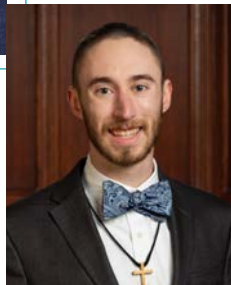
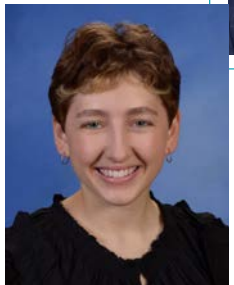
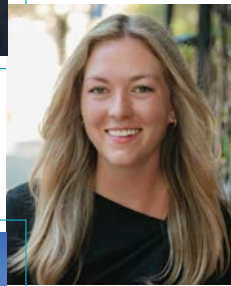




UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

ARTS & LETTERS



2024

SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

Study everything. Do anything.SM



Dear colleagues, students, and friends,

I am delighted to present this College of Arts & Letters book that highlights 193 original works of research and creativity by 190 seniors. These yearlong projects showcase the Class of 2024's academic prowess and innovative skills, as well as its fascinating array of scholarly interests.

The wide-ranging scope of research includes projects that examine presidential populist rhetoric, the relationship between wilderness and accessibility, analytic class number formula, the impact of Taylor Swift's tour on the hotel industry, implementation of a campus carbon food-labeling pilot program, and dark matter.

Seniors also demonstrated their talents and imagination through the development of a comedy television show, design of dinnerware, transformation of language in environmental lawsuits into poetry, and a performance of classical and musical theatre works by Laitman, Mahler, and Bernstein.

Many of these seniors — who started their college careers when COVID-19 restrictions were in place — traveled throughout the nation and around the world to inform their research and enrich their experiences.

I'm heartened when students say their thesis/creative project is a defining part of their undergraduate careers. For some, it even shapes their future in surprising ways — like Anna Bachiochi, a philosophy major and A&L pre-health supplementary major, it also led to an exciting academic opportunity prior to medical school.

"I have grown as a researcher, writer, and philosophical thinker. I loved the project so much that I applied to a few philosophy master's programs for my gap year before medical school," she wrote in her reflection on her thesis. "I got full funding to one and will be doing that next year! I don't know if I would have made that decision if it were not for my thesis."

As is the case each year, I applaud the many faculty members who generously shared their expertise and goodwill to help make the enriching experiences described in this book possible.

To the Class of 2024, I am so proud of all you have accomplished and am grateful for your many contributions to the College and our University. I wish each of you blessings as you continue to learn, grow, create, and make the world a better place.

Sarah A. Mustillo

Sarah A. Mustillo

I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean
College of Arts & Letters



Jennifer Delgado

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Global Affairs
- Minor: Russian
- Questbridge Scholar
- Advisor: A. James McAdams

Behind the Curtain: Unveiling the Art of Narrative Warfare by the Kremlin

This thesis project explores the Kremlin's involvement in the information war, with a particular emphasis on the strategies employed by Russia during times of conflicts. Specifically, it examines the Russo-Georgian War in 2008 and the annexation of Crimea in 2014 as case studies, analyzing how the narrative evolved to suit each conflict.

As a political science major with a minor in Russian language, the (re)invasion of Ukraine sparked my interest in the disinformation and propaganda campaign orchestrated by Russia. Through further research, I discovered a connection between past conflicts involving Russia, while shedding light on patterns in the ongoing war with Ukraine.

**Cullen Geahigan**

Hometown: Ellensburg, Washington

- Majors: Political Science and Russian
- International Security Studies Certificate and Kellogg International Scholars Program
- Advisor: Sebastian Rosato

Right Makes Might: Regime Type and Battlefield Effectiveness

Through in-depth process tracing, my thesis analyzes conditions under which regime type affects battlefield military effectiveness.

I chose this topic because I believe that if regime type does have an impact on military effectiveness, then it would provide the democratic/autocratic world with a comparative advantage that may help predict long-term international political outcomes.

In other words, at the end of history, after the Darwinian battle for survival, can autocracy and democracy survive?

**Catherine Schafer**

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

- Major: German
- Minors: Business Economics and Data Science
- Sheedy Family Program in Economy, Enterprise, and Society and iTREDS (Interdisciplinary Traineeship for Responsibly Engaged Data Scientists) Scholar
- Advisor: Mark Roche

Poetry in the Visual World: An Analysis of Selected German-Language Poems from Eichendorff to Steinherr

This thesis seeks to investigate the nature of the imagery evoked through poetry, particularly through the lens of German poems.

Analyzing works from five different poets — Joseph von Eichendorff, Theodor Storm, Jakob van Hoddis, Paul Celan, and Ludwig Steinherr — hailing from literary periods spanning the Romantic to the Contemporary, the figurative effects and graphic impact of the poets' diction and rhetorical devices are considered.

**Madison (Mimi) Schneider**

Hometown: Granger, Indiana

- Major: German
- Minors: Business Economics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Globally Engaged Citizens Program
- Advisor: Mark Roche

Poetic Enchantment and Poetic Ambiguity: Understanding the Nature of German Romanticism by Interpreting Four Eichendorff Poems

In my thesis, I analyze four poems by the German Romantic poet Joseph von Eichendorff.

My primary focus is the form, structure, and meaning of the poetry, including how Eichendorff portrays Romantic themes, such as isolation of the self, time's fleeting nature, human interaction with the sublime, and the magnificence of nature. In my afterword, I draw comparisons between Eichendorff's works and those of Caspar David Friedrich and Mary Oliver.

During my sophomore year, I took the course German Literary and Cultural Tradition. While covering German Romanticism, I found myself particularly captivated by Eichendorff's poetry. I am writing my thesis on Eichendorff to further explore how his poetry fits into, and shapes, the meta-themes of German Romanticism.