BOSTON COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JANUARY 31, 2014
FULTON HALL
### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
**Schedule of Events: January 31, 2014**

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Alberta Adu  
Class of 2014

Perceptions of mental healthcare in African and African American women
Research indicates that racial and ethnic minorities such as African Americans (and African immigrants) lack access to healthcare, are often misdiagnosed, receive inadequate care overall, and are less likely to receive treatment for depression. In this study, a qualitative descriptive method was used to develop an understanding of the perceptions of mental healthcare in African and African American women and how it affects their decisions to utilize mental health care resources. Findings generated from a focus group of five women indicate that cultural and religious beliefs can play an important role in shaping understandings of mental health and treatment options. More community-based education about mental health could help alleviate barriers to seeking care for this population.

Lucas Allen  
Class of 2016

To support research on patient interventions in underserved populations
In a nation founded upon principles of equality and justice, racial disparities in health care perpetuate a divided society. The landmark Institute of Medicine “Unequal Treatment” report revealed the disturbing fact that lower quality of care for racial and ethnic minorities remained even when controlling for socioeconomic differences and access-related factors. Doctor-patient communication is regarded as a factor contributing to this racial disparity, and my Advanced Study Grant allowed me to witness how communication mistakes and barriers might result in worse health outcomes. Studies in the field of Health Communication use communication skills training programs (also called interventions) to improve clinical communication. However, few have used the intervention on minority patients, the population that might benefit from it the most. By observing doctor-patient interactions at Malden Family Medicine Center, I was able to assess whether an intervention would be necessary and practical. My experience confirmed that patient interventions should be part of a multifaceted effort to reduce health disparities and improve the quality of care provided to racial and ethnic minorities. Through communication skills training programs, the field of Health Communication can be used to alleviate a profound injustice in our health care system and society.
Brendon Anderson  
Class of 2015  

*An Croí: Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*

This summer, I volunteered at a peace and reconciliation center called the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. It was created during the Irish Troubles in order to promote nonviolent pathways to peace and to provide a refuge for those seeking shelter from the violence of the conflict. Today, it continues that work, while also expanding its vision by inviting groups from around the world to have a safe space to discuss complicated issues such as sectarianism, identity, and forgiveness. As such, I had the opportunity to work with groups not only from Northern Ireland, but also Germany, Scotland, the United States, and Israel. In focusing on the specific case of Northern Ireland, I was able to understand the history and culture of one place, while also learning about more global methods of peacemaking.

Patrick J. Angiolillo  
Class of 2014  

“Let us exalt the God of Knowledge”: *Experiencing the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*

In the early 1950’s, as the caves at Qumran were being excavated and the Dead Sea Scrolls were being discovered, one such scroll was recovered from Cave 4. Copies of the same text were subsequently found in Cave 11 and at Masada. This text, the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice (4Q400–407; 11Q17; Mas1k), is evidently a communal liturgy utilized among the community associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. It has, since its discovery, sparked much investigation and debate. Among other things, the origin and function of the text remain indefinite. Although a communal liturgy by nature, the text offers scant instruction for ritual practice. This study has proposed to reveal the “lived experience” of the Songs worship. This study posits possible formal instruction that would have been appropriate and might have been employed in the practice of the Songs text. On the basis of textual (e.g. linguistic, formal, functional) comparison to other Dead Sea Scrolls, biblical texts, and rabbinic texts, this study submits evidence for its claims about potential attendance, posture, and purpose in the liturgy of the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice.

Ganapathiram Thangavel Arivudainambi  
Class of 2016  

Poster  

*Emergency Food Systems of Massachusetts*

In this study, emergency food systems- mainly food pantries, but also food banks- were evaluated on three general criteria: food acquisition, food distribution, and food qualification. 27 food pantries under the Worcester County Food Bank and the Greater Boston Food Bank were interviewed using a detailed questionnaire designed to access the above criteria. The directors of the two food banks were also interviewed to gain additional data. The collected information was analyzed to find trends and compared to suggest ways through which the efficiency of these pantries can be improved.
From Source to Mouth: A Study on Water Contamination in Lebanon

In a region where clean water is drastically depleted, this study observes the water quality of the Abraham River of Lebanon, identifies major pollutant sources, and proposes innovative solutions. Through a methodical collection of samples, moving from the mouth (Jbeil) to the sources (Mijdel and Afqa) of the river, water quality was assessed using a Hanna™ water quality backpack kit. The parameters tested include acidity, alkalinity, CO₂, conductivity, TDS, dissolved oxygen, hardness, phosphates, nitrates, pH, turbidity, and temperature. The cleanliness of each sample was assessed using a variety of techniques including chemical titrations, sense observations, examination of chemical strips, and fieldwork methods. The parameter’s quantitative results for the many samples indicated that the water quality was mostly appropriate to national standards. However, the quality of the water deteriorated quickly as it flowed downstream. By the time the water reached the estuary of the Mediterranean Sea, it had higher levels of nitrates, phosphates, pH, alkalinity, temperature, hardness, CO₂, TDS, and lower levels of dissolved oxygen. The results indicated five pollution sources; dumped waste and industrial effluents, untreated sewage, decaying water distribution system, inefficient irrigation techniques, and a lack of structural barriers. Although the Lebanese government is incapable of dealing with such issues, I have proposed innovative solutions to remedy the delicate water situation of Lebanon and the Middle East.

Moral Judgments Across Domains: Intentionality and the Omission Bias

When perceiving others, we consider them to be “agents” that have the capacity to make decisions and carry out actions. Reasoning about their intentions, beliefs, and desires can assist in making judgments and predicting individual behavior. Previous research has shown that judgments of moral transgressions vary as mental states of the agent change. Moreover, there exists an omission bias such that moral transgressions of omission are judged less harshly than those of commission. For example, it is generally considered worse to kill someone (commission) than to let someone die (omission). The omission bias is conceptualized as an accepted rule for universally judging moral transgressions. However, morality is likely much more complex and applicable to a wide range of transgressions. Researchers have in fact distinguished five different domains of moral transgressions (Harm, Fairness, Ingroup, Authority, and Purity). It remains unclear how the omission bias applies across all moral domains and whether or not it exerts equal influence over moral transgressions of various types. This study investigates how intentionality and the omission bias modulate judgments across the five moral domains. Better understanding factors that influence our judgments will help to delineate the intricacies of morality.
Evidence from previous studies on infants’ perception of numbers have led to the proposal that infants possess two mechanisms for representing numbers; an ‘object file’ system that allows them to mentally store the exact numbers between 1 and 3 and an ‘analog magnitude’ system, which is based more on estimation than precision, for numbers 4 and greater (Feigenson & Carey, 2003). The interaction of these two systems during discriminations of numbers has led to interesting discrepancies. While infants successfully recognize differences between sets containing anywhere from 1-3 items, and can also reliably discriminate sets larger than 4, they perform at chance when distinguishing between numbers that span both systems (Feigenson & Carey 2005; Feigenson, Carey, & Hauser, 2002). Previous studies are limited, however, in that they present “spontaneous” number discrimination opportunities, so infants make discriminations only once and without any feedback. To determine if, in fact, infants really understand the difference between numbers belonging to the same system on more than one occasion, I designed a study using a novel touch-screen computer that provided infants with multiple trials and feedback about their number discrimination choices.

Irish poet Paul Muldoon explains poetry as a feat of “architecture” that relies on physical, even chemical, laws. To follow Muldoon’s analogy, literary or poetic language is, by design, linguistically loaded; such tightly constructed language vibrates with linguistic associations and possesses an almost chemical potential energy. For my Advanced Study Grant project, I sought to explore the technical skills that allow us, as readers or scholars, to “unpack” or deconstruct literary language and to harness this latent potential. I thus pursued as a general theme the interactions of language and literature in an effort to synthesize my studies in linguistics as well as French and English literature. In particular, my project aimed at developing a technical knowledge of stylistic analysis, an area of literary criticism grounded in formalism that approaches literary texts from a linguistic perspective. Ultimately, I designed a two-part project that paired a seminar on “Linguistic Approaches to Literature” at Boston University’s Editorial Institute with literary critic and scholar Archie Burnett, with a second phase consisting of background readings culminating in a critical analysis, in French, of a fable from Jean de La Fontaine.
Music Composition: To Support Instruction in the Composition of a Movement for Violin Concerto

I applied for an Advanced Study Grant in order to support instruction in the composition of a new work, a movement for violin concerto. I was privileged to be able to study with the accomplished composer Dr. Robert Aldridge on this project throughout the summer. My goals for this project were to gain more experience in composition and to further develop my compositional skills in preparation for my graduate studies. My presentation will include a discussion of my composition, what I learned from the experience, and how I plan to use the knowledge that I gained in the future.

HIV Prevention, Stigma, and Care in Ho Chi Minh City and Da Lat, Vietnam

A four-week interdisciplinary student/faculty research combined with a service visit to Vietnam served as a focused experience in understanding Vietnamese healthcare structures, functions, outcomes while testing the validity of a successful US HIV intervention program called Women’s Voices Women’s Lives© using group and individual interviews. Healthcare inequities and poverty were found to paralyze individual, family, and community mobilization in HIV testing while stigma is a key barrier to both testing and care seeking. Vietnam has become a place where living with HIV infection challenges communities in a distinct socio-cultural context while incidence and prevalence rates continue to rise.

The G2 Generation: How Second-Generation Immigrants are the Key to Italy’s Democratic Future

The term second-generation immigration is a glaring misnomer. Second-generation immigrants did not leave their native country like their parents did; they are not refugees seeking a promising socio-economic climate. In fact, they aren’t really immigrants at all. They grow up and are socialized in the same cultural-linguistic matrix as their peers. In the case of Italy, however, they cannot be officially “Italian” until they come of age at 18 and apply for citizenship. Hanging in the balance between their immigrant, foreign status and their de facto cultural self-perception, this second generation represents an often voiceless demographic crucial for the economic and democratic development of the country, but also a real challenge for social cohesion and national identity. In Italian society, the question of immigration is closely connected to the role of communication and mass media in constructing and disseminating public opinion about immigrants themselves, an opinion that, at times, demonstrates a gap between perception and reality. In this project, I explore the challenges of first- and second-generation immigrants (and the so-called 1.5 Generation) in Italy, identifying the ways in which a more complete and comprehensive social-juridical integration of the latter may, in turn, help revolutionize the perception of the former.
Haotian Chen  
Class of 2015  

*Understanding China’s Pension under the Rapidly Aging Society: Will My Parents be able to Support Themselves in the Future?*

It has been predicted that China will experience serious and rapid population aging in the near future. The aging population, due to the retirement of baby boomers in the last century combined with the one-child policy, has already put some pressure on China’s continuous and high economic growth rate. Moreover, the rapidly aging society will challenge the current result of China’s pension reform. Recent research and news have revealed some controversial problems of the pension system. I am concerned whether older generations will be able to support themselves in the future if they heavily rely on the Chinese social security pension. This project seeks an answer to this question and addresses it in a way applicable to the general public.

Lindsay Crane  
Class of 2014  

*Poster*  

*Beyond the Kitchen: Telling the Story of Nineteenth-Century Women Through the Era’s Cookbooks.*

Barbara Welter termed the period of women’s history that extended from 1820-1860 as the “Cult of Domesticity,” known also as “The Cult of True Womanhood.” As a “True Woman,” the female head of the household was to exemplify the virtues of piety, purity, submissiveness, and domesticity in everyday life. The home was the center of moral goodness, with the kitchen being “her ‘holy of holies,’” as stated by Mary P. Ryan in *Empire of the Mother.* While there have been numerous studies of the Cult of Domesticity, none of these studies have focused on the primary fundamental text associated with the kitchen: the cookbook. This work will discuss six to eight hand-written cookbooks and numerous popular printed cookbooks from the Schlesinger Library’s collection of 15,000 culinary texts. These culinary texts are more than just compilations of food recipes and ingredients – the books include not only recipes for medicines and cleaners, but also serve as unique scrapbooks for nineteenth-century women. Likewise, nationally distributed cookbooks illuminate the common trends and preoccupations surrounding the kitchen and the Cult of Domesticity. Not only are major themes that one would expect to surface in the cookbooks present (like attention to religion, motherhood, frugality, and patriotism), but women also possessed great scientific and economic knowledge that one might not expect during the Victorian era. The cookbook, both private and national, is a valuable primary source that allows a kitchen-window view into the lives of common “True Women.”
David Cote
Class of 2014

*Education and Ethics in a Time of HIV/AIDS: Lessons from Nairobi for the Future*

The problems associated with HIV/AIDS and the factors influencing its spread and prevalence are complex. Effective responses to HIV/AIDS are equally complex. Using Nairobi as a microcosm of the greater environment of Sub-Saharan Africa, we can gather important lessons that will inform future prevention strategies. Western norms and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS simply have not and will not work in a Kenyan context, because they grow from a completely different situation and set of experiences. Rather, what must be developed is a socially and culturally specific strategy that responds directly to HIV/AIDS and the various ethical issues with which it is associated—gender disparity, poverty, political instability, and attitudes towards those infected, among others—directly where each of these issues are located. This is the challenge that this presentation investigates.

Qian Deng
Class of 2016
Poster

*Whack-a-Mole: Web 2.0 and Intellectual Property Law in China*

The fight against piracy has been likened to a game of whack-a-mole, as new challenges pop up with each “whack” at the old ones. A key catalyst of the game is “Web 2.0,” a phenomenon that has both proven its strengths and taken its toll in any given field. Despite the country’s consistent reputation for laxity, Chinese IP law is in itself not dissimilar to international counterparts. Through conversations with legal experts, employees of internet companies, and “netizens,” I attempted to define the relationship between the laws in place and the transgressions I had collected in the prior months. I noted that many types of web-related infringement have traditionally been marginalized in academia and politics, with netizens left to construct their own methods of protection. In addition, through attending classes at the Zhongnan University School of Economics and Law, headed by China’s foremost expert in intellectual property law, I examined China’s existing legal framework, the influences behind its actual enforcement, and the young minds that may shape policy in the future.
Kelly Ann DiStefano  
Class of 2015

*The Global Women’s Health Provider: Clinical Skill Acquisition and Observation on the cultural barriers preventing safe childbirth and appropriate maternal care in Nepal*

The goal of my project was to have the opportunity to learn about labor and delivery practices in a non-traditional setting. The project was designed to enrich my studies as a nursing student with specific interest in the field of women’s health. I worked alongside nursing students from Tribhuvan University in the Labor and Delivery unit at Gandaki Western Regional Hospital in Pokhara, Nepal and at a medical post in the village of Nalma-6, Lamjung, Nepal. Here I had the opportunity to witness nursing practice, while also engaging in the care and developing clinical skills specific to a culture and environment different from what is available to me as a student in Boston. By studying the Nepali language, I was able engage in conversation with physicians and birth attendants skilled in providing care to laboring women and hear about the history and benefits of Safe Motherhood initiatives in place throughout the country.

Mei Fan-Cui  
Class of 2016

*China’s Lesser 50%: A Comparative Study on the Effects of the Economic Surge on Rural China*

China, a new super power, is standing at a crossroads between rural living and urbanization with half its population now living in cities. China’s new focus on industrialization and urbanization has economically harmed the nearby villages and caused farmers to lose significant amounts of land. The government has acknowledged the limited potential for growth of agriculture and aimed to alleviate some of the burden of rural areas through the government’s 11th five-year plan. The plan’s goal was to stimulate more economic growth in urban areas to help develop rural areas. With this plan in mind, I set out to Tianjin, China to see first hand the development, or lack thereof, in rural China. I surveyed villages surrounding Tianjin and experienced life in the village of Wuqing. I also visited the district of Binhai, a village that has been newly redeveloped into an enormous city. In this presentation, I will compare and contrast these two different areas to show the huge disparity between rural and urban China. I will also illustrate the living situation of villagers, and share my experience, and culture shock, as I adjusted to living in Tianjin, China.
Jessica Franco, Natali Soto, Victoria Torres-Vega  
Classes of 2014 and 2015

*Human Rights and Migration in Zacualpa, Guatemala*

As part of the Human Rights and Migration Project, three students traveled to Zacualpa, Guatemala to conduct collective and individual research on the effects migration has on Mayan-Guatemalan families. In order to become better acquainted with the participants, the students led workshops for youths and women to learn about their experiences with migration in their household. Research data was gathered through these workshops and individual interviews. The first project focused on the economic, psychological, and social effects of migration on Mayan grandmothers raising grandchildren whose parents have migrated to the United States. The second project focused on how remittances affect transnational families, both the family in Guatemala and the migrant in the US. The third project focused on the psychological well-being of adolescents whose parents migrated, leaving them behind. This excursion to Guatemala was one filled with research, cultural immersion, and a deeper understanding of the other side of migration.

Peter Haskin  
Class of 2016

*El Cid Campeador in the Monuments of Burgos, Spain*

El Cid Campeador was an 11th-century mercenary in Reconquista Spain. Known to many Americans as the Charlton-Heston-played protagonist of a romanticized, eponymous 1961 epic film, El Cid has been the subject of numerous works of commemorative art. In Spain, his historical legacy is bound to a literary one: *El Cantar de Mio Cid* is the earliest epic poem written in the Castilian vernacular available to us. Thanks to these and various other works of art, El Cid has taken on in Spanish cultural memory the status of legendary national hero — one that sometimes diverges from historical data. This project investigates how successive Spanish regimes of the 20th and 21st centuries have warped retellings of the Cidian myth to suit their diverse political ends. The monuments to El Cid in his home city, Burgos, offer an abundance of evidence for this phenomenon.
Alex Hawley  
Class of 2016  
Poster

Modern Kuwait: The expanding divide between a people and their parliament

My project focused on the examination of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, the only Arab Parliament in the Gulf region, and how it functions in a political atmosphere that contains both honest efforts at transparent reform and conservative cries for greater Islamic influence. I investigated the demographics of the Kuwaiti population in comparison to their Parliament and analyzed disparities between the two in hopes of highlighting any cultural tendencies that favored one group over another. Within each Parliament, I contrasted the demographic makeup with each respective legislative agenda to observe the main goals of each session and how closely each Parliament worked in tandem with the Emir and his Cabinet. Following this analysis of the Kuwaiti political system, I talked to several Kuwaiti politicians and economists in order to develop a plan of reform for the Kuwaiti government that would increase governmental efficiency, transparency, civic participation, and institutional flexibility. With these goals in mind, I also embarked on a semester of Arabic self-study before the trip and will continue on, minoring in Islamic Civilization Studies, to add another layer of depth to my academic endeavors.

Eleanor Hildebrandt  
Class of 2015

Tensions and Traditions in Northern Ireland

Over three weeks in Belfast and one in Derry/Londonderry last summer, I had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the lasting effects of the conflict between the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist and Catholic/Nationalist/Republican communities in Northern Ireland, and the ways in which the 1998 Good Friday Agreement has effected—or failed to effect—change. The annual 12 July Orange Order parade took place while I was in Belfast, and I attended a class that contextualized the tradition within the PUL community’s history. The parade itself afforded a unique chance to observe the different ways in which residents of Northern Ireland celebrate, and condemn, their history.
Brooke Hopkins  
Class of 2014  
Poster  

The Effect of 20-Minute Stress Reduction on Nurses’ Job Satisfaction
This prospective longitudinal intervention study examined the impact of a 20-minute session of massage and relaxation techniques on nurses overall job satisfaction. It was expected that registered nurses who participated in the intervention and utilized the follow-up breathing and relaxation techniques would have enhanced well-being and promotion of job satisfaction. Therefore, there would be a higher need for stress reduction among RNs to optimize job satisfaction which would improve patient care delivery. All benefitted (minimum of 20 hours/week) registered nurses employed on the postpartum/nursery units at MGH (Blake 13/Ellison13) were eligible for enrollment. Excluded from this research were any nurses employed for or provided direct patient care less than 20 hours per week. Participants completed a demographic questionnaire, a stress and coping scale and job satisfaction scale via on-line survey followed by an intervention day. Nurses were self-selected for participation (experimental group) in a one-on-one session with PI for the 20-minute relaxation techniques/massage therapy. Each participant in the experimental group was given instructions for daily breathing/relaxation techniques for reinforcement. All participants were asked to complete two follow-up stress/coping and job satisfaction scales.

Steven Jefferson  
Class of 2014  

Performing Whiteness, Negotiating Blackness: Identity, Achievement, and The Invisible Burden of Institutional Racism
Education has become increasingly important for upward socioeconomic mobility, but Black Americans have not been able to compete at the same level as their white counterparts. In investigating the achievement gap, structural and cultural arguments dominate much of the literature on explanations for racial disparities in education. However, there is a dearth of studies that consider institutional racism as the major explanatory factor for racial difference in educational outcomes. Through semi-structured interviews with Black collegians, this qualitative study explores the ways in which racism manifests itself in higher education institutions and impacts black students’ academic experiences. Study participants express an awareness of the necessity of acquiring “white dominant cultural capital” to succeed, but attribute these behaviors in the context of “redefining blackness.” This project employs a critical race theory (CRT) analysis of emotional labor theory to provide insight into connections between black identity, conforming to whiteness, and impression management. The ways in which these are implicated in the reproduction of academic inequality is also explored. My study offers that the “invisible burden” of racism creates a racialized form of emotional and physical “work” that black and white students experience unequally, which consequently impacts their educational outcomes.
Steven Jefferson  
Class of 2014  
Poster

National Unity or Cultural Diversity: Ethnic Minority Representation in the Chinese Media

Some scholars have suggested that China's official representation of ethnic minorities and ethnic relations has played an important role in forming and reinforcing a national identity as a modern, cosmopolitan nation. In China's official English news agency, we have a unique opportunity to examine how ethnic minorities are portrayed to the outside world, as China has sought to embody a united socialist, multiethnic state. The media in China partly responds to public perception and partly represents the government's views. To understand the distinction more clearly, this project analyzes and compares representations of the ten largest ethnic groups in China by examining the mentions and contexts of mentions in the news headlines of the Xinhua English Service. I draw on anthropological literature about the construction of ethnicity in China, as well as literature on the sociology of nationalism. My presentation will summarize the main themes that emerge in mentions of each of the major groups and present illustrative examples of articles falling into each thematic category. I will conclude by considering implications of the findings for research on ethnic representation and for domestic and international policy in China.

Megan Keating  
Class of 2015  
Poster

Strange Clouds: The Influences of Native Americans, Pirates, and Benjamin Fletcher Upon New York Political and Economic Development, 1692-1698

The peoples and circumstances of colonial America shaped many facets of the modern United States. Culturally, politically, and economically, myriad foundations were built for the coming centuries, especially in the late seventeenth century. What is now the state of New York was once a wilderness inhabited by Native Americans, colonized by Dutch and British, and visited perhaps too frequently by pirates. The influence of the Iroquois Indians upon political and legal thought was significant, as was the economic development ironically fostered by the pirates paying calls to what is now New York City. One rather ineffectual colonial governor, Benjamin Fletcher, was in power during these developmental years. Though otherwise unremarkable and at times disappointing, the years 1692-1698 in the colony of New York, along with the man who governed it, proved in hindsight to be extremely formative for the urban, economic, cultural, and political expansion of the future state of New York.
Tate Krasner  
Class of 2016

*How to Plan a Line: The Relationship between Mass Transit and Urban Development*

The relationship between mass transit and urban development is intricate and dynamic. As cities expand, transportation systems are implemented to facilitate growth and serve the needs of citizens. Yet, the systems themselves have a tremendous influence on this growth; among other things, they stimulate development, determine density, and attract investment. “How to Plan a Line” investigates this relationship in the context of two major American cities: Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. It also explores how city officials, developers, and transit planners approach the challenges and opportunities presented by urban expansion. The environmental, economic, political, and social implications of these decisions are tremendous. “How to Plan a Line” intends to inform its audience on the importance of the relationship between transit systems and urban development. Additionally, it uses case studies in Charlotte and Atlanta to both illustrate this importance and provide insight on further expansion.

Shaina Kulbersh  
Class of 2014  
Poster

*Motivations for Binge Eating Among College Students*

The purpose of this study is to explore the motivations for binge eating (BE) behaviors in college-age students. The sample population consisted of 491 undergraduate students from a private University in the northeastern United States. 64.77% of the sample was female and ages ranged from 18-23 years (μ=21.1 years; SD=1.21). A web-based survey was conducted to investigate BE behaviors in college-age students. BE was defined as eating within a 2-hour period an amount of food that is definitely larger than most people eat in a similar period of time. Descriptive analysis was conducted. Nearly 29% (N=142) of students endorsed BE (28.92%) and no gender differences were noted (F= 31.13%, M=24.86%, χ²=2.15; p ≤0.143). Greater than 97% of students who reported BE provided information on motivations. Nearly 64% responded that BE was associated with feelings of sadness or depression; 56.52% reported BE to treat themselves; 49.28% reported BE as a way to enjoy a social gathering; 35.51% reported BE when they were in a good mood; and 15.94% reported that BE occurred so that people would not ask them why they were not eating. From this data, the study concludes that nurses need to be aware of these motivations in order to implement BE interventions in college-age populations.
Jung-Hyun Lee  
Class of 2014  

*The Role of Christianity in Yun Chi-Ho’s Nationalism*

Yun Chi-Ho was one of the most prominent independence movement leaders of Korea, during the first half of the 20th century. He was a leading intellectual and a polyglot of the time, having studied in Japan, China and the US. Also, he was a leader of the Methodist Church and Christian movement of Korea. His life is subject to intense controversy even now because he falls into a grey area: whether to view him as an active collaborator with the Japanese, or a cautious intellectual who compromised with the Japanese to protect Koreans. Of the many factors constituting his idea of nationalism, this research project specifically focuses on the role of Christianity. For him, Christianity was the way to transform Koreans into civilized and modern citizens. Through this transformation, he believed that Koreans would attain the capability to attain independence. His 8-year-long stay in the US gave him the impression that Christianity was the religion of power that made the US and other Western countries prosperous and powerful.

Ellie Li  
Class of 2016  

*The Third Industrial Revolution? 3D Printing, a Disruptive Technology with Limitless Opportunities*

Have you ever thought about having a machine that could automatically design and create almost any object? 3D printers have turned this dream into reality. Contrary to traditional manufacturing processes in which the materials are cut away to produce a desired form, 3D printing creates objects from the bottom-up by adding the material one cross-sectional layer at a time. In 2012, *The Economist* proclaimed 3D printing to be the "Third Industrial Revolution." Moreover, in 2013, McKinsey & Company estimated that 3D Printing could generate a potential economic impact of $230 billion to $550 billion per year by 2025. So what exactly is 3D Printing? Why do industry experts predict it could end the last two centuries' approaches to design and manufacturing? As a revolutionary emerging technology, what kind of profound implications could 3D printing bring to our lives? In my presentation, I will briefly share my research experience in Belgium and China this past summer. Then I will explain the technology itself, its current applications and development, followed by assessing its potential and identifying possible winners and losers in this "Third Industrial Revolution."
Amanda Lowey  
Class of 2015  

*Language and Learning Intertwine at the Sorbonne*  
16\textsuperscript{th} century France: a battleground for different modes of religious thought. The Sorbonne: a powerful academic institution attempting to assert its power to approve or censure religious tomes and cement its authority. This is the historical scene from which the research described herein attempted to draw back the curtain. The Sorbonne’s role as an authority on matters of Church doctrine was examined through the obtaining of primary source documents, which entail the Sorbonne’s written censures. In addition, navigating the library system of France was also used to perform background research to discover how the Sorbonne used its weight with the church of France to publish a determination of “articles of faith” in 1543, indicating that the Sorbonne was recognized as having authority to exercise the church’s power to permit or deny opinions about the Christian faith. In an era in which censorship is still hotly debated, and the role of academic institutions in society is being questioned, this topic of the past is relevant to our present.

Daniel Lundberg  
Class of 2016  

*Exchanging their Stories: Children with neuromuscular disease in Ghana and Minnesota*  
Little research exists that involves persons with disabilities in Western Africa. This research reveals lives of hardship brought on by inaccessible landscapes, cultural stigmas, and barriers to education, employment, and transportation. To promote tolerance, a children’s book was written and produced through collaboration with a professional illustrator and children with disabilities at Camp Friendship in Minnesota titled *Anansi and His Damfo*, an adaptation of traditional Western African folktales. The book was distributed in rural Ghana as part of a non-profit literacy campaign during July and August. During this time, the researcher held meetings with leaders in the Society of the Physically Disabled, the National Association of the Deaf, the National Blind Union and other disability organizations in Ghana and attended the 33\textsuperscript{rd} annual conference of the Society of the Physically Disabled. This presentation will highlight the process of collaborating with children with disabilities to produce a book, the experiences of people with neuromuscular disease in Ghana, and observations about disability rights in the country. It well then focus on the researcher’s efforts to found and fundraise for the Tro-Tro Project, a non-profit initiative to provide transportation to people with disabilities in Ghana by running six marathons over six months and how others can join.
Jaclyn Lundberg  
Class of 2015  
Poster  

*Dopaminergic Neuronal Circuitry in the Hippocampus at RIKEN BSI*  
My project enhanced my knowledge of the study of neuroscience through research on the brain’s dopaminergic neuronal circuitry. I was a Harvard summer research intern in Tokyo, Japan at the RIKEN Brain Science Institute for 10 weeks. There I conducted an experiment and learned lab techniques using rodents in Dr. Fujisawa’s electrophysiology lab. Although I had worked with different experiments regarding addiction and the brain before, I had never worked on an electrophysiological level with the dopamine receptors of the brain and I was eager to learn about the different procedures. In addition, I was also interested in the work environment of Japan and wanted to learn more about how other countries conducted research.

Jonathan Makransky  
Class of 2014  

*The Hand of Fatima and the Hand of the King: Narratives of Popular and State Islam in Morocco*  
Religion is among the most powerful forces present in the realm of popular culture. As major world faiths encounter diverse ethnicities and nationalities, they tend to adapt to local traditions and beliefs, incorporating a variety of practices previously unassociated with the followers of the religion. Islam is among the most prominent examples of such adaptability; a faith that embodies ideals of purity and particular legal conceptions of justice, it has proven remarkably able to assimilate the customs of the localities it dominates, particularly in North Africa. The myriad of practices that resulted has frequently come into conflict with more official, orthodox interpretations of the Islamic tradition, however, particularly under regimes in which the state adopts a high degree of control over religious practice. In Morocco in particular, narratives of popular and official Islam maintain unique identities, frequently clashing with each other on the basis of these persistent differences. The two Islams are not necessarily mutually exclusive, however. The Moroccan state has adapted popular Islam on a number of occasions in order to bolster its own initiatives, and expressions of popular Islam have survived state repression and appropriation and remain a vehicle for millions of Moroccans to find a spiritual outlet.
Marissa Marandola  
Class of 2016

*Ahlquist v. Cranston: The Establishment Clause and Public School Prayer*

Throughout American history, society has debated the proper links and boundaries between church and state. At different times, largely contingent on demography, the prevailing understanding of church and state has permitted various degrees of religious presence and influence in government institutions. Modern questions of religious establishment ask whether it is appropriate for religion to have any presence, beyond the historical, in state-sponsored bodies, such as public schools. The 2012 US District Court case *Ahlquist v. Cranston* contested the presence of an explicitly Christian prayer banner in a Rhode Island high school on establishment grounds. This project examines various interpretations of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause, and particularly its relationship to the presence of religion in public schools, through analysis of scholarly theories and Supreme Court precedents and doctrines. It then applies historical examples to the present day through a case study of *Ahlquist v. Cranston*, including scrupulous examination of primary documents and interviews with key participants in the case.

Alicia McKean  
Class of 2015  
Poster

*Perceptions of the Racial Achievement Gap and Efforts to Address It*

This research explored how educational professionals working in racially diverse schools in Massachusetts cities view the racial achievement gap and efforts to address it. Using data from interviews with six teachers and administrators, the findings revealed that teachers and administrators acknowledge how racism shapes students’ academic experience in a variety of ways including course selection, disciplinary actions, and relationships with faculty. Findings also indicated that cultural competency training for teachers and community partnerships are two practices that are thought to have the potential to reduce the racial achievement gap in schools.
Annie McEwen  
Class of 2014

The Silent Master: An examination of Bernini's role in the design of the vault fresco in the Gesù
An art historian’s job is to look closely, to analyze, and to place herself in the historical circumstances of the artist with the aim of discovering the motivations and challenges that contribute to creating a masterpiece. For me, all of these skills came together last summer when I had the opportunity to study Giovanni Battista Gaulli’s monumental fresco, The Triumph of the Name of Jesus (1676-79), and his other paintings in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. I started my study in Dusseldorf, Germany where Gaulli’s preliminary drawings for his fresco paintings in the Gesù are housed. I conducted a close visual analysis of his style. These sketches provide a glimpse into the artist’s mind and record his initial thoughts for the Gesù and other projects. First-hand knowledge of these drawings was a tremendous help when I arrived in Rome to study Gaulli’s paintings at the Gesù and other sites in the city. After completing my research in Rome, I incorporated my findings into my research papers for the senior art history seminar and my class on Bernini in the Baroque. I have concluded that previous scholarship on Gaulli has not fully explored his great versatility as an artist because of his close connection with the charismatic and overpowering Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

Courtney McNevin  
Class of 2016

Foreclosures and Education: Long Term Effects
The recent financial crisis with its origins in the housing market bubble has focused much research attention on the topic of foreclosures and loan modifications. The detrimental effects of foreclosures on neighborhoods have been documented in several papers. Most obviously, foreclosures reduce the property value of neighboring homes. The negative impacts of foreclosures are not limited to property, but also the welfare of an often-overlooked group, children living in homes that are at risk of foreclosure. My research attempts to discover whether there is a significant relationship between foreclosures and the welfare of children. Evidence that foreclosures adversely affect children’s educational outcomes is provided. The negative effect on children’s educational outcomes from foreclosures is considered a cost to society and deserves special consideration in policymaking regarding loan modifications.
From Pulling the Trigger to Pushing the Button: Historical Precedents for Drone Strikes in U.S. National Security Policy

The Obama administration’s use of unmanned aerial vehicles to target terrorists has become a pressing foreign policy issue. My thesis examines the historical precedent of drone strikes in U.S. National Security policy. Yet to thoroughly research drone strikes, I need to understand how targeted killings work from a drone’s point of view. With my Advanced Study Grant, I attended an Unmanned Aerial System’s Conference in Washington D.C. to learn the technology and terminology of drones. After the conference I better understood two things. First, the problems facing the unmanned aerial systems industry and American drone policy include: integration into national airspace, military needs, autonomous systems, and international proliferation. Second, I significantly strengthened my understanding of the weaponized drones that carry out targeted killings. Through interviews conducted at the convention, I was able to learn the technology behind targeting terrorists.

Coating of Noble Metal Nanoparticles with Crystalline Nanoporous Frameworks

The problems of global warming and depletion of oil reserves have turned the world’s attention to new solutions for energy. In addition to evaluation of new sources of energy, one important avenue of study is the optimization of systems for increasing energy efficiency. Leading research in achievement of this efficiency focuses on the design of catalysts that enable previously unattainable chemical transformations. Systems like fuel cells, carbon recycling, and fuel refinement all require cutting-edge catalysts that preform at the highest level to make energy sustainability possible. However, these “designer” catalysts pose one common problem -- that they are usually made from expensive materials, such as palladium and platinum. Instead of replacing these effective materials, scientists focus on greatly reducing the amount of material used and increasing the lifetime of the catalyst. This work explores a novel catalyst protection system that employs a rigid and highly-selective coating material. The coating material, zeolite, was specifically chosen for its well-studied properties including ordered sub-nanometer (10^{-9} m) pore structure and high thermal and chemical stability. Zeolites are especially suited for increasing the lifetime of a catalyst while allowing chemicals to pass through.
Marie Pellissier  
Class of 2015  

*Savoring the Past: French Language Immersion and Culinary Skills Acquisition in Paris*

Eighteenth-century cookbooks presume that readers already know how to cook. They don’t give instructions, they simply remind the cook what to do. They show a strong French influence and can be difficult nuts for a modern historian to crack. The Elizabeth Capell cookbook manuscript in Boston College’s Burns Library is one such cookbook; written in English, many of its recipes are French-influenced. Very few of them provide descriptions of techniques or quantities of ingredients, but merely lists of ingredients and vague directions. Eighteenth-century women learned to cook through practice. In order to understand the Capell manuscript in the broader context of eighteenth-century food history, I studied the French language as well as cooking in Paris. These skills helped me to contextualize the importance of the Capell manuscript as a personal kitchen aid, as well as part of a broader historical study of culinary history, women’s history, and social history.

Mary Popeo  
Class of 2014  

*No More Fukushima’s: Hiroshima’s Role in Advocating for a Broader Conception of Nuclear Disarmament*

As cities exposed to the dangers of the nuclear industry, Hiroshima and Fukushima share an interesting connection. Committed to international peace, Hiroshima’s anti-nuclear movement has always been at the forefront of dialogue pertaining to nuclear weapons and human rights. The Fukushima nuclear disaster challenges Hiroshima’s citizens, local government, and NGOs to promote a broader conception of nuclear disarmament and a more comprehensive definition of peace. Unfortunately, despite the hard work of a few committed individuals and activist groups, it seems that Hiroshima as a whole has changed very little since March 11, 2011. Failing to consider the nuclear industry as a whole or to find solidarity with other victims of war and discrimination, Hiroshima runs the risk of losing legitimacy in the global peace movement. By supporting the Abe administration and perpetuating a myopic, narrow peace culture, Hiroshima is limiting the application of its powerful and universal message.
Deepa Prasad  
Class of 2015

*Langsam, tief, rück, und vorsichtig: To support the study of Latin as related to classical Roman philosophy and its influence on modern German thought*

When a text is translated into another language, its meaning is often diluted or even distorted. Every language has its own unique spirit and nuanced expressions that cannot be perfectly translated. For this reason, the most thorough scholars work only with original primary sources that are untouched by the process of translation. Philology allows for the examination and interpretation of a text based on the author’s use of sentence structure and vocabulary. As a philosophy student, I have realized that philology is a crucial component in the study of philosophy. While studying both classical and modern texts simultaneously in different classes, I noticed that many ideas in the latter time period seemed to have evolved from the former. Upon further examination, I learned that the German philosophers that I had been reading, such as Hegel and Nietzsche, were trained from a young age in ancient Greek and Latin, and studied classical philosophy in a philological way. Therefore, to better understand how modern philosophers adapted classical ideas, I began my study of Latin this past summer with the help of an Advanced Study Grant.

Kayla Preito-Hodge  
Class of 2014

*Telling Their Side of the Story: An entrance into the intimate lives of Black women and their views on race, love, and gender*

Research on the topic of interracial relationships has immensely developed over the years, yet and still there are flaws. Most of the research done on the subject has heavily excluded the opinion of the Black woman, further marginalizing her positioning in society. In this study, the issue is taken head on and twelve Black women were interviewed to further understand what hinders Black women from engaging in intimate interracial relationships versus their male counterpart. Here we particularly take an interest in Black and White relationships because of the historical tensions that surround these two groups. We asked these Black women a list of questions that aimed not only to reveal their experiences with interracial relationships, but to also reveal their experience with love and Blackness. The voice of the Black male is also present in our study, in hopes of revealing how stigmatized views of both Black women and men has tainted individual ideals of healthy and loving relationships.
The Church in the New World: To Support Spanish language research on religion in colonial America

From the very first stages of colonial development in Latin America, the Catholic Church played a defining role in shaping the administration and culture of the land. This project examines the myriad ways that the Church’s influence manifested in various spheres of colonial life. As a combination of direct Church intervention through Inquisition courts and indirect pressure on the Spanish government to demonstrate the religious value of the colonies, the Catholic Church often had more influence over Latin American colonial administration than the Spanish government itself. Calling upon Inquisition trial reports and other religious documents from the holdings of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, this project demonstrates the deep-rooted and broad-reaching impact of Catholic administration in shaping the lives of indigenous Latin Americans, religious men working in the region, and Spanish government officials whose responsibilities clashed with the religious agenda.

An Intensive Study and Analysis of El Tenebrismo in 16th-17th Century Spain

My research aimed to answer the question: What specifically identifies the artistic technique of el tenebrismo as a uniquely Spanish art technique during the 16th and 17th centuries? Tenebrism (el tenebrismo or, in Italian, chiaroscuro) is a technique of painting that involves the use of violent contrasts between light and shadow, employed prominently by the Spanish hierarchy and religious bodies during the peak and fall of the Spanish Empire. I studied the connection between tenebrism and the political history of Spain, and traced its various European roots and branches in Italian, French, and German paintings. To accomplish this, I visited New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Madrid, Sevilla, and Jerez de la Frontera, met with various curators and professors, and arranged viewings of major artworks.
The educational scene in America has been transformed since the 1990’s with the advent of the charter school movement. Since then, most calls for reform have involved increasing school choice. There is now a marketplace of schools, consisting of three main competitors—public, private, and charter. Public perception of these different models is complicated and diverse. The question that needs to be asked then—especially as many states answer President Obama’s call to remove caps on the number of charter schools allowed to exist—is what discrepancies in equality are we allowing through such different types of schools? Berlin, Germany has a comparable selection of schools. Historically, the different schools have been used to reproduce different social classes. However, with reunification and recent reforms most schools in theory have become accessible to all students. This creates an environment in which the different schools are competing for a population of students which will make them successful. This competition definitely creates innovation (e.g. bilingual instruction). However, the competition is not effective in two ways. First, the innovations often require significant resources to function. Second, the innovations create “perception gaps” about quality of schools, and it is largely the wealthy that are able to navigate the market successfully.

Migrants are an especially vulnerable population in any country. Despite being an integral part of a society’s culture and economy, immigrants often face numerous barriers to access when it comes to health care services. These obstacles range from economic to linguistic to cultural. The goal of this project was to identify these barriers and how the city of Geneva addresses them. After a thorough analysis of existing literature and a series of qualitative interviews with health experts in Geneva, the results show that Geneva has established a unique solution for these problems, notably through a mobile unit called CAMSCO. This program, although effective, does not seem to be a replicable model for many other cities around the globe.
Emily Simon  
Class of 2015

Losing Your Head: Imaging and Imagining Decapitation
Paris is a city singularly preoccupied with the lost head. Ghosts of the guillotine haunt its bloody revolutionary history, while cathedrals pay homage to its patron cephalophore Saint Denis, and tourists invade its quiet catacombs in bustling droves. As is so often the case, culture remedies absence with over-abundance, and the severed head emerged as a primary obsession in the French artistic tradition. The psychoanalytic, feminist, and theological models of analysis propounded by Julia Kristeva’s The Severed Head explain this aesthetic proclivity to enact the loss of the visible as recourse to the loss of invisible—that is, an awareness of our own mortality—advocating a psychologized artistic model that copes with tragedies past and confronts tragedies future. This project engages and illuminates depictions of the severed head across genres and styles encountered during one student’s journey to a myriad of Parisian museums and galleries. The endeavor is both a theoretical and curatorial one, employing and challenging key motifs of Kristevan thought to cull, classify, and analyze a collection of pieces that illustrate the primary place of the severed head in the French imaginary, and in the intellectual experience of humanity at large.

Mark Soo  
Class of 2014  
Poster

Feedback Regulation of the S6 Operon in Escherichia coli  
The ribosomes, which produce proteins in all organisms, are composed of many different protein and RNA components. In order to assemble new ribosomes efficiently, these components must be present in equal levels. A common mechanism of control over ribosomal protein levels is autogenous regulation, in which a ribosomal protein binds to a structured RNA element in its own transcript to prevent translation of that mRNA. Computational analysis revealed a widely-distributed RNA element in the 5’ untranslated region of the operon containing rpsF and rpsR, encoding r-proteins S6 and S18. In this work, we demonstrate that co-expression of S6 and S18 represses translation of genes downstream of the leader element in Escherichia coli. Mutations to the RNA and protein reveal regions important for binding interactions and for regulation. The RNA bases and protein residues implicated by this study are similar to those involved in S6 and S18 assembly onto the 16S ribosomal RNA, suggesting that the RNA regulator mimics the rRNA binding site for the S6:S18 complex. The discovery of this RNA regulator underscores how comparative genomics analysis within growing sequence databases leads to novel discoveries even in very mature areas of inquiry.
Latino immigrant parents’ perceptions of bilingual education: Reasons for enrolling or not enrolling children in bilingual programs

The merits of bilingual education within the United States continue to be heavily debated. Although research has shown that bilingual education programs provide social and cognitive benefits to students, Latino parents often hesitate to enroll their children in bilingual programs. This project aimed to discover parents’ reasons for choosing to enroll or not enroll their children. Interviews were conducted with four middle-class Latino immigrant parents who had the option of enrolling their children in bilingual or monolingual programs. Findings indicated that parents enroll their children because of their belief in the importance of maintaining heritage, increasing cultural capital, and preserving family cohesion. Parents also explained they did not enroll their children because of their fear of stigma and discrimination and desire to assimilate into American society. Policy makers and school districts need to be aware of these reasons and hesitations in their outreach efforts to Latino families so parents and guardians are well informed about the many benefits of bilingual education programs and can take advantage of them for their children.

“Who got more?” The Effects of Ownership and Perceived Deservingness on Children’s Number Estimates

Social factors, such as a bias towards one’s own group (Koudenburg, Postmes, & Gordijn, 2011) and feelings of threat towards one’s group (Cordes, Young, & Heller, in prep.), are known to influence how adults estimate number. In this study, I wanted to investigate whether children’s number estimates are impacted by contextual information about the items they are estimating and about the child who owns the items. Children between the ages of six and nine were asked how many stars they saw on a computer screen. The children were told that some of the stars belonged to them and that the other stars belonged to another child. We hypothesized that children would estimate the number of their own stars as being higher than the other child’s when the other child was described as being undeserving. However, results suggest that children did not show any differences in their estimation of stars for them and stars for the other child, even when the other child was described as being undeserving of the stars. Furthermore, children were asked to directly report who they believed received more stars overall and whether that outcome was fair. Using these self-report measures, we can investigate individual differences in estimation related to ideas of fairness. Limitations of the current study and further directions will also be discussed.
The project consisted of conducting research to discover whether an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) could be created based on Venezuelan debt instruments. The investigation had three main focus points: ETFs, their creation and performance; bonds, their behavior and relation to international markets; and the Venezuelan economic and political situation. By combining these three elements, the investigation created a holistic view of the risk and rewards that the ETF would present to potential investors. This project is of special significance because it gives an opportunity to look deeply into the finances of a country that has proved a key player in Latin-American affairs. The complexity of the Venezuelan economy and its inextricable connection to the political arena, as well as the political turmoil surrounding the death of long-time leader Hugo Chavez, made this project infinitely more interesting, but also more difficult. At the time when the research was carried out there was great speculation and uncertainty about what would be in store for Venezuela’s future. Even today, the future of Venezuela is uncertain, the economy in a state of flux, making the research performed still relevant even if the conditions under which it was carried out changed greatly.

Jemima Victor
Class of 2015
Poster

Academic Achievement & the Bicultural Experience of Haitian Youth
Research suggests that immigrant youth experience difficulty acculturating to the American education system, and this has an impact on their academic performance. This inductive study explored how Haitian college students navigate the cultural landscape in an American higher education context, and how their experience as Haitian students impacts their academic experience. In-depth interviews were conducted with second-generation Haitian college students. The findings indicate that in predominately white educational spaces, students felt the need to overcome negative stereotypes attributed to their cultural identity in order to succeed and experienced difficulty expressing their spirituality in peer groups. Results from this study could assist those developing cultural competency programs for teachers working with immigrant youth.