refugees worldwide, limited resources require aid programming that is highly efficient and well targeted. Those most at-risk within their own communities are also most vulnerable to deficient aid and services. Female members of Arabic-speaking refugee communities are one such distinctly marginalized group. My thesis examines the hardships faced by these women and how aid organizations might work more efficiently and effectively. I completed interviews in Germany, Canada, and the United States through partnerships with local NGOs. Respondents emphasized the value of women-only spaces and the importance of considering the unique obstacles facing female refugees before and after they leave their home country.

Traveled to Eichstätt, Germany; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Saint Catharines, Ontario, Canada; with funding from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.



Meghan Watts

- Major: English
- Concentration in Creative Writing
- Supplementary Major: Gender Studies
- Minor: Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS)
- Adviser: Roy Scranton

Conversations with Gigi

In a series of interconnected vignettes, I explore the ways that friendships function and transform in periods of personal transition. I trace a single friendship through the lives of two young women in their final year of high school and return to them again, four years later. I chose this topic to expand my own understanding of the bildungsroman, and answer a central question — can a person come of age with someone else? In doing this, I found myself focusing on self-definition and what it means for a person or character to build identity based on their relationships.

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Grace Weissend

- Majors: Political Science and Film, Television, and Theatre (FTT)
- Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

From the Women's March to Washington: the Female Surge in U.S. Politics

My project is a video essay about the momentum of women in politics in the United States. Through interviews and research, I explore the discrepancies between male and female perceptions of qualifications for public office, motivations for women to get on the ballot, and the impact of increased female presence in the U.S. government. This is an incredible moment for women in all industries in the United States, and politics is certainly no exception. Instead of being retrospective and examining how this moment came to be, I want to look at the future of women in politics.



Joseph Wells

- Major: Program of Liberal Studies
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: F. Clark Power

An Ethical Judgement of American Football

American football is the most popular and valuable sport in the United States. However, recent research has shown the danger it poses to football players' neurological health. My thesis summarizes this research and explores what should be done about the sport, at all levels, moving forward. I have always been passionate about football, but I have heard multiple reports of its dangers over the past few years. I wanted to learn more, decide how they could be combatted, and know if I could continue to support the sport.



Caroline Whalen

- Major: History
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Catherine Cangany

1741 New York Slave Conspiracy

I look at Manhattan, from its early years as a Dutch colony to its transformation under English rule, within the context of slavery. During this time, New York City transforms from a “society with slaves” into a “slave society.” Culminating in 1741, this transition stems from its increased reliance on slave labor and the strict racial binary whites sought to enforce. When individuals think of American slavery, they often picture southern plantations. Growing up in upstate New York, I never thought of the state’s past being so consumed by slavery. And I’d never heard of the 1741 New York Slave Conspiracy, despite its deadly outcome. I chose this topic to complicate New York’s narrative.

Traveled to New York City with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.



Sara White

- Major: American Studies
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Adviser: Susanne Wengle

U.S. Nutritional Policy Review

I wrote a policy-review paper on U.S. nutrition and researched effective policies that could help reduce obesity and related diseases. After personally discovering the environmental and health benefits of a plant-based diet, I was inspired to research the role the U.S. government plays in its citizens' nutritional choices. I became eager to find an effective policy that could be enacted to help stop the epidemic of obesity and its related diseases that account for a large portion of health care costs in our country.

Josephine Wikelski

- Major: Political Science
- Minors: Theology and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- Adviser: Susan Rosato

The Paradox of CAFTA for Women in Central America

This thesis explores the impact of U.S. international trade policy on women in Latin American countries. I focus specifically on how the Central America Free Trade Agreement creates a paradox for women's development. My interest in this topic stems from my fascination in the relationships between gender, globalization, and development, especially in the fields of international trade and political economy.



Liz Wildenhain

- Majors: Philosophy and Physics
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Anjan Chakravartty

Firming Up the Foundations: Concretizing Structure in Epistemic Structural Realism

Structural realism is the view that scientific theories give true descriptions of only the structure of the unobservable world. Although some argue that an epistemic form of structural realism (ESR) is desirable, the popular Ramsey sentence version faces a potentially fatal challenge. I investigate whether incorporating “concrete structure” into ESR could produce a satisfactory version that dispenses with the Ramsey sentence approach. As an aspiring physicist, my motivation is to discover non-trivial features about how the world works. For this reason, I would like to be a scientific realist, and I feel I can only responsibly be one if there is a defensible version of scientific realism.



Mara Wilson

- Major: Science
Preprofessional Studies
- Supplementary Major:
Theology
- Minors: Middle Eastern and
Mediterranean Studies
- Adviser: Li Guo

The Mysticism of Rabi'a al-Adawiyya

Acclaimed scholar Annemarie Schimmel noted that in Islamic history, there is one area in which the woman does enjoy full equal rights — the realm of mysticism. I explore the role of women in Islamic mysticism through the life and work of Rabi'a al-Adawiyya, one of the first and greatest female Sufi mystics. My interest in Sufism, the mystical branch of Islam, was piqued when I took an Islamic theology course. After further research, I was struck by the remarkable contributions of women to the development of Sufi thought and the way their work has been celebrated — both in their own time and today.



Luke Wojtalik

- Majors: Philosophy and Mathematics (Honors)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Timothy Bays

On Intensionality and Self-Reference in Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems

I evaluate two claims Gödel makes in a 1931 paper — first, that sufficiently strong theories cannot prove their own consistency, and second, that the so-called Gödel sentence states that it is unprovable. I consider various attempts to formalize the notions of expression of a property by a formula and self-reference. My tutor at Oxford suggested I work on self-reference in formal theories, and I found that the topic was relevant to a broad range of philosophically interesting questions.

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James Woodley

- Major: Chinese
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Michel Hockx

The Chinese University Admission Process: Is it Fair?

When you apply to schools in China, you send in your standardized test score and what province you are from. In theory, this places every applicant on a level playing field. But, is this un-holistic application process more or less fair than the process in the United States? I studied abroad in China the summer after sophomore year, and I did not understand the extent of the complications of the university admission system until I met college students there.

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Robert Wozniak

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

La Violencia Machista en Argentina y La Movilización Ni Una Menos (Machista Violence in Argentina and the Ni Una Menos Movement)

My thesis investigates how gender identity, sexual identity, and machista violence have transformed throughout Argentine history. I identify the societal roots of machismo and analyze how they have created oppressive representations of marginalized communities, leading to extreme violence against women and the LGBTQ+ community. I explored early feminist movements as the antecedent to modern queer movements and how Ni Una Menos, an inclusive and transnational collective, has become a revolutionary initiative. While in Argentina as a medical and human rights intern, I became aware of the blatant injustice and violence toward women and queer people. I wanted to broaden my perspective on the transformation of human rights movements.

Traveled to Córdoba, Argentina.

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Jackson Wrede

- Major: Studio Art
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Jason Lahr

Good Girls and Bad Boys

For my thesis, I created a series of paintings that challenge and lift the curtain on how the bombardment of imagery from popular culture we face on a daily basis makes us think about sex and gender performance. As I have grown as an artist in my four years at Notre Dame, I realized that this is a constant in theme in my work. So, when deciding what to do for my thesis, this topic came very naturally.



Thomas Yaeger

- Majors: Economics and Mathematics (Honors)
- Adviser: Michael Pries

Anchoring Inflation Expectations in the Aftermath of the Financial Crisis

I tested whether different measures of inflation expectations were anchored following the unconventional monetary policy measures in the aftermath of the financial crisis. During the financial crisis, the Federal Reserve enacted unconventional monetary policy. Those measures may have affected the credibility of the Federal Reserve as an institution. One measure of credibility is inflation expectations.



Sadie Yates

- Major: Theology
- Minor: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Timothy Matovina

La Virgen de la Candelaria: An Andean Case Study in Catholic Inculturation

My thesis explores inculturation — the idea in Catholicism that Christian doctrine must be explained and expressed in culturally appropriate ways. I performed a case study of the festival of La Virgen de la Candelaria that occurs each February in Puno, Peru, and identified successful realizations of and obstacles to full inculturation in this context. As a theology major and devout Catholic, I have always had an interest in Mary and in diverse cultural expressions of spirituality. Last summer, I taught English in Puno, Peru, and after learning about this festival and falling in love with Andean culture, I knew that this would be a meaningful project.

Traveled to Puno, Peru, with funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Carolyn Yvellez

- Major: Political Science
- Adviser: Susanne Wengle

The Rise of Seed Libraries in the United States: The Power of Diffuse Interests

I examined the rise of seed libraries as an alternative to seed consolidating biotechnology companies. My research determines to what extent seed libraries fulfill the alternative market role in Karl Polanyi's double movement theory. I also rely on Gunnar Trumbull's diffuse interest theory to explain their success and proliferation in the United States. I was introduced to seed libraries at the Sustainable Economies Law Center in Oakland, California. There, I worked on amending state seed laws to allow seed libraries to attain legal exemption status. Seed libraries are one way communities can preserve locally adapted seeds to ensure local food security in the face of global climate change.

Traveled to Oakland, California.



Emily Zagorski

- Majors: Political Science and English
- Adviser: Jazmin Sierra

Transjudicialism in Estonian Constitutional Courts

My thesis addresses how and why domestic courts cite international law, by evaluating the case study of the Republic of Estonia. I assert that Estonia cites international law out of an ideological intention to integrate itself into the European community as it deals with the legacy of Soviet occupation. While taking a class on the development of post-Soviet states, I became interested in Estonia and the lack of scholarship on it. Since I intend to have an international legal career, I wanted to study how international law works in this nation.



Zofia Zdanowicz

- Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Nicole McNeil

Cognitive Math Deficits due to Socioeconomic Status

There is up to a two-year gap in mathematical knowledge between children from low and high socioeconomic statuses when entering kindergarten. My thesis examines the role of gesture in mathematical activities, as gesture has been suggested to be an indicator of formulating knowledge. Hopefully, my results can be applied to education settings in order to foster and encourage mathematical growth in children. I am a poverty studies minor and have been involved in community service in South Bend for years. As a neuroscience major, the cognitive component of development also fascinates me.

Received funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program.



Zhengyi Zhang

- Major: Music Performance (Piano)
- Adviser: John Blacklow

Senior Piano Recital

My senior recital presents Bach's *Prelude and Fugue BWV 853*, Beethoven's *Sonata Op.109*, Chopin and Scriabin's *Etudes*, Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No.12*, and Debussy's *Feux d'artifice*. The recital program covered different time periods and styles, including Baroque, Classic, Romantic, and Impressionism. It allowed me to showcase my ability to interpret different styles and brought the audience the experience of surveying across musical history. This program gave me the opportunity to research deeply into each piece and each time period. In my recital, I was able to communicate both historical concepts and my original ideas with the audience.

Traveled to the Brevard Music Festival and the International Keyboard Institute and Festival.



Ariana Zlioba

- Major: Political Science
- Adviser: Susanne Wengle

The Influence of Diaspora Politics on Lithuanian Democratic Transition

This case study of the Lithuanian-American diasporic community illustrates the way that separate nationalisms can arise within one ethnic group, when a nation is separated by geography and circumstance. Twentieth-century Lithuanian-American lobbying and political activism helped to construct a new Lithuanian “nationalism in exile,” characterized by its Western nature. The diasporic emphasis on the Soviet adversary and the lionization of the U.S., in particular, heavily influenced Lithuanian democratization and Westernization in the 1990s. My family is Lithuanian-American, and my parents’ and grandparents’ lives have been characterized by political activism on behalf of their homeland. After visiting Lithuania, I was convinced this story would be a valuable contribution to the political science community.

Traveled to Chicago, Illinois, and Vilnius, Lithuania.