

**Patrick Adams**

Major in political science

Double major in theology

Adviser: David Fagerberg

***“Understanding the Mass as Sacrifice: Origins, Developments, and Common Interpretations”***

An author I read put it best when he said that the “Mass is neither known, nor understood, nor attended, nor loved as it deserves.” It is my hope that my thesis contributes to a better understanding of what the Mass actually is—the celebration of the same Eucharist that was instituted at the Last Supper, a true and real sacrifice offered to God for the forgiveness of sins.



**Kristin Alvarado**

Major in sociology

Minor in poverty studies

Adviser: Mim Thomas

***“The Path to Prison: Exploring the Connection Between U.S. Economic Conditions and Sentence Severity of Male Offenders”***

I was interested in exploring the idea that people living in poverty, or near the poverty line, are not more likely to commit crimes but instead likely to be more harshly sentenced because of their lack of monetary value to a capitalist society. My hypothesis is that during times of economic hardship in the United States, men who find themselves in the lowest economic classes, or as part of an ethnic minority, will suffer harsher prison sentences for similar crimes in comparison to times of economic prosperity.



**Philip Anderson**

Major in economics

Adviser: Kasey Buckles

***“Measuring the Relationship Between Student Debt and Lifecycle Transitions”***

I use survey data from the Federal Reserve to estimate how student loan debt impacts the initiation of lifecycle transitions, specifically the decisions to marry and have children. As a college senior, I have a natural interest in the transitions that my peers and I will undergo in the coming years. Furthermore, how lingering student debt may impact family decisions is a topic that has not been extensively addressed by empirical economic research.



**Bridget Apfeld**

Major in English

Adviser: Valerie Sayers

***“Water Deep, Cold; and Other Stories”***

My thesis is a cohesive collection of short stories that use a specific geography and landscape—that of greater Wisconsin—to engage with concerns of regional voice and consciousness, with social and cultural problems, and with the fierce dynamics of families. I believe regional writing can illustrate a fusion of a physical landscape with an ethical, moral one. I wanted to demonstrate the inextricably linked nature of my characters’ lives, morals, and voices with the places in which they live—and explore the ways in which these ethics complement, clash with, or are created by the physical world.



**Danielle Arthur**

Major in political science

Double major in Italian

Adviser: Valerie Sayers

***“Getting Away With It: A Comparative Examination of the Nature of Political Scandal in the United States and Italy”***

This comparative politics thesis examines the differences in the nature of political scandal in the United States and Italy, looking to religious, structural, and cultural causes. The project was a great way to integrate my two majors in a comprehensive and analytical assessment of my own country and the wonderful country I have spent so much time visiting and studying.



**Carolyn Bates**

Major in psychology

Adviser: Julia Braungart-Rieker

***“Child Obesity and Health-Related Quality of Life: Changes Observed in an Intervention Program”***

My research examines the relationship between change in child body mass index and health-related quality of life for overweight and obese children who enrolled in a multi-disciplinary, obesity intervention program. I have been pursuing research in pediatric obesity intervention and prevention during my undergraduate career and hope to continue this research in graduate school. I would like to be a clinical psychologist specializing in pediatric obesity and eating disorder prevention and intervention.



## **Cy Bennett**

Major in design (industrial design)

Adviser: Paul Down

### ***“RO. Roll Out. Ride On.”***

I have designed a universal, quick-release rear pannier rack and bag system for bicycles. I hope to help facilitate a transition from the car to the bike as a main form of day-to-day transportation. In my imaginary utopia, I will have helped enable everyone to use bicycles not only to better themselves but to support local economies and help protect this giant blue marble we call home.

**Ricky Bevington**

Major in the Program of Liberal Studies

Adviser: Denis Robichaud

***“The Unconfined Thomas More: A Commitment to Human Development through Prison Writing”***

This project examines St. Thomas More’s prison texts in an attempt to learn about the contentious historical figure. The thesis argues that More’s devotion to the moral development of others was maintained even as he suffered at the hands of the state, confirming his role as one of history’s great teachers. More is a figure who evades concise description. I was fascinated by his thoughts on conscience as well as the emotion present in his prison texts, and I was curious as to what this said about the man who seldom gave a straightforward answer.



**Kelsey Blais**

Major in political science

Adviser: Susan Rosato

***“Social Network Sites: Facilitating or Diminishing Social Capital?”***

My project investigates the relationship between social network sites and the production of social capital. I want to better understand these growing technologies and their widespread social and political impacts. While some argue that social networks are diminishing and harmful to social capital, others claim they allow us to communicate, connect, and participate in society better than ever before. My research tests the existing hypotheses and develops a theoretical framework to improve our understanding of this emerging field.

**Katie Bodie**

Major in history

Minors in Latin American studies and anthropology

Adviser: Karen Graubart

***“Thirty Artists and Thirty Articles: How the Catholic Church Stroved to Promote Human Rights in Chile”***

Five years after the military coup in Chile, the Vicariate of Solidarity organized “The Year of Human Rights.” This included an art exhibition where 30 artists produced silkscreen prints to illustrate the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. My thesis examines the Vicariate’s advocacy work. I studied abroad in Chile and became fascinated by its history, particularly the 17-year dictatorship. After learning about the work of the Vicariate, I wanted to pursue research on human rights violations and advocacy. The art collection provides an interesting lens through which to examine this time period.

**Stephanie Bonaroti**

Major in music (music theory)

Double major in history

Supplemental major in mathematics

Adviser: Susan Youens

***“The Functionality of Exoticism in Mahler's Das Lied Von der Erde”***

I examine Gustav Mahler's exposure to Asian philosophies and provide an analysis of his use of Asian musical materials in his work, *Das Lied Von der Erde*. Studying shifts in ideology at the start of the 19th century continues to raise questions. Furthermore, the musical reflection of these ideas is fascinating and significant within the field of music.



## **Augie Bossu**

Major in political science

Supplementary majors in peace studies and Italian

Adviser: Erin McDonnell

### ***“Olympic Ideals and Host City Selection: A Case Study of Four Olympic Games”***

My thesis analyzes various ideals of the modern Olympic movement and how they have intersected with the selection process for Olympic host cities. What ideals lead the committee to select a city? Does the legacy of the Games reflect those ideals? I have always had a passion for the Olympics, especially its international relations aspect. Over the years, I have studied Olympic history as well as the intersection of sport and politics, and the Olympic ideals have been of special interest to me as I view them as a tool for peace.

**Julianne Brauer**

Major in philosophy

Supplementary major in French

Adviser: Katherine Brading

***“Quantum Mechanics and Free Will”***

My thesis is an investigation into whether an indeterministic interpretation of quantum mechanics can explain the decision-making process underlying free action. I took a class on the philosophy of action in the fall and was frustrated that none of the authors we studied offered explanations for the physical matter and processes upon which conscious decisions must be based. Having taken a class on the philosophy of physics last year, I thought some of the material taught there might help fill in the gaps in what I was reading in the philosophy of action class.



**Adele Bruggeman**

Major in sociology

Minor in poverty studies

Adviser: Terry McDonnell

***“Benefit of Sports for Girls: Case Study in Kampala, Uganda”***

Looking into the benefit of sports participation in school for girls, I have found a common thread of confidence among girls who have had the opportunity to engage in sports. Knowing the impact sports have had on my own life, I was curious to see if they had a similar effect on girls in developing countries, who are frequently marginalized in society. Fusing my interests in international development, sports, and the empowerment of girls, this project is a culmination of the learning I have done at Notre Dame, applied to the real-world setting of Kampala, Uganda.

## **Dallas Bunsu**

Major in the Program of Liberal Studies

Minor in poverty studies

Adviser: Stephen Fallon

### ***“Trivial Pursuits: The Problem of Knowledge in Paradise Lost”***

There is an apparent paradox in *Paradise Lost* where author John Milton appears to place limitations on humanity's capability to gain knowledge. Adam is created with a strong curiosity and desire to learn, but he is instructed by Raphael that he must be temperate in his search for knowledge. My thesis attempts to undo some of these paradoxical passages and show how *Paradise Lost* guides the reader to seek knowledge. I chose this topic because searching for knowledge is something I value, especially as a Program of Liberal Studies student.



**Felipe Campos Reséndez**

Major in theology

Minor in Italian

Adviser: Maxwell Johnson

***“The Anaphora of Addai and Mari”***

My thesis studies the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, the earliest Eucharistic prayer in continuous use, remarkable for its lack of an institution narrative. It examines the origin of Eucharistic prayers, the Assyrian Church of the East, a recent intercommunion document, and the implications of the Church. The document issued jointly by the Assyrian Church of the East and the Catholic Church allows for communion between the two groups despite the lack of an institution narrative. I feel that such a momentous decision could be the beginning of further ecumenical dialogue that can hopefully unite both Churches while maintaining their separate and rich cultural traditions.





**Daniel Carinci**

Major in the Program of Liberal Studies

Minor in Italian

Adviser: Stephen Fallon

***“By Birthright More Than Merit: The Unconvincing Fallibility of the Son in Paradise Regained”***

My thesis examines John Milton’s heretical theology, particularly its emphasis on the Son of God’s offer to sacrifice himself for mankind over the efficacy of his Passion. Despite his emphasis on obedience, Milton provides in *Paradise Regained* a Son of God whose victory over temptation is so staged that it fails to provide a proper example of man’s ability to overcome temptation and achieve redemption through obedience to God.



**Ellen Carroll**

Major in philosophy

Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Ted Warfield

***“How to Save a Life: Determining the Optimal Strategy to Meet the Moral Demands Generated by Beneficence”***

My thesis attempts to answer the question of how affluent individuals should meet the moral demands generated by beneficence, assuming such obligations exist. What is the best way to give time or money to those who desperately need help? I chose this topic after studying Garrett Cullity’s *The Moral Demands of Affluence*. This past summer, I taught in Uganda through the International Summer Service Learning Program, which raised additional questions about how to think about contributions of time and money to people in developing countries.



**Kathryn Chew**

Major in anthropology

Minor in Chinese

Adviser: Carolyn Nordstrom

***“The Olympics: Gold Medals and Metal Chains”***

I have been investigating possible human rights violations associated with the Olympics and their dangerous implications on the way we view society, ourselves, and human beings in general. As an intern at the 2012 London Olympics, I began hearing of possible human rights violations associated with the Games. Unfortunately, the media only touched on these topics, while it reveled in the inspirational stories of athletes’ triumph over hardship. I found a contradiction between the idealistic diction we use to portray the Olympics and the actual function of the Games in our contemporary world.

**Lauren Chval**

Major in English (creative writing)

Double major in film, television, and theatre (film)

Adviser: Bill Krier

***“Immoderately Perceptive”***

A coming-of-age story, my thesis explores the psychological, sexual, and relational maturation of a young woman through higher education. After spending four years studying great literature at Notre Dame, I wanted to explore what that type of education does to the young mind, as well as how living in a social environment as unique as Notre Dame's affects a world view.



**Annie Cragg**

Major in English

Double major in French and Francophone studies

Adviser: Sara Maurer

***“If Loving You is Wrong, I Don't Want to be Right’: 1980s Feminist Ambivalence and Judith McNaught's Whitney, My Love”***

My thesis contextualizes Judith McNaught's historical romance novel, *Whitney, My Love*, within the period of the 1980s and explores how McNaught may have projected issues of the post-feminist 1980s onto her novel. The academic community has historically treated the romance genre with contempt, censoring it for its formulaic, predictable nature. The study of the individual romance novel, however, has grown in the past few years, suggesting a newfound acceptance of the merits of the genre. I believe these novels need to be studied, considering their ever-growing audience and the feminist issues they address.



**Cristina Couri**

Major in the Program of Liberal Studies

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

***“Darwin’s Moral Concept”***

My thesis is a critical analysis of Charles Darwin’s moral concept based on a close analysis of his written works, especially *The Descent of Man*, and supplemented by second sources. I was interested in learning more about ethical philosophies which focused more on the role of emotion in normative morality than on the role of reason.



**Alyssa Dammann**

Major in psychology

Double major in science preprofessional studies

Adviser: Joshua Diehl

***“Effect of Parent Expectations of Child Therapy on Perceived Therapy Outcomes in Children With Autism”***

I am examining whether or not parent expectations have an effect on the parents’ perception of their child’s outcome, or actual measured outcome, in social skills therapy for children with autism. I am interested in the role parents might play in social skills therapy that is aided by the use of a humanoid robot, especially the effect they might have on the outcome. Examining ways that less salient characteristics of the parents could impact the child’s outcome can provide new information on how to bring about the best improvements for the child.



**Meghan Davis**

Major in sociology

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Jessica Collett

***“The Influence of Physician Gender and Specialty on Patient Expectations”***

For my thesis, I chose to explore how physician gender, specialty, and descriptor information influence patient expectations and preferences for care. This topic allows me to incorporate aspects from both of my majors and what I learned in a graduate-level social psychology course I took in the fall.





**Tessa Demmerle**

Major in English

Double major in economics

Adviser: Kate Marshall

***“Determinism in a Meaningless Landscape: Naturalism in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*”***

In *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy offers a haunting environment, desolate and toxic, whose effects are poisonous for inhabitants. Considering the texts of naturalist authors, McCarthy seems to follow a determinist argument. *The Road* strays from the representations of determinism, however, as it simultaneously participates in and rejects a naturalist reading. I am intrigued by McCarthy's ambiguities, as they abide by and challenge typical aspects of naturalist fiction. McCarthy marks a pivotal moment in contemporary fiction, as his works have the potential to redefine what is meant by “American Naturalism.”



**Courtenay Devlin**

Major in psychology

Minor in the Gallivan Program of Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy

Adviser: Alexandra Corning

***“Mother-Daughter Fat Talk: How Do Individual and Relational Factors Contribute?”***

Fat talk—or self-deprecating conversations females have regarding their bodies—is associated with risk factors for eating pathology. This study examined predictors of fat talk occurring between mothers and their late-adolescent daughters. Mothers’ body mass index and body dissatisfaction predicted greater engagement in fat talk, whereas mother-daughter relational cohesion did not.



**Leo DiPiero**

Major in the Program of Liberal Studies  
Supplementary major in Italian  
Adviser: Stuart Greene

***“Reframing the Role of Education”***

I am looking into literacy and education, examining their role in poverty eradication. Education, while important, is not enough to alleviate poverty and focusing only on education ignores many cultural and societal influences that may cause poverty. I chose this topic because of my experiences teaching English in northern Bangladesh while on an International Summer Service Learning Program. I left my service with questions about the poverty I saw and wanted to examine how the problems behind this poverty could be solved.



**Tommasina Domel**

Major in English

Double major in marketing

Adviser: Matthew Wilkens

***“Community and Reality in Winesburg, Ohio”***

My interest in contemporary, modernist short fiction was sparked by the story “Loneliness” in the collection *Winesburg, Ohio: A Group of Tales of Ohio Small-Town Life* by Sherwood Anderson. I chose to engage with the entire work as my thesis project.



**Emily Ehrman**

Major in psychology

Adviser: James Brockmole

***“Learning Effects from Hand Posture”***

This experiment looks at how varying hand posture between a learning phase and a testing phase influences visual processing. I chose this topic because I am interested in seeing if there is a carry-over effect of how information is initially processed with a specific hand posture during a learning phase to how information is processed later during a testing phase when hand posture changes.



**Katie Elish**

Major in psychology

Minor in poverty studies

Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

***“A Prototype Willingness Model of Moral, Religious, and Risk Behavior in Emerging Adults”***

My thesis investigated the relationship between perceptions of a moral and religious prototype, and their effects on moral, religious, and risk behavior. I also assessed whether or not that relationship is moderated by social comparison. I have a primary research interest in protective factors against risky behavior and how peer relationships can influence both positive and negative behaviors.

**Eric Elliott**

Major in history

Minor in constitutional studies

Adviser: Linda Przybyszewski

***“The Media's Arguments Against the Internment of Japanese Americans During World War II”***

This project is a counter-narrative to the common argument that as a whole the media supported the internment of Japanese Americans based on racist principles, focusing on journalists' arguments against internment in the 1940s. I was interested in comparing governmental reactions following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the attacks on 9/11. After researching responses to Pearl Harbor, I became interested in how the government ultimately decided to intern U.S. citizens.



**Collin Erker**

Major in film, television, and theatre (film)

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Christine Becker

***“Pride”***

My thesis is a research and creative project constructing a new medical television drama. I am writing a “show bible” and pilot episode script for the series, which takes place in a research hospital in Virginia during World War II. I wanted to learn about the creative and academic efforts put into such programs, and this endeavor encompasses my interests in television and science. The struggles and innovations in the American medical home front during World War II are staggering, and they serve as a deep reservoir for social commentary and narrative drama.





**Raquel Falk**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Minor in theology

Advisers: Margaret Pfeil and Denis Robichaud

***“Cooperative Economics: A Eucharistic Practice in Positive Interdependence”***

As a sophomore, I became involved with the Monroe Park Grocery Cooperative (MPGC) here in South Bend. The MPGC takes Mounier’s idea of personalism seriously and keeps social justice at the heart of its operation. My senior thesis examines this merging of the Church’s social teaching and meeting the practical needs of society. I show that living in positive interdependence is a moral category stemming from the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This cooperative model is an economic practice that allows members to live out positive interdependence every day.



**Suzanne Fanuele**

Major in psychology

Adviser: Kristin Valentino

***“Mother-Child Reminiscing and Maternal Attachment in Relation to Child Emotion Regulation”***

Research has shown that elaborative mother-child reminiscing impacts child development in a number of cognitive and socioemotional domains. I examine the influence of emotionally supportive reminiscing on child emotion regulation, as well as how maternal attachment mediates the relationship between reminiscing and child emotion regulation. I’ve been working in the Development and Psychopathology Lab since I was a sophomore, and the more I learned about how important mother-child reminiscing was for a number of child outcomes, the more fascinated I became with the topic.

**Maria Fernandez**

Major in political science

Minor in peace studies

Adviser: George Lopez

***“Puerto Rico’s Centenary Political Conflict Through a New and Constructive Lens”***

My project analyzes Puerto Rican political history and current events through the lenses of conflict resolution and conflict transformation. It identifies the actors and the ebb and flow of the island's internal political stalemate in order to propose viable alternatives. I chose to write about Puerto Rico because I have always wanted to use the knowledge and experiences I've acquired at Notre Dame to positively impact my island. Presenting readers a constructive perspective on how to engage with conflict is, I think, a good way to promote positive change in Puerto Rico.



**Emily Frazzette**

Major in English

Double major in Italian studies

Adviser: Laura Walls

***“The Eye of the Poet: Dante Alighieri's Influence on Emersonian Transcendentalism”***

My thesis argues that it is Dante Alighieri's image of the eye that Ralph Waldo Emerson implements in his formation of American Transcendentalism. Emerson's reading of Dante confirms his belief in the poet as the leader in the new age. Like the image of the eye, the poet unites faith and reason, sees spirit in science and divine beauty in language. I noticed similarities between Emerson's *Nature* and Dante's *Commedia* and wanted to pursue these ideas further. I was raised as a Roman Catholic and a lover of books so the relationship between religion and literature has always interested me.



**Melanie Fritz**

Major in sociology

Adviser: Elizabeth McClintock

***“Iraqi Refugee Women and Their Access to Obstetric-Gynecologic Healthcare in the United States”***

My thesis examines the cultural and religious influences on Iraqi refugee women's access to women's healthcare, both in Iraq and in the United States. After working last summer with refugees from all over the world, I realized that not much research has been done on how refugees are able to access healthcare once they have arrived in the United States.



**Michael Fronk**

Major in English

Double major in mathematics

Adviser: Chris Abram

***“To Have and to Hold: Property and Guardianship in Anglo-Saxon Literature”***

Within the context of Anglo-Saxon and larger Germanic legal traditions, the repetitive suspect references to the human hand in the Old English epic poem Beowulf lend themselves to a legal analysis of the poem. This uncovers multiple issues and disputes in the realm of contracts and property law not immediately apparent. After studying the history of the English language, Old English, and Beowulf, I developed an interest in this period of literature. When combined with my law school aspirations, these two passions led to a senior thesis in Anglo-Saxon law as related to literature.



**Ryan Charles Gisriel**

Major in political science

Adviser: John Duffy

***“A Definitional Argument: The Insanity Plea”***

In my thesis, I engage in rhetorical discourse and conduct a definitional argument of insanity. I first form my own method to explore the meaning of a given word. Then, focusing on the trial of John Hinckley, I apply this method to insanity and analyze the ramifications of this definition. While we rarely think about the implications definitions have for our world, it is beneficial to evaluate certain meanings. How we define our words has an impact on everything we encounter. There is arguably no place where definitions play a larger role than in a courtroom.



**Caitlin Glimco**

Major in political science

Double major in music (vocal performance)

Minor in Italian

Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

***“Va Pensiero:’ The Intersection of Opera and Politics in Italy”***

My thesis asserts that the reception history of Verdi’s Risorgimento operas, in particular *Nabucco*, can and should be related to Italian political theory. A recurring motif has emerged from Dante to Machiavelli to Verdi: the use of a mythology of the past to legitimize and move forward toward a better future. In Italy, this manifests itself in the quest for Italian unification. There are, however, modern applications and ramifications as well.





**Mary Goodman**

Major in history

Double major in English

Minor in Italian

Adviser: Fr. Robert Sullivan

***“Envisioning Utopia: The Unification of London’s Transport System and the Forging of Urban Identity in the Early 20th Century”***

My senior thesis uses the development of London’s passenger transport system to address how a modern city is created. This year, which marks the 150th anniversary of the Underground, is an interesting time to look back on how it has helped create a unique civic identity for Londoners. Thanks to London Transport, people living in both the inner city and suburbs are able to identify themselves as Londoners. Both geographically and aesthetically, London Transport has united the modern city and created the physical structure upon which the identity of its citizens is based.

## **Thomas Grant**

Major in philosophy

Minors in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and  
in Irish language and literature

Adviser: Paul Weithman

### ***“Education and Fair Equality of Opportunity”***

I attempt to justify the provision of fair equality of opportunity through universal education in a scheme of strong property rights. I became interested in the apparent inability of most libertarian theories, which are based upon property rights, to accept social-justice programs imposed by a government. This thesis is intended to be a step toward legitimating some forms of distributive social justice in a libertarian context.



**Sarah Hale**

Major in English

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Sara Maurer

***“Ways of Knowing in George Eliot’s Middlemarch”***

Through George Eliot’s depiction of a rural community, she demonstrates how observation is one way to know a culture, reflecting the 19th century fascination with knowing the world through scientific and ethnographic study. My thesis primarily explores Lydgate, a medical doctor, as he unsuccessfully attempts to use empirical ways of knowing to create new treatment and regulations to reform the medical community. I have always enjoyed reading 19th century British literature, and I wanted to relate this time period to my medical interests.

**Molly Herber**

Major in English

Double major in Arabic

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Stephen Fredman

***“Finding a New Path: Re-education in the Work of Gary Snyder”***

I interpret Snyder’s poetic mission as pedagogy, examining how his synthesis of the teaching practices of Buddhism and Native American shamanism resolves the human-made rift he perceives between humans and the natural world. I was initially attracted to Snyder’s poetry because of the way it resonated with my own experiences of natural spaces. As I read further, I was impressed by the care and deep thoughtfulness with which he approaches poetry and wanted to be able to explore it more thoroughly.



**Chris Herlihy**

Major in American studies

Supplementary major in Greek and Roman civilization

Adviser: Benedict Giamo

***“Pro Football and Violence: The Uncertain Future of the NFL as American Icon”***

The paper analyzes the issues of violence that face the National Football League, one of America’s most popular sports institutions. It chronicles the issues threatening football, how they have evolved through the league's history, and how they will affect its future. This topic has exploded over the last few years and continues to develop. I find it fascinating that an American institution so crucial to our concepts of identity and nationalism faces an ideological threat to its existence and stature.



**Ana Hernandez**

Major in psychology

Minor in European studies

Adviser: David Watson

***“Further Evidence Toward the Necessary Separation of Narcissism Into Subtypes”***

My study seeks to support the need to separate narcissism into grandiose and vulnerable subtypes, by looking at their relationship with personality measures, mood affect, and self-awareness of performance. This topic seemed relevant as the development of the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) was being discussed in lab meetings, specifically the changes to personality disorders such as narcissism.



**Catherine Hrabrick**

Major in psychology

Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society

Adviser: Jeanne Day

***“Shyness and Receptive Language Skills as Predictors of Vocabulary Acquisition of ESL Students in a Head Start Preschool”***

I look at shyness and receptive language skills as potential predictors of language acquisition in the context of a shared-book reading intervention. This experiment focuses on how children taking English as a Second Language (ESL) fare compared to English-speaking peers. Working in the developmental psychology lab Ready for Kindergarten, I noticed many ESL students participating in our study and wanted to see how intervention impacted them. I was also curious about what predictors might be useful to aid them in learning language.



**Jacqueline Hull**

Major in design (industrial design)

Adviser: Paul Down

***“3D Thinking”***

My project aims to raise awareness about 3D thinking—or thinking in images instead of words. By raising awareness, I hope to start a discussion about traditional school systems and how they aren’t effectively teaching a large portion of our population. This topic is close to me because I am a 3D thinker, and I have met many people who are 3D thinkers who struggle through school. I see this as a relatively easy problem to fix.





## **Christopher Hunt**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Double major in economics

Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

### ***“Consumer Sentiment and News Media: How the Opinion of the Masses Can Affect the Economy”***

Consumer sentiment, the measure of individual confidence regarding economic performance, has been measured since the late 1940s, yet its explanatory power is not completely understood. I argue that consumer sentiment both predicts and influences future economic performance, suggesting that volatility in the opinion of the masses has a subsequent impact on economic performance. I also investigate the role of news media in developing that sentiment through economic journalism.



**Morgan Iddings**

Major in anthropology

Adviser: Rahul Oka

***“Mind Games: The Role of Nostalgia in the Formation of Collective Memory in Post-Socialist Bulgaria”***

Individual perceptions of the socialist past and the emerging democratic present in Bulgaria are far from resilient; they hinge on society’s collective ability to remember and forget. In this research, I interviewed individuals of varying socioeconomic status in Bulgaria and analyzed their perceptions of the past relative to the formation of collective memory. Bulgaria is a nation with a complex sociopolitical history, and this enigmatic past confounds the individual’s perception of both past and present.



## **Edward Jacobson**

Major in music (music theory and history)

Adviser: Susan Youens

### ***“Hearing the Highlands: How Scottish is Lucia?”***

My thesis examines Scottishness in Italian opera in the early 19th century, particularly the effect of the novels of Sir Walter Scott on continental perceptions of Scotland. I consider *Lucia di Lammermoor* and how Donizetti created a sound world identifiable as Scottish. While reading *Madame Bovary*, I was struck by a scene in which Emma attends the opera. After the opening horn call in *Lucia*, Emma “could hear, through the mist, the sound of bagpipes echoing across the heather.” Although neither Flaubert nor Donizetti ever visited Scotland, they had a clear idea of what was musically Scottish. My thesis attempts to explain why.



**Melissa Jordan**

Major in anthropology

Minors in Chinese and in Irish studies

Adviser: Rahul Oka

***“Recession, Pub Culture, and Mental Health in Ireland”***

My project examines how the recession is affecting pub culture and weakening communal bonding, thus contributing to mental and physical health issues including suicide. The pub culture in Ireland has been drastically weakened in response to the recent recession, and I wanted to understand how this weakness might contribute to public-health issues.

**Caitlyn Kalscheur**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Advisers: Thomas Stapleford and Brian Collier

***“From Vice to Victims: Tracing the Standards Movement in American Education”***

My thesis investigates the foundations of the American education system and major educational movements between the early national period and today’s iteration of the standards movement, or the Common Core. In analyzing different theories behind the need for change within American education, I trace the idealized purposes of education. Studying the history of the standards movement is beneficial both in understanding and interpreting the modern educational debate.



**Alex Kasparie**

Major in political science

Double major in history

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Bill Miscamble

***“Actors or Authors?: Churchill and Roosevelt at the Casablanca Conference”***

My thesis examines Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill’s reputations as the great shapers of Allied strategy. Their roles at the Casablanca Conference in 1943 are much more complicated than conventional wisdom may assume. Roosevelt and Churchill have become idols for millions, but recognizing anyone as “great” requires a comprehensive understanding of the person. As a World War II history buff, I wanted to study their roles in the war and whether they actually stood above their peers as titans. The relatively understudied Casablanca Conference offered the perfect test case.



**Brandon Keelean**

Major in design (graphic design)

Adviser: Robert Sedlack

***“Story Refuge”***

Story Refuge gathers and disseminates the stories of refugees in South Africa, which is home to more refugees than any other nation. This web-based platform shares their stories through audio to inform audiences abroad about their hardships and successes. During my work at the Kgosi Neighbourhood Foundation in Johannesburg in 2012, I saw the need to share the refugees’ stories to give them a voice in the political process.



**Margaret Kennedy**

Major in philosophy

Double major in accounting

Adviser: David O'Connor

***“A City Arose: Reclaiming Economics as a Political Philosophy”***

My thesis develops a framework of discussion for the fundamental “goods” that we expect from an economic system. By engaging the work of various critics of capitalism, in addition to the tensions that underlie our current system, I propose a framework of priorities that should be ordered and recognized in the development and analysis of any economic system. I have consistently found myself engaging material from my business classes from a philosophical perspective and vice versa. Thus, this is a capstone of work I have done in both fields, creating a starting point from which discussion can continue.





**Brian Kinealy**

Major in psychology

Double major in science preprofessional studies

Adviser: Jessica Payne

***“Locus of Control, Stress, and the Consolidation of Emotional and Semantic Memory”***

My project examines the effects of acute stress on the consolidation of emotional, episodic memory as well as on semantic, “gist”-type memory. I also analyze locus of control in order to examine any modulating effects on perceived control over the stressor, which may have subsequent effects on stress and memory retention. At Notre Dame, I became interested in physiology, cognition, and neuroanatomy. I wanted to learn more about the field of emotional memory, which has implications for understanding and treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and whether cognitive characteristics may have input into these processes.



**Elizabeth Klinepeter**

Major in psychology

Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society

Adviser: Joshua Diehl

***“Perceived Teacher Autonomy Support, Academic Self-Determination, and Postsecondary Education Expectations in Transition-Age Students With Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder”***

My study seeks to provide foundational data in a vastly understudied area: factors that promote better postsecondary outcomes in individuals with developmental disabilities. Students with an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder generally experience the poorest social, occupational, and postsecondary education outcomes. Teacher autonomy support offers one potential method to promote student success. I examine the relationship between these issues as mediated by students’ self-determination.



## **Airi Kobayashi**

Major in design (industrial design)

Double major in information technology management

Advisers: Ann-Marie Conrado and Paul Down

### ***“reLEAF: A Disaster Relief Cot System”***

Privacy and security are basic human needs, yet these needs are not met by cots used in temporary public shelters. My cot redesign aims to provide personal space, yet leaving room for a sense of community. The redesign also considers deployment by shelter managers and volunteers. Interested in incorporating design into community service, I looked at shelters after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Although different in location, operation, and aid needed, shelters in both sites lacked privacy. I believe my design can solve this problem.



**Sean Koller**

Major in history

Double major in political science

Adviser: Fr. Robert Sullivan

***“Monarch of the Sea: Cuthbert Collingwood and the Professional Navy”***

The British navy of the Napoleonic Wars was a mighty military machine that allowed Britain to dominate the seas. The effectiveness of this force was guaranteed by the professionalism of the officers who led it. Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood was one such officer and encapsulates the important role such commanders played in maintaining the wooden walls of Britannia. In Collingwood, I found an admirable leader of men whose professionalism, adherence to duty, and courage provide a source of inspiration for all generations.



**Andrew Krizman**

Major in music (theory and history)

Double major in architecture

Adviser: Peter Smith

***“The Hearing Ear and the Seeing Eye: Organic Coherence in Music and Architecture”***

Music theorist Heinrich Schenker sought to characterize the nature of great tonal music—its coherence as an organic whole and its goal orientation. I am convinced, as was he, that this concept of beauty is not limited to music. Music and architecture have been two of my greatest academic passions, and I constantly identify parallels and diversions between the two bodies of theory. This project compares and contrasts the work of Heinrich Schenker with the conclusions of significant architectural theorists.



**Sandra Laguerta**

Major in theology

Double major in medieval studies

Adviser: Sr. Ann Astell

***“Refusing God Nothing: Providence, Sainte Jeanne Jugan, and the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor”***

My thesis explores the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor, founded in France by Sainte Jeanne Jugan. By examining the sources and influences of Jugan’s spirituality, I seek to understand contemporary Little Sisters’ spirituality. In 2010, I was introduced to the Sisters at Sacred Heart Residence in Mobile, Ala., through the Summer Service Learning Program. I was intrigued by the intricacies and strength of the sisters’ prayer life. Studying the sisters was a practice in prayer, contemplation, and the intellectual life, and I wrote this thesis as a gift to their congregation.



**Crystal Lee**

Major in sociology

Double major in English

Minors in Latino studies and in Korean

Adviser: Lyn Spillman

***“Domestic Servants in British Novels From 1790 to 1900”***

How did British novelists and the reading public shift their attitudes toward domestic servants from 1790 to 1900? I am investigating the subtle and explicit treatments of servants in 24 randomly selected novels to establish trends during that time. I think acknowledging the value of fictional portrayals of British servants as resources for gauging patterns of real human behavior can afford us new insights about the nation in a time of revolutionary changes.



**Grace Lee**

Major in Chinese

Double major in finance

Adviser: Liangyan Ge

***“Hong Kong and the Mainland in the Midst of Dogs vs. Locusts:  
How Social and Political Divides Shape Modern Hong Kong Identity”***

Recent controversies between citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China have caused an extreme rift in the Hong Kong-mainland relationship, rising tensions, and deepened discrimination. The increasing political efforts of the Chinese government to influence and merge with Hong Kong on an ideological level are being met with growing, powerful resistance. Although it has been more than 15 years since Hong Kong reunited with China, many Hong Kong residents choose not to view themselves as Chinese. My thesis examines changes in Hong Kong social identity in the wake of these controversies.





**Olivia Lee**

Major in American studies

Supplementary major in peace studies

Adviser: Kathleen Cummings

***“Creating and Contesting the Cult of Girlhood: Magazines, Zines, and the Girls Who Read Them”***

My thesis analyzes nine girls’ magazines, exploring how they relate to post-feminist culture and investigating how girls ages nine to 13 understand and identify with both magazines and feminism. Through this inquiry, I elucidate the phenomenon of the “cult of girlhood” and hypothesize about the nature of a magazine that would truly empower girls. I’m passionate about issues of gender, race, and class inequality, and I think the cultural medium of magazines is fascinating. Looking at how magazines create standards for girls while gauging girls’ opinions about gender equality was a way to combine both topics.



**Elizabeth Lent**

Major in psychology

Minor in theology

Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

***“God as Attachment Figure: Influence on Identity Formation”***

My research assessed the relationship between a person’s attachment with God and psychological outcomes, in particular adolescent identity formation. Results demonstrate an association between avoidance attachment with God and nonconformist and non-committed identity, as well as an association between secure attachment with God and conformist but committed identity. Research has demonstrated that attachment to God may be conceptualized in a similar way to caregiver attachment. I wanted to assess if attachment style to God would have the same adaptational outcomes.



**Alex Li**

Major in sociology

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Erin McDonnell

***“Are We Donating a Food Crisis?”***

My thesis looks into the effects of different kinds of direct food aid on the governments and people suffering from food insecurity. Over the last few decades, as much as \$2.3 trillion in food aid was donated to developing countries, yet the majority of these countries are still facing a prolonged food crisis. The United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development estimate that it would only cost \$30 billion per year to make sure everyone in the world has clean water and nutritious meals, so why do hunger and malnutrition still exist?



**Kimberly Lisiak**

Major in theology

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: John Cavadini

***“Devotion to St. Joseph: A Historical Background and Practical Application”***

My thesis examines St. Joseph in the Bible and devotions attributed to his characteristics. I provide a practical application of these devotions using the Sisters of St. Joseph who emulate him through love and action daily. Taking a class on St. Joseph, I became especially intrigued by his nonverbal characteristics and wanted to share his love and wisdom. Starting with the Bible and uncovering the roots of these devotions, I have been able to demonstrate how St. Joseph continues to impact our modern world.



**Holden Lombard**

Minor in anthropology

Major in physics

Adviser: Jada Benn Torres

***“Using CODIS to Differentiate Genetic Differences Between Maroons and the Surrounding Population”***

Using both ethnographic and biological data, I investigated the biological relationships of the Accompong Maroons in relation to the majority Jamaican population. I chose this topic because of my once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to another country to investigate such a rich culture. It also combines the scientific rendering of genetic data with the holistic attributes of ethnography, allowing me to learn two methods of thought within one research endeavor.

## **Eileen Lynch**

Major in English

Double major in history

Adviser: Jose Limon

### ***“(Im)Moral Mothers of Yoknapatawpha County”***

My thesis is an analysis of the ways in which William Faulkner uses femininity and motherhood as a means of organizing a new and creative moral structure out of the vacuum of the South’s fallen social institutions, and how he uses the physical land as a metaphor for that moral evolution. I have been entranced with Faulkner’s complex narratives since I first opened *Light in August* four years ago. Over time, I realized that his language actually serves as a subtle expiation for his apparent debasement of femininity and womanhood.



**Megan Malley**

Major in design (graphic design)

Adviser: Robert Sedlack

***“TAP Initiative”***

My thesis is a graphic design campaign that aims to eliminate plastic water-bottle use on a college campus. I use an infographic book, video, website, and campus-wide installation to spread the message “Take Away Plastic.” The disposable water-bottle industry creates a devastating environmental impact due to the resources wasted in production and disposal. Every year, the United States consumes more than 30 billion plastic water bottles, and 80 percent end up in landfills or incinerators. By refusing to purchase bottled water, a college community can substantially decrease the plastic waste generated.



**Joseph Massad**

Major in political science

Double major in Arabic

Adviser: Faisal Baluch

***“Islamic Political Parties and Democratization: Tunisia and Lebanon”***

My thesis analyzes the contribution of Hezbollah and Ennahda to democratization, in Lebanon and Tunisia respectively, to understand the new model of Islamic political parties. I have always wanted to write about Islam and democracy, and this thesis addresses concrete ways that Islam influences the emerging democracies in the Middle East. After the Arab Spring, the prevalence—and importance—of Islamic parties has skyrocketed. Can they be trusted to promote democracy in their countries?





**Michael Massman**

Major in political science

Double major in economics

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Barbara Fick

***“Collective Bargaining and Politics in Public Employment”***

Public-sector labor organizations have in the past several decades served their members in two primary capacities: as negotiator with employers regarding compensation and work conditions and as advocate on behalf of employees through political activity. Examining this division, my thesis endeavors to address the role that public-sector unions play in the political process and the outcomes generated.

Developments in recent years have once again brought the topic to the forefront of public discourse, and I felt there was a need for a balanced exploration of this issue.



**Troy Mathew**

Major in English

Adviser: Kinohi Nishikawa

***“A Coffin Carved out of Time: Temporality and Narration in Philip Roth’s American Pastoral”***

Roth’s *American Pastoral* follows a writer who obsesses over the life of his childhood icon and looks for cracks in his hero’s seemingly perfect exterior. In this thesis, I analyze the two characters’ narrative voices and the ways in which they interact. I also examine how the narrator regards the past and how such a view affects the way the novel works. I was intrigued by the complexity of the novel’s structure, and conducting a research project on a book I enjoyed and discovered from personal interest has been refreshing.



**Roisin McCord**

Major in economics

Supplementary major in mathematics

Adviser: William Evans

***“The Effect of State-Level Prison Reduction on Crime Rates”***

My paper analyzes the impact of incarceration on crime. To avoid the causal effect of crime on prison populations, it uses cases of states downsizing prison populations to save money or relieve overcrowding. Violent crime is found to be unaffected while nonviolent crime increases significantly in response to prison population reduction. This project draws on my math background and combines my interests in public policy and quantitative research.



**Andrew McDonough**

Major in political science

Double major in German

Adviser: Andy Gould

***“The Effect of the Great Recession on Public Opinion in Respect to the European Union”***

Looking at the current recession in Europe, I examine whether economic factors have increased in importance in determining an individual’s support for the European Union. This topic allowed me to combine my political science and German majors. I have also been able to combine study-abroad experience in Berlin, Germany, with my senior thesis, as I traveled back to Berlin over Christmas break to conduct interviews.



**Maureen McQuillan**

Major in psychology

Adviser: Mark Cummings

***“Family-Wide Conflict: Parental Depressive Symptoms and Adolescent Depressive and Anxious Symptoms, as Mediated by Security in the Family System”***

Because of my clinical interest in the family system, I wanted to investigate how family-wide conflict relates to parental psychopathology and how these variables interact to predict internalizing symptoms in adolescents. My project works from a developmental-psychopathology perspective, and I use multiple methods and informants to study the parent and adolescent relationships and how they are mediated by security in the family system. I am especially interested in adolescence because it is a stage-salient time for initial presentation of depression.



**Kelly McRaven**

Major in political science

Minor in European studies

Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service

Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

***“Intentions and Intelligence in International Relations”***

In my senior thesis project, I analyze the role of intentions in international relations. I am particularly interested in how a state’s understanding of intentions can impacts its behavior.



**Brendan Melchiorri**

Major in Chinese

Double major in political science

Adviser: Sylvia Lin

***“Chinese Democracy: The Political Future of Taiwan”***

Taiwan has been in a state of political ambiguity as a disputed province of China for more than 50 years. What does the future hold for this fledgling democracy? Surveying Taiwanese citizens, I analyze their opinions of Taiwan’s future. While in Beijing and Taipei, I developed an interest in the rise of the Communist Party in China and the retreat of the nationalist Guomindang to Taiwan. This unresolved war is crucial to the balance of Asia, especially given China’s rapid economic development and Taiwan’s democratic evolution. How and when this conflict resolves will affect the entire world.



**Katelyn Melloh**

Major in anthropology

Minor in Latin American studies

Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

***“How to Face the Consequences: A Comparative Study of International Development Projects in Peru and Uganda”***

My paper examines two international development projects—one in 1960s rural Peru and one currently taking place in a Ugandan village system—to tease out how we can avoid harmful, unintended consequences. I chose this topic after a research trip to the northern Peruvian Andes. I want to make the world a more equal place but also recognize the dangers of development for development's sake. I also want to emphasize people's role in their own development: without knowledge or respect for their ways of life, we cannot hope to create meaningful, sustainable change.





**Michael Mercurio**

Major in Classics

Minor in Asian studies

Adviser: Robin Darling Young

***“Tertullia and Christian Military Service”***

Tertullian, one of the earliest fathers of the Church, shifted from approving Christian military service in the Roman armies to condemning it. I analyze three of his works and show that his attitude toward Christian military service is intrinsically tied to his attitude toward the Roman state. While studying in Rome, I realized that two of my greatest interests are early Christianity and military history. I chose to examine Tertullian because he is the first extant Christian author to address the issue of Christian military service. Tertullian’s discussion on Christianity’s relationship to war has echoes even today.



**Michael Mercurio**

Minor in Asian Studies

Major in Classics

Adviser: Michael Brownstein

***“Fighting and Dying for Christ: European Attitudes towards Christian Samurai”***

I explore the “Christian Century” in Japan (1549–c.1637), with a focus on converted Christian samurai, Japan’s noble warrior class. I pay particular attention to how Western observers perceived of and portrayed Christian samurai. In addition to writing a thesis on Christian soldiers in the Roman Empire for my major in classics, it seemed logical to write about Christian soldiers in medieval Japan for my Asian studies thesis as a complement and point of comparison. I ask how Christian samurai, entrenched in their own value system, came to accept the new—and in many ways radically different—values of Christianity.

**Chris Milazzo**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Double major in Arabic

Adviser: Gretchen Reydam-Schils

***“A Time for Filicide: Finding Justice in The Bacchae”***

I explore the nature of justice in Euripides' great tragedy, *The Bacchae*, in an attempt to reconcile the terrible punishment exacted on the play's protagonist, Pentheus, with an absolute sense of justice. The Greek texts were the first I studied in my major in the Program of Liberal Studies, and I thought returning to them for a senior thesis would be a nice way to conclude my studies.

**Jessica Millen**

Major in sociology

Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society

Adviser: Maria McKenna

***“The Transparent Children: Exploring the Latino Community Experience of School Desegregation in South Bend, Indiana”***

This research explores the Latino community experience of school desegregation in South Bend, Ind. It seeks to tell a counter-story to the dominant discourse surrounding school desegregation, challenging the black/white dichotomy that frames stories of the fight for educational equity in the United States. I believe it is important to recognize the value of the experiences of those in the minority; we can learn so much when we stop and listen to the stories of others.



**Kelly Miller**

Major in psychology

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Michelle Wirth

***“The Effect of a Night’s Sleep on Social Closeness and Altruistic Feelings”***

Close relationships are valuable to an individual’s well-being and emotional growth, and social bonds create a support network that provides beneficial reciprocal relationships. The exact formation of these bonds remains unclear, but emotional closeness requires time to develop. My thesis investigates whether sleep is crucial in the consolidation of emotional closeness, as it is with other forms of memory consolidation. I find it fascinating how much we still don't know about the extent sleep plays a role in our lives.



**Sam Mitchell**

Major in Arabic studies

Supplementary major in peace studies

Adviser: George Lopez

***“The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Future of U.S. Foreign Interests in the Middle East”***

My thesis argues that to best preserve U.S. foreign interests in the Middle East a new, concerted security architecture must be developed and maintained with empowered regional allies. A confluence of events, including the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq and uncertainty regarding the Arab Awakening and Iran’s nuclear program, has raised questions about security and forced our relationship with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) into the limelight. The nations that compose the GCC are poised to represent the basis of this architecture. Having spent time in the Persian Gulf, I am passionate about the future of the region.



**Elizabeth Moore**

Major in English

Adviser: Declan Kiberd

***“The Family in Modern Irish Literature”***

In my thesis, I examine how the individual emerges from the often troubling and stifling context of the Irish family. By focusing on John McGahern’s *Amongst Women* and Edna O’Brien’s *The Country Girls*, I trace the ways different writers at different times confront universal family issues. There are many texts from modern Irish literature that delve into this material; looking at how this experience is unique to the individual but also universal was fascinating and perplexing.



**Margot Morris**

Major in anthropology

Minor in international development studies

Minor in French

Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

***“NGO Involvement: Impacts on Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention and Health Awareness”***

I examine how the dissemination of health information impacts long-lasting usage of insecticide net and health awareness in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia. Effective malaria prevention is not a matter of an NGO simply distributing nets but also ensuring that households understand how to properly care for them and know the lifespan of an effective net. I previously interned at the Mentor Initiative, an organization dedicated to mosquito-borne disease prevention, and became interested in global health.



## College of Arts and Letters — 2013 Senior Thesis Projects



### **Meg Morrison**

Major in history

Double major in English

Minor in Gallivan Program in Journalism,  
Ethics, and Democracy

Adviser: Briona Nic Dhiarmada

### ***“From Bloody Sunday to Good Friday: Women’s Role in the Northern Irish Troubles”***

After studying abroad at Trinity College Dublin, I wanted to research Irish history. As I am also interested in women’s history, the role of women in the Troubles seemed ideal. As I began my research, I realized I was particularly interested in the republican and feminist movements as well as the peace process. By delving into primary and secondary sources, I hope to uncover and analyze various accounts of women’s involvement in republicanism and feminism, which is often minimized in histories of the Troubles.



**Seung Yoon Nam**

Major in Chinese

Double major in finance

Adviser: Xiaoshan Yang

***“Microfinance and Financial Inclusion of Rural China, South Korea, and the United States”***

My senior thesis is a comparative study of microfinance in rural China, South Korea, and the United States. I assessed the degree of development microfinance has reached in each country. Then by relating how the different macro-environmental factors shaped development of microfinance differently, I conducted an impact analysis of each factor. By choosing a topic that requires knowledge in both of my disciplines, I expanded my knowledge of microfinance while learning more about the Chinese financial system. I also included South Korea to use the unique perspective I gained by studying, living, and working in South Korea, China, and the United States.



**Lindy Navarre**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Minor in art history

Advisers: Francesca Bordogna and Christine Nowak

***“Recovery From Alcoholism: Brainpower or Spiritual Power”***

My thesis explores two contrasting approaches to recovery from alcoholism. I compare the spiritual, 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) with three rational recovery programs. Analyzing the structures of these programs and how they relate to the nature of addiction, I argue that the spiritual approach of AA offers a more complete, promising means of recovery. Addictions—specifically alcoholism—impact our society in so many ways; nearly everyone knows someone affected. I wanted to explore different approaches to addiction recovery to better understand the disease of alcoholism and thus better understand those affected by it.



**Brianna Neblung**

Major in film, television, and theatre (film)

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: William Donaruma

***“Caring for a Child With Disabilities”***

My project is a short documentary about being a full-time caregiver of a child with disabilities. I followed two families, a single mother with twin daughters, and a family who is putting their son into a group home. The documentary is laced with narration detailing my own experience growing up with a disabled younger brother. I wanted to make a film about something with which I was intimately familiar. I’ve found the families so inspirational that it is imperative that I share their stories and dedication to their children.



**Derek Novacek**

Major in psychology

Advisers: Lee Anna Clark and Eunyoe Ro

***“Personality Traits and Psychosocial Functioning Impairments Associated With Axis I Psychotic Symptoms”***

My thesis examines psychotic symptoms and their relationship to maladaptive personality traits as well as individuals' functioning in work, interpersonal, and leisure areas of life. I am looking at these constructs with individuals in a clinical population who have experienced psychotic symptoms in the past and present, as well as those who have no history of psychotic symptoms. This topic is a combination of my interests in the psychosis spectrum, personality, and the implications psychopathology has on individuals' daily functioning.



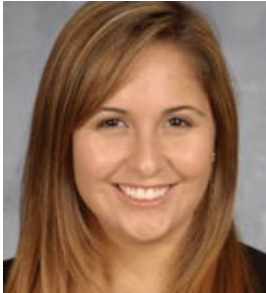
**Neil O'Dougherty**

Major in economics

Adviser: Abigail Wozniak

***“Does Immigration History Affect Educational Outcomes?”***

I am looking at indicators of educational outcomes for the children of immigrants to determine whether or not the history of immigration for people of similar backgrounds impacts their educational outcomes. I am especially interested in education in a global context.



**Monica O'Hearn**

Major in Romance Languages and Literatures

Adviser: Alison Rice

***“(Re)Visions of October 17, 1961: Processing History Through Text and Image in the 21st Century”***

In my thesis, I analyze recent cultural productions that have documented the Paris Massacre of 1961. I investigate how authors and artists coordinate text and image to raise awareness of this oft-forgotten event. This year, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Algerian War for Independence, the date of October 17, 1961 was resurrected in the memories of Franco-Algerian immigrants. I received a grant from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies to complete what I thought would be an isolated research project, but finding the experience especially fruitful, I continued the research throughout my junior and senior years.



**Daniel Palmer**

Major in political science

Minors in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics  
and in German

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

***“Framing Foreign Policy: Why Some Foreign Policy Ideas Dominate Others”***

In theory, since the average American may not have good information regarding international relations, ideas become popular based on how they are framed when they are presented. Ideas that fit well with the “American identity” dominate other ideas. The United States is currently so powerful that its foreign policy decisions have important implications for the entire world. I was interested in understanding what ideas guide that foreign policy and where they originate.





**Jacqueline Patz**

Major in English

Double major in Program of Liberal Studies

Adviser: Kate Marshall

***“Consciousness in Contemporary Literature”***

My thesis examines contemporary literature as a forum for discussing consciousness through narration. By presenting examples of fragmented consciousness, contemporary literature suggests that the mind and body must interact in a balanced matter to produce successful consciousness. After taking a course titled *Novels by Aliens*, I began to think about the necessity of the body for consciousness and for narrative. I have a strong passion for philosophy and could not help associating the work done through narrative with philosophical attempts to explain consciousness, particularly through mind/body dualism.



**Elliott Pearce**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies  
Supplementary major in mathematics  
Glynn Family Honors Scholar  
Adviser: Curtis Franks

***“To Infinity and Beyond: Bolzano and Cantor’s Revolution in the Theory of the Infinite”***

I describe how developments in mathematics enabled two German mathematicians to systematize and legitimize the theory of the infinite, which had remained vague and undefined for a millennia. I learned about the relationships between the cardinalities of various infinite sets in my real analysis class and wanted to understand how these relationships were first identified.



**Ben Pfeifer**

Major in psychology

Adviser: Gerald Haeffel

***“Predicting Depressive Reactions to a College Campus Tragedy”***

Recent media coverage has focused heavily on the impact of mass tragedies on communities. Other tragic events, however, such as fatal accidents and suicides, receive comparatively limited focus from the media and academic research. I hope to identify factors that put individuals at increased risk for depressive symptoms in the aftermath of a tragic event that occurred on the Notre Dame campus. These factors included physical proximity to the tragedy, relationship to the victim, and cognitive vulnerability to depression. Studies have shown that experiencing such a tragedy can increase risk for depression.



**Sarah Pinter**

Major in English

Double major in finance

Adviser: Jesse Lander

***“Hamlet’s Engagement With Elizabethan Machiavellianism”***

After exploring Machiavellianism in Elizabethan culture, I examine *Hamlet’s* engagement. Unlike plays which use the “stage Machiavel” figure to condemn Machiavellian thought, *Hamlet* approaches it with a more open mind. Shakespeare seems intrigued by Machiavellianism’s ability to describe “what men do, and not what they ought to do.” When I read *Hamlet* at age 17, I fell in love with literary criticism; *Hamlet* remains my favorite Shakespeare play because of the conniving, duplicitous, Machiavellian atmosphere Claudius cultivates in Elsinore. Surprisingly, although Claudius’s villainy has been thoroughly explored, the deeper cultural context of his political schemes has been grossly understudied.



**Brianna Piper**

Major in psychology

Supplementary major in peace studies

Adviser: Kristin Valentino

***“Self-Representations and Consistency as Predictors of Children’s Autobiographical Memory”***

Within a sample of economically disadvantaged preschoolers, my thesis examines the relationship between the valence and consistency of children’s self-concept and their autobiographical memory skills. My research interests focus on the intersection of child development, mental health, and social policy, with emphasis on the development of at-risk youth. I find associations between the self and memory development particularly interesting because although current theories of overgeneral memory (OGM) emphasize the role of the self in OGM development, little empirical work has tested this association, and no research up to this point has evaluated this association in preschoolers.

**Alison Podlaski**

Major in anthropology

Minor in European studies

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Maurizio Albahari

***“A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Counterterrorism in Spain, the United Kingdom, and France”***

Drawing on fieldwork in Spain, the United Kingdom, and France, I examine the interaction of counterterrorism policy and cultural responses to the threat of terrorism. I explore the implications of this dynamic for fostering cultural pluralism, Muslim immigration in Europe, and national security concerns. Recurring themes include the role of Muslim immigration in demographic change and the negative stereotypes often attached to Muslim immigrants. While studying in Spain, I worked with a non-governmental organization focusing on immigration. I chose this topic to shed light on the changing views of Muslim immigrants, cultural identity, and security concerns.



**Suzanna Pratt**

Major in anthropology

Supplemental major in peace studies

Adviser: David Hernandez

***“The Impact of Heritage Management on Local Communities in the Hinterland of Butrint National Park, Southern Albania”***

My thesis explores the impact of heritage management on local communities at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Butrint National Park in southern Albania. The study examines the economic and cultural significance of the archaeological site—the city of Butrint—to local stakeholders in nearby towns and explores impacts of cultural heritage management on the local community. Immersion in Albanian culture while participating in an excavation at Butrint piqued my interest in the effects of an archaeological site on people living nearby. The local perspective of sustainable tourism, resource protection, economic development, and preservation of heritage is often overlooked.



**Chelsea Ramos**

Major in English

Supplemental major in Latino studies

Adviser: Jose Limon

***“Two Worlds Apart: From the Fields to the Notre Dame Classroom”***

My thesis focuses on the mental fissure that occurs when the culture of the migrant farmworker clashes with that of the Notre Dame campus. The thesis is a memoir, founded on my experiences as both a migrant farmworker and Notre Dame student. Previous literature on the migrant farmworker’s experience, racial identity complex, and mestiza consciousness are incorporated. It is necessary to shed light on the plight of the migrant farmworker because it is not enough to recruit students of diverse backgrounds; these students must be provided with support to succeed academically, emotionally, and socially.





**Alisa Rantanen**

Major in design (industrial design)

Adviser: Paul Down

***“Amber”***

I am proposing a way to increase access to saved memories by collating physical and digital materials. My conceptual design is an analog notebook and a digital hard drive that interact, giving users the best of both worlds. Documentation allows us to recall the past, project the future, and communicate with others. What and how we document is dictated by culture and technology; to this end, designers have great opportunity and responsibility. Today we have so many ways to document that it can become less meaningful. I sought to design a way to stay organized while recapturing meaning.



**Catherine Reidy**

Major in psychology

Minor in anthropology

Adviser: Mark Cummings

***“Political Socialization and Prospects for Reconciliation Among Youth in Croatia”***

My thesis explores the political socialization of youth in Vukovar, Croatia, as this process influences their concepts of future inter-group relations and reconciliation among Croats and Serbs. Using data from focus groups with Serb and Croat youth and their parents, I explore the political development of the individual and its implications on peace building in a context of protracted conflict and violence. Vukovar is a city where inter-group relations deteriorated during and after the wars of the 1990s. Peace building and political psychology are particularly relevant to societal healing in this region.



## **Will Reising**

Major in political science

Double major in Arabic

Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Adviser: Faisal Baluch

### ***“Middle East Geopolitics, Crude Oil Prices, and U.S. Foreign Policy”***

My thesis aims to statistically model the degree to which geopolitical events in the Middle East and North Africa have historically affected global oil prices. Assuming one of the United States’ main strategic interests in the region is energy security supply, my analysis yields insights on how the United States should craft foreign policy to achieve this. This topic combines my three main areas of study—politics, economics, and the Middle East. I also wanted to gain experience in the growing field of analyzing political risk and its impact on businesses and markets.



**Emma Richardson**

Major in sociology

Double major in science preprofessional studies

Adviser: Mark Gunty

***“Beating the Odds: Pathways to Care for Women With Obstetric Fistula”***

Obstetric fistula is a maternal morbidity associated with prolonged labor prevalent in low-income countries. Despite the devastating consequences, it is estimated that 80 percent of women never seek care for this surgically curable condition. I conducted interviews with 23 women with obstetric fistula in Kamuli, Uganda, to gain insight into the pathways to care for these women. This study allowed me to explore my interests in gender inequality, health-related social stigmatization, and global health. I was overwhelmed as I learned of the challenges these women face and was shocked to learn that fistula has only recently gained international attention.



**Katherine Ritchey**

Major in mathematics

Adviser: Dennis Snow

***“Linear Error Correcting Codes”***

When digital data is transmitted through an unreliable communication channel, errors can often occur, causing the information received to differ from what was sent. Fortunately, there are ways to encode data so that errors can be detected and even corrected. My thesis focuses on a special class of codes, called linear codes, which have particularly nice properties when it comes to error detection and correction. When I first heard about this topic, I was very interested to know the mathematics behind codes that enables error detection and correction to occur.



**Matthew Robison**

Major in psychology

Double major in management

Adviser: Bradley Gibson

***“The Role of Recall Strategies in the Measurement of Primary and Secondary Memory in the Context of a Working Memory Training Program”***

My thesis looks at two nearly identical studies using a working memory-training program for adolescents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I explore the effect of one crucial difference and how it impacts measurements of working memory before and after the training program. Most generally, I’m interested in cognitive neuroscience, but I have a special interest in working memory training. This topic both builds on my previous research and gives some guidance for my future study of working memory in graduate school.



**Madeline Roe**

Major in English

Double major in art history

Adviser: Lauren Rich

***“Glimpses of the Kingdom: A Closer Look at Tolkien's Illustrations in The Hobbit”***

I am exploring the potential for J.R.R. Tolkien’s illustrations to work within his literary model of sub-creation. Tolkien states that “illustrations do little good to fairy-stories,” but by examining the visual tropes of his critical and fictional literature, particularly through the trope of the glimpse, I demonstrate how his illustrations enhance the reader’s understanding of *The Hobbit* as a fairy-story. I wanted to combine my love for visual and literary art in my thesis. Tolkien is the pinnacle of dignifying the genre of fantasy—both visually and textually—through his Catholic framework and his richly detailed, complex body of artistic work.



**Katie Rose**

Major in political science  
Double major in economics  
Adviser: Susan Rosato

***“Why States Create Weak International Agreements: Analyzing the Responsibility to Protect”***

My thesis analyzes the creation of weak international agreements from three distinct theoretical approaches, using the Responsibility to Protect clause of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as an empirical case study. Frequently discussed in international relations, the clause has rarely been referenced in international discussions and decisions since its adoption. It has, however, severe consequences for the notion of state sovereignty. The impetus for its creation is integral to understanding how the international community plans to respond to humanitarian crises in the future.



**Jessica Rydberg**

Minor in theology

Major in science preprofessional studies

Adviser: Alexandra Corning

***“Understanding Bulimic Symptomatology in Midlife Women:  
Does the Dual-Pathway Model Apply?”***

My thesis examines whether the predictors of bulimic symptoms in adolescent women are also applicable to women in midlife. Eating disorders are becoming more prevalent in our society, and I am interested in researching their predictors.



**Meghan Saloman**

Major in psychology

Double major in English

Adviser: G. A. Radvansky

***“Testing Effect and Anaphoric Cuing”***

This project explores the possibility that anaphors, like pronouns, help a reader better remember a text. Because generating or recalling previously read text can aid memory, anaphors in text could improve memory of the referenced item. Having worked in a memory lab and being an English major created the perfect opportunity to study reading comprehension. I was able to integrate what I knew from language and reading with studies that investigate memory. More importantly, studying such a universal topic is satisfying: These results can be brought to textbooks and other materials to help reading comprehension.



**Linda Scheiber**

Major in American studies

Supplementary major in environmental sciences

Adviser: Erika Doss

***“Going Green in the Classroom: Developing an Elementary Environmental Education Unit for Citizen Stewards”***

I created a unit on environmental education and taught it to second-grade students at St. Adalbert School. Through this project, I am exploring how traditional classrooms can incorporate environmental stewardship into academic standards and the theme of citizenship. This topic combines my interests in American studies, the environment, and education. I wanted to do a hands-on project for my senior thesis, and this topic allowed me to teach elementary-school students about the environment on a weekly basis. I hope to teach after graduation, and the project helped me gain direct experience in the field.



**Matt Schirtzinger**

Major in anthropology

Double major in science preprofessional studies

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Susan Sheridan

***“Our Daily Bread: Reconstruction of Dietary Life History of a Sample of Byzantine Monks Using Carbon and Nitrogen Stable Isotopes”***

My project constructs a dietary life history of skeletal remains from Byzantine St. Stephen’s monastery. We currently have stable isotope data from molar enamel apatite and mandibular collagen that can inform and corroborate historical sources describing monastic diet. It is possible to show how the diet of individuals changed over time, which can shed light on how lifestyle changed from cradle to grave. I participated in Notre Dame’s bioarchaeology NSF-REU last summer; this project builds on that research. I have always been interested in anthropology and osteology, so this was a logical way to explore these further before graduation.



**Danni Schneider**

Major in design (industrial design)

Adviser: Paul Down

***“MOD”***

My project enables adults who describe themselves as “non-creative” to build three-dimensional lighting pieces. The pieces are modular and simple to put together, but create complex geometry. I am interested in exploring the do-it-yourself movement, with a focus on the Maker Movement. I also wanted to take advantage of the exciting technologies that the design program recently acquired. My hope is to help people who have anxiety about their own creativity to create something of which they can be proud.

**Catherine Schrandt**

Major in history

Supplementary major in German

Adviser: John Deak

***“History and Ideology: Education in East Germany”***

I examine the East German educational system in the post-war years, specifically how history was used to define and legitimize the East German government and educate citizens. The country underwent several changes in government in a short time, and each change was reflected in how German history was taught. I found the transition from the Third Reich to the German Democratic Republic particularly fascinating because the regimes have radically different ideologies yet used similar methods to enforce it. With my research, I hope to understand how East Germany used history to gain power and maintain authority for more than 40 years.



**Colin Slaggert**

Major in political science

Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service

Adviser: Josh Kaplan

***“Coalition in Crisis?: Internal Conflicts of the Modern Republican Party”***

While researching federal preemption at the American Enterprise Institute, it struck me that this issue pitted one wing of the Republican Party against another, and this intrigued me. I believe this is a particularly salient issue now as the party faces an identity crisis stemming from a changing demographic base. In my thesis, I break the modern GOP down by primary ideology and look for issue areas where different “wings” come into conflict. I believe the internal contradictions I find could spell trouble for the party in the future.



**Kyle Smith**

Major in theology

Double major in psychology

Adviser: Francesca Murphy

***“Hand-in-Glove: A Cautionary Examination of the Relationship Between the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland and Its Political State”***

This work addresses the role of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland in the early 20th century. I argue that the current crisis of faith in Ireland is because of the Church’s close ties to the state during this tumultuous period. I was shocked to learn that more than half of the citizens of Ireland today no longer hold to a particular religious creed. This is not a new trend, nor is it singular to Ireland; however, I wanted to see if Irish history might offer a lesson to future Church leaders.





## **Zachary Smith**

Major in film, television, and theatre (film)

Double major in Africana studies

Adviser: Donald Crafton

### ***“The Horror Cinemas of Iran, Egypt, and Turkey”***

Horror is a truly international genre, but American film scholars know almost nothing about the horror films of the Middle East. Bringing this work to light helps us understand the cultures, values, and fears not only of Iran, Egypt, and Turkey but also of the United States. Interested in the genre and in cultural differences around the world, I began to research horror as global cinema. I decided to be the first in the West to study the horror films of Iran. Eventually, I expanded my analysis to include the nations of Egypt and Turkey.

## **Eilis Smyth**

Major in English

Double major in philosophy

Adviser: Peter Holland

### ***“Post-Colonial Shakespeare on Screen: Macbeth in India and Northern Ireland”***

My thesis examines two cinematic appropriations of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*: India's *Maqbool* and Northern Ireland's *Mickey B*. I explore the function of Shakespeare in these societies to understand how Shakespeare becomes Indian and Irish despite his status as a symbol of the British Empire. I chose this topic after spending two weeks in Dublin at the Irish Film Institute. I realized that the majority of Irish films that appropriated plays chose not to use Shakespeare and decided to explore the connection between post-colonialism and Shakespeare, particularly on film.



**Trenton Spoolstra**

Major in political science

Adviser: Michael Desch

***“Preventing Cold War 2”***

My thesis discusses U.S.-Chinese relations in the 21st century. I argue that the United States should pursue a neo-conservative driven strategy of primacy toward China. I am very interested in U.S. foreign policy, and China will be the focal point of American foreign policy in this century. We must have a plan going forward to address this issue.



**Samuel Stryker**

Major in Film, Television, and Theatre (television)

Supplementary major in medieval studies

Minor in anthropology

Adviser: Christine Becker

***“Parisian Paradox”***

“Parisian Paradox” is a television show I developed my senior year. I researched the restaurant industry, the history of Americans in Paris, and how television shows are produced for the project, which consists of two scripts, a show bible, and show treatments. I wanted my thesis to be a useful product for someone pursuing a career in film and television, so I chose to produce a TV show. The premise—two Americans move to Paris to open a restaurant—is based on my love of all things food and my semester abroad in Europe.

**Kelly Sullivan**

Major in political science

Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service

Adviser: Benjamin Radcliff

***“Richer Than the Joneses: The Effect of Relative Wealth on Political Participation in the United States”***

While a substantial amount of study has focused on the effects of wealth on political participation, I wanted to look at if and how the effects of an individual’s wealth relative to those around them varied their degree of participation. In a time of pervasive and growing socioeconomic inequality, I was interested in looking at how the existence of inequality, as opposed to the varied degrees of wealth, was impacting the state of American democracy.



**Anna Sundbo**

Major in English

Double major in biological sciences

Adviser: Yasmin Solomonescu

***“Physician Heal Thyself: Heroines Curing the Social Body in Jane Austen Novels”***

Health is understudied in Jane Austen’s works, although it appears in all six of her novels. I propose that the physical body in Austen represents the deeper health of the social body, one that is salvaged by the heroine’s ability to nurse others and thereby recognize and cure “illness” in herself. I wanted to combine my majors into a comprehensive project, and the depth of Austen’s writing compelled me to examine medicine in her novels. In summer 2012, I traveled to England to research the connection, which provided me the insight to propel the project forward.



**Taylor Thomas**

Major in psychology

Adviser: Kristin Valentino

***“Maternal Trauma History and Mother-Child Elaborative Reminiscing: The Mediating Role of Avoidance”***

Previous research has emphasized that mother-child elaborative reminiscing is pivotal in child cognitive and socioemotional developmental outcomes. My study addresses the interface between maternal trauma and mother-child elaborative reminiscing as mediated by maternal avoidance of past traumatic experiences. I explore this association in order to identify maternal characteristics that impede mother-child dialogues. This research is important in informing elaborative reminiscing as an intervention and prevention technique.

**Michael Tonzi**

Minor in Mediterranean/Middle East studies

Major in biology

Adviser: Li Guo

***“From Asclepius to Avicenna: A Historical Review of Parasitic Epidemiology in and Around the Mediterranean”***

I am conducting a survey using historical and scientific literature to construct a dual-perspective analysis on parasitic epidemiology in historical Mediterranean and Middle Eastern societies. As a biology major and Middle Eastern/Mediterranean minor, a project combining these fascinating and divergent areas of study is ideal. The topic is not only relatively unexplored but also represents an excellent capstone for my college career.





**Rebecca Tracy**

Major in psychology

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Jessica Payne

***“Comparing Bilateral Eye Movements and Cognitive Reappraisal in the Reduction of Emotional Arousal and Valance to Negative Visual Stimuli”***

This study compares the active component of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, or bilateral eye movements, to cognitive reappraisal. I examine them in terms of memory and changes in subjective emotional arousal when viewing negative images. I am interested in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and EMDR is one of the empirically supported treatments for it, despite its controversial eye-movement component. My goal is to help assess the validity of the eye-movement component and create a stepping stone into studying the function of these eye movements in memory reconsolidation.



## **Catherine Underwood**

Major in philosophy

Supplementary major in French and Francophone studies

Minor in European studies

Adviser: William David Solomon

### ***“The Heart’s Battle: A Legal and Ethical Analysis of Turning Off Internal Pacemakers as a Response to Terminal Illness”***

Cardiologists are increasingly facing requests for pacemaker deactivation. My thesis examines the ethics behind such action, giving special consideration to legal implications. Since I plan to pursue a career in health law, bioethics seemed particularly interesting and pertinent to my professional goals. The issue of pacemaker deactivation arose during a discussion I had with a cardiologist about a real-life scenario he had faced. With my Medical Ethics philosophy course as a foundation, I saw this as a fascinating and largely uncharted area of study.



**Michael Urda**

Major in English

Minor in Greek and Roman Civilization

Adviser: Margaret Doody

***“Togas and Tuxedos: The Many Connections Between Aristophanes’ The Frogs and P.G. Wodehouse’s Jeeves and Wooster Stories and Their Implication on Present Understanding of Societal Leadership”***

My thesis connects the ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes with the English comic writer P.G. Wodehouse, in order to explore how their two versions of the clever-servant narrative reflect the tension between a weak master class and a clever servant class. As an English major with a Greek and Roman civilization minor, I wanted to integrate both fields of study. I have always been interested in Wodehouse, and when recently rereading Aristophanes, I found a connection between them in their presentation of wardrobe changes in the clever-servant narrative.



**Katherine Vidal**

Major in political science

Supplementary major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

***“The Business of Nonprofit Hospitals: A Study of Healthcare in South Bend”***

My thesis studies the relationship between St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center and Memorial Hospital of South Bend—as well as their relationships with the South Bend community—before and after St. Joseph’s relocation from downtown South Bend to suburban Mishawaka. The study aims to understand the business strategy of nonprofit hospitals and its effects on the population in need of healthcare. I have always been interested in healthcare policy and passionate about healthcare for the poor. South Bend provided a perfect scenario to study the contradiction of the nonprofit health care industry maintaining a profit while providing services to the community.



**Patrick Vinett**

Major in political science

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Nilay Saiya

***“Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy: Iraq 2003 and Iran Today”***

My thesis assesses the role of public opinion in shaping U.S. foreign policy, specifically arguing that public opinion constrains the foreign policy decisions of U.S. leaders. I have always been interested in the relationship between the general public and foreign policymakers. Similarly, I have been fascinated with the Iraq war, the Bush administration, and the fear of weapons of mass destruction that was present in 2003 in Iraq and is present today in Iran.

## **Jane Wageman**

Major in English

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Valerie Sayers

### ***“Housing the Thoughts”***

My thesis project is a portion of a novel told from the perspective of 16-year-old Bianca, who claims to disappear into other people's thoughts. While Bianca struggles with questions of identity, the piece experiments with voice and perspective. I was inspired by Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself," in which the speaker identifies strongly with others but maintains his individuality. I wondered what might occur if this identification with others prompted a loss of self. In "Housing the Thoughts," I explore the fluidity between the first- and third-person perspective to see how their exchange could change perceptions of subjectivity and reliability.

**Zachary Weber**

Major in history

Double major in Arts and Letters Pre-Health

Adviser: Paul Ocobock

***“Colony to Republic: Exploring Transitions in Ghanaian Healthcare, 1919-1960”***

Under the British colonial system, the Colonial Medical Service managed public health, operating to further the goals of the colonial government. As a result, quality healthcare was located almost exclusively in urban areas and catered primarily to British settlers and colonial officials. My thesis explores this healthcare structure and its impact on Ghanaian healthcare post-independence. I wanted to write a senior thesis that related to my African history concentration and was eager to incorporate my pre-health interests as well.



**Joseph Wegener**

Major in English

Adviser: Johannes Goransson

***“The Journal of an Airman, 2.0”***

My thesis is a collection of poetry, prose, creative-nonfiction, and other non-categorizable words. The collection follows (and sometimes does not follow) an unnamed narrator through Manhattan, Brooklyn, South Bend, and the disorganized world of his own rambling, dilettantish “private journal.” I did not so much “choose” this topic, as it matured and took shape of its own creative accord. My influences include Ben Lerner, Frank O’Hara, Paul Killebrew, David Foster Wallace, Gregory Sherl, Angelo Nikolopoulos, the very early work of W.H. Auden, and the album “Happy to You,” by Miike Snow.





**Kaitlin Wegrzyn**

Major in political science

Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society

Adviser: Michael Hartney

***“What Parents Want: Parent Voice in Education Reform”***

I explore parents’ desires for education reform and what institutions exist to satisfy them. I evaluate how effectively these institutions respond to parents, surveying school board members on parent voice and examining parent trigger laws. I became interested in parents’ role in schooling as a research assistant at No Parent Left Behind, Inc. As an intern in Washington, D.C., public schools, I saw a dichotomy between what parents wanted and policies the school district implemented. Having parents’ opinions taken seriously is critical to the academic success of children, and I chose this topic to see how parents can be heard.



**Allison Wettstein**

Major in Chinese

Double major in accounting

Adviser: Xiaoshan Yang

***“Human Trafficking and the Laogai System in China”***

My thesis looks at the Chinese prison system, human trafficking, and the intersection of these topics. The United Nations’ definition of human trafficking includes three criteria: the act, the means, and the purpose. My goal is to show how the Laogai system fits these criteria. I was originally interested in writing about the broader topic of human trafficking in China, but over winter break I had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., and meet with a Laogai prison survivor. This experience helped me focus the topic of my paper.



**Joshua Whitaker**

Major in English

Supplementary major in gender studies

Minor in Irish studies

Adviser: William O'Rourke

***“Our Home”***

*Our Home* is a novel centering on a family, where each chapter is a room of a house. The narrative meanders through seven generations of memories accumulated in the architecture. I was inspired by my annual family reunion to write a novel mimicking the way those days inevitably ended: with a group recalling childhood memories, speculating on their parents' lives, and weaving myths of generations further removed.

When your most distant ancestor lived less than an hour from your home, folk history and memory permeate the landscape. My goal is to capture that and engage with the distinct narrative of the Appalachian South.



## **James White**

Major in Program of Liberal Studies

Double major in classics

Adviser: Denis Robichaud

### ***“The Journey of Caritas: Homer’s “Nostos” as a Metaphor for Augustine’s View of the Christian Life”***

Saint Augustine views the Christian life as a journey to God, in which we are searching with our heart to find rest in Him. Augustine’s metaphoric language in the *De Doctrina Christiana* calls to mind Odysseus’ desire to see his “nostos,” or day of homecoming, in Homer’s *Odyssey*. I was interested in exploring a relationship between pre-Christian and Christian thinking, and the synthesis that can occur. During my time at Notre Dame, I have grown most fond of Homer and Augustine. The language of “nostos” pervades Augustine’s writings and shows that the tradition is maintained for centuries.



**Allison Whitlock**

Major in anthropology

Supplementary major in French

Adviser: Donna Glowacki

***“The Archaeology of a Medieval Village: Willingham, Cambridgeshire”***

Archaeological research on medieval villages has largely focused on deserted sites, but many medieval villages are still occupied today. My thesis examines archaeological and historical sources to reconstruct the phase-by-phase development of the medieval village of Willingham. This research tests existing development models and investigates the broader social context of Willingham’s growth. I chose this topic after talking with a lecturer at Cambridge last year who conducts research on occupied rural settlements. Local underprivileged students participate in the excavation process to expose them to higher education. I am interested in medieval archaeology and liked the project’s public outreach.

## **Christina Wiech**

Major in American studies

Supplementary major in peace studies

Adviser: Sophie White

### ***“The Biggest of Stories on the Grandest of Stages: A Critical Analysis of the Opening Ceremonies of the 1996 and 2002 Olympic Games”***

My thesis examines the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. I analyzed the content of these two ceremonies as a way to understand local, regional, and national identities in the context of a major international event. I have been interested in the Olympics since I was in elementary school. The opening ceremonies have always intrigued me because they vary so much and say a lot about how a nation wants to portray itself to the world.



**Bryan Williams**

Major in philosophy

Minor in theology

Adviser: David Solomon

***“MacIntyre, Smith, and Modernity”***

Both Alasdair MacIntyre and Christian Smith critique contemporary culture. MacIntyre argues that philosophers of the Enlightenment Project had to fail because they rejected an understanding of teleology. But, does Smith’s attempt to preserve an understanding of the human person in sociology succeed or does he fall in line with Enlightenment thinkers? Although the two authors share many points, they disagree on a notion of rights. MacIntyre argues that rights are a mere fiction of Enlightenment thinking while Smith argues that each human has rights and a particular human dignity. To a degree, I sympathize with both.

## **Ryan Williams**

Major in history

Double major in finance

Glynn Family Honors Scholar

Adviser: Thomas Kselman

### ***“A Friendship in Flames: The Battle of Mers-el-Kebir and the Influence of Popular Media on Public Opinion in Britain and France”***

My thesis looks at how the Battle of Mers-el-Kebir was portrayed in the British and French media in 1940 and since. I examine the narratives constructed by the media regarding this event and how they have influenced British and French opinions of each other. Having studied abroad in each country, I am very interested in the intersection of French and British culture and history and how these nations have evolved from bitter enemies to close friends and allies, despite prominent setbacks along the way. I am also fascinated by the concept of collective memory in a culture.





**Wesley Wood**

Major in classics

Adviser: Keith Bradley

***“Roman Domination Through Human Submission: An Iconographical Study of Augustan Material Evidence”***

My thesis investigates themes of slavery, captivity, and submission in public and private art during the reign of Augustus in Rome. These images reveal the representation of Roman power and the inferred reality of captivity and slavery. After taking an Ancient Slavery course, I was intrigued by the dynamics of power and the Roman conception, especially in Roman art. It may seem peculiar to immortalize a slave in art; however, the ancient Romans wanted to display their power and wealth, including slaves. The attention to detail in depicting a captive’s condition confirms that it was a reflection of reality, not artistic license.



## **Emily Yates**

Major in English

Double major in film, television, and theatre (theatre)

Adviser: Peter Holland

### ***“The Performance of Magic in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*”***

My thesis shows how different adaptations of *The Tempest* depict Prospero’s magic modernly. By looking at three scenes—the opening storm, the banquet with Ariel’s harpy, and the wedding masque—I explore the lines between fantasy and reality in magic created by film and theatre. Shakespeare is a great bridge between my areas of study, English and theatre. I fell in love with *The Tempest* when I first studied the play in English. After taking a Shakespeare and Film course, I wanted to learn more about this play’s performances and adaptations. Prospero’s magic intrigues me and makes a great framework for analysis.



## **Emily Yates**

Major in film, television, and theatre (theatre)

Double major in English

Advisor: Anne Garcia-Romero

### ***“Lucy’s Tales of Adventure and an Adaptation of Ovid’s Metamorphoses into Modern Theatre”***

I have written a play, *Lucy’s Tales of Adventure*, in which Queen Lucy and a ragtag group of rescuers sail to a magical island to find her husband, King Dartanian. In an accompanying research paper, I explore adaptation in theatre as seen in two modern takes on Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. After taking a playwriting course, I wanted to write a play. I also love fairy tales, adventure stories of pirates, magic, and *The Tempest*, so these served as inspiration. After adapting the tale of Bluebeard in my play, I wrote a research paper that explores adaptation in theatre.



## **Anna Young**

Major in design (graphic design)

Adviser: Andre Murnieks

### ***“The Purrfect Match”***

My thesis is a humorous fictional story satirizing the stigma on single people. “The Purrfect Match” follows the main character, Marie, as she seeks true love and attempts to avoid loneliness. The plot focuses on her relationships with 13 men at different points in her life. Each relationship is influenced by a different source and flawed in a different way. These flaws are emphasized through humorous conflicts involving men and her many cats. My goal in creating this interactive, animated story is to make the audience recognize the absurdity of the stigma associated with a single lifestyle.



**Ben Zelmer**

Major in American studies

Adviser: Benedict Giamo

***“Selling Mystique, Nostalgia, and Tradition in Big-Time College Football”***

My thesis explores legacy and tradition in the popularity of prominent college football programs, and how universities advertise that. I also examine how tradition and nostalgia affect ethical issues. Growing up in South Bend, Ind., I was enveloped in the incredible fan passion surrounding Notre Dame football. I have been fascinated by how schools refer to the tradition of their football program as a source of pride. There seem to be aspects of romantic idealism in the public imagination of college football, and I wanted to examine how this portrayal affects the role of the sport in American society.



**Julaine Zenk**

Major in psychology

Supplementary major in Computer Applications Program

Adviser: Charles Crowell

***“Racial Priming and the Perception of Expression”***

Continuing the eMotion and eCognition lab’s series of Political Social View (PSV) studies, my thesis reports on our most recent project, which examined the relationship between racial priming and the perception of emotions in other people. I began working on this project last year, and it led to my senior thesis not just because of my involvement with its creation but also because of its long-running implications. It has been interesting looking through our lab’s past PSV studies to see how they started and what findings have been made thus far.