“Sex Moderates the Effect of REM Sleep on Emotional Memory Consolidation”

Sleep benefits emotional memory consolidation. This project examined if the amount of REM sleep would predict long-term emotional memory performance. Results indicated that participant sex moderated the effect of REM sleep on negative emotional memory, suggesting that sex may be an important covariate to consider in sleep and memory studies. I am thrilled that I was able to pursue my interest in the bi-directional relationship between sleep and psychopathology. Sleep, and in particular REM sleep, is dysregulated in many mental health disorders. A better understanding of sleep’s role in emotional memory consolidation in healthy individuals will help clarify what might be driving these sleep difficulties.

Marissa Bowman
- Majors in Psychology and International Economics
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Jessica Payne

“Going Green: Unintended Consequences in Informal Sector Recycling”

My thesis examines unintended consequences in informal sector recycling in a garbage dump community outside Granada, Nicaragua. My research suggests that the global recycling movement is a factor in decreasing incomes among garbage pickers, which impacts their lives in many ways—from nutrition and health care to education and housing. The IDS minor inspired me to choose an interdisciplinary research topic. I worked with a partner organization in Granada for this project, and I hope to continue in this field after graduation. I will be presenting my work in the plenary paper session of the annual Society for Economic Anthropology Conference in Athens, Georgia, and publishing the paper in the Journal for Economic Anthropology.

Mark Brahier
- Major in Biological Sciences
- Minor in International Development Studies
- Adviser: Rahul Oka
“Social Support, Rank, and Testosterone in Performance Art”

I followed an improv comedy group to assess the interactions between social support, rank, and testosterone. Performance art provides a unique study population because group members compete to be cast over their peers, but must be collaborative to do so. I asked study participants to rate friendships within the group and to rank other members based on importance to the group, and I measured salivary testosterone in all study participants. Previous research shows that high levels of testosterone are advantageous during competition and public performance, while low testosterone is correlated with nurturing and empathetic behaviors. I wanted to investigate the fluidity of competitive and cooperative behaviors.

“Governmental Efficiency: PPP and Veteran Care”

For my thesis, I examined the local political process presented using a case study in South Bend, Indiana. In addition, I analyzed the public-private partnership model in social programming. This project was an opportunity to understand the intersection between politics, policy, and business, while also allowing me to get involved in the community.
"Beauty in the Burden: The Responsibility and Gift of Caregiving for the Elderly"

My thesis begins with a social analysis of Western culture and practices in relation to the elderly, specifically utilitarianism. I examine moral responsibility toward the elderly, theological understanding of interdependence in the life of God and God’s work, what it means to die well from a Christian perspective, and how caregiving can be service to eternity. I have worked with the elderly and dying for the past three summers, two of which were through the Center for Social Concern’s Summer Service Learning Program. I am interested in going into geriatrics or hospice as a health care practitioner, and I want to best understand how my faith informs that work.

Kaitlyn Kennedy
- Major in Theology
- Minor in Catholic Social Tradition
- Adviser: Margaret Pfeil

"Lo Que Quieren Es un Espacio de Dignidad": How Land Shapes Notions of Identity and Human Dignity in Traditional Communities

My thesis focuses on how notions of identity and human dignity emerge in traditional cultural settings in Chile and England. Both of these case studies are based on fieldwork I did with individuals with Mapuche heritage in Chile and with shepherds in the Lake District of England. I went to Chile with a different research topic in mind, but what emerged from speaking with people once I arrived was how nebulous and confusing the term “Mapuche” is within Chile. I was inspired to include the England case study based on my time in the Lake District and because of its links to the concept of indigeneity.

Teresa Kennedy
- Major in Anthropology
- Supplementary Major in Peace Studies
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Adviser: Gabriel Torres
"The Russia That We Lost: Memory and the Second World War in Modern Russia"

The Soviet Union lost over 20 million lives throughout the course of World War II. This catastrophe, which dwarfs the casualties any other combatant nations experienced, left an indelible mark upon its survivors and ensuing generations. I trace the impact of this loss and the efforts of the Soviet and Russian governments to exploit these feelings and create a unifying national idea around it. As Russia has expanded its influence over world affairs, for better or worse, I looked deeper into the Ukrainian conflict and the language of anti-fascism used by the media on both sides. This led me to examine the ongoing effects of World War II on the Russian psyche.

"Social Mobility and the Military"

My thesis seeks to capture the change in social mobility for African-American soldiers in the U.S. military over time. I compared archaeological and archival evidence of upward social mobility among the Buffalo soldiers at Fort Davis, Texas, with ethnographic evidence collected from current African-American male veterans. By making this comparison, I was able to reach a more well-rounded understanding of sociocultural continuities, race, and identity. After reading Laurie Wilkie's *The Archaeology of Mothering* in an Archaeology and Gender course, I was compelled to explore how evidence of everyday life could point to the construction of identities and communities. After two summers working on California-Berkeley's Fort Davis Archaeology Project, I wanted to delve further into the subject.
"The Impact of Pre-Adjudication Detention on Juvenile Recidivism"

I used data from Marion County, Indiana, to assess whether secure detention prior to a youth’s court appearance has an impact on later criminal behavior. The study used a regression discontinuity approach and found that detention did not lead to a significantly higher recidivism rate. Criminal activity among youths represents a large, costly problem to communities throughout the United States. Rigorous research is necessary to understand and ultimately mitigate its costs. My interest in the topic began last summer when I conducted research with St. Joseph County’s Juvenile Justice Center.

"The Devil in the Details: Interpreting Misconceptions About Doctrinal Development"

I examined the way the Catholic community views doctrinal development and how changes within the Catholic Church reflect on the decisions of the Papacy and the clergy. Using documents written during the Second Vatican Council on the doctrine of religious liberty, I explored how a misunderstanding of the Church’s capacity for development can impact the acceptance of a doctrine and how it is put into practice. As someone who is in her 16th year of Catholic education, I had always been frustrated by what I knew of the Catholic Church’s history. I took this as my opportunity to finally research the things I had always questioned but never fully understood.
The Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, with roots in Latino Catholicism and Christian Pentecostalism, values the experience of spiritual gifts as a reflection of a personal relationship with the divine. Among these gifts are healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. My thesis considers spiritual gifts in the light of anthropological theories of the non-spiritual gift, in which gifts serve to create and maintain interpersonal relationships. The Catholic Charismatics present an energetic revival for a religious tradition with a reputation for emotional restraint. As a case study, Latino Charismatic Catholicism was particularly interesting in its leadership opportunities for the laity.

My project is an illustrated children’s book called Abul-Abbas, the Elephant. The illustrations were inspired by art from the Carolingian Renaissance and the Abassid time period. The story describes the journey of the elephant Abul-Abbas, who was given to Emperor Charlemagne by the caliph Harun al-Rashid around 800 A.D. The journey was led by the Carolingian emissary Isaac. The story appealed to me because it demonstrates political cooperation between a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew at a time which many assume was “barbaric.” I believe that children—and adults—should hear more stories of interreligious dialogue from the past. I also wanted to appeal to children’s sympathy for animals and focus on themes of homesickness and trust.
I am studying how the U.S. education system creates a fear of failure in many elementary school children. Due to the extreme pressure to succeed, many students develop a fear of school. This fear has many negative consequences and can discourage students from wanting to learn. I became interested in this topic because I volunteer with grade school children in the South Bend area. While working with these students, I noticed that many of these students have become discouraged and learned to dislike school. I wanted to understand how school can cause these students to become so frustrated and fearful of education.

My project evaluates the application of a variant of John Stuart Mill’s utilitarian philosophy to environmental policy, using deforestation in Brazil’s Amazonian region as a specific case study. I took a year and a half of Portuguese and spent three weeks doing missionary work in Recife, Brazil. With my background in PLS and sustainability, I wanted to pursue a project which combined my academic interests with my extracurricular interests. I also enjoyed how my topic provided a practical application to a theoretical philosophy.
“Brothers Yesterday, Brothers Today: An Ethnohistory of the Three Fires Confederacy Among the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi”

This study examined the nature of the relationship between the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwe based on linguistic similarities, a historical socio-political alliance, and the possibility of a common ancestor. If this is indeed the case, then there should still be connections between these groups. I was interested in learning more about the Pokagon because of my time as a member of the Native American Association at Notre Dame.

“IT WOULDN’T BE THE FIRST TIME’: WOMANISM & AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN’S ACTIVISM”

My thesis examines the concept of womanism, as coined by Alice Walker, and its implications for African-American women’s activism past and present. I trace womanist ideologies and methods of social change from the work of black women’s associations in the late 1800s and early 1900s, to the “classical” rights movement in the ‘60s and ‘70s, to contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter. Black women activists are often little-known or misunderstood, despite profoundly shaping American history. After reading Walker’s In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens and taking the course Lives Pursued on the Margins: Women in the American Civil Rights Movement, I decided to examine how womanist thought might help us better conceptualize their work. I received a UROP Grant to present a portion of my thesis at “The Womanist Mystique: A Symposium on Scholarship and Activism,” in February at Princeton University.
“Connectivity Along the Ice Age Trail”

I analyzed how trail networks, such as the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, influence social and environmental connectivity within nearby communities. Last summer, I worked with the Ice Age Trail Alliance in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, on trail building and community-outreach projects. I was amazed by how the trail brings people together and encourages greater environmental sustainability. Seeing this made me want to investigate the positive effects the trail had on its users.

— Molly Seidel, Major in Anthropology, Minor in Sustainability, Adviser: Gabriel Torres

“Inverse Inequality: How Both Genders Navigate Identity Amidst the Sexual Double Standard of Hook-up Culture in College”

Research on the sexual double standard traditionally views men as benefactors. However, since traditional notions of heterosexual masculinity value sexual conquests, I hypothesize that gender has a moderating effect on the relationship between sexual activity and identity. Virginity can serve to protect women from stigmatization; however, men are scrutinized for not participating in hook-up culture, meaning that virgin men in fact experience stigmatization and shame similar to that of casually sexually active women in college. I was fascinated by the way sexuality shapes my friends’ views of themselves, and wondered how this differed for my male friends.

— Shannon Sheehan, Majors in Sociology and Gender Studies, Adviser: Mary Ellen Konieczny
“Product Design”

I designed and created an installation of home goods and accessories out of various salvaged textiles and material. I am interested in experimentation in material choices for soft-good products, particularly with an emphasis on having a green footprint or zero net waste. There is an abundant amount of material humans create and recycle, so I sought to upcycle materials, transforming them into products with longer lives for the home good market.

Blair Sherry
• Major in Industrial Design
• Minor in Poverty Studies
• Adviser: Ann-Marie Conrado

“International Intellectual Property Law & Traditional Craft Technologies: A Case Study”

Using historical looms and weaving paraphernalia from around the world, I examined how modern intellectual property law succeeds and fails to protect traditional technologies. I also considered the cultural incongruities between Western intellectual property concepts and traditional concepts of ownership. I intend to study traditional crafts as an experimental archaeologist. I chose to investigate this because of an experience I had in Tanzania. A Maasai woman was reluctant to teach Westerners the method of producing traditional jewelry because she feared we would steal the knowledge and outsell her and her tribe. I am presenting my thesis at the annual Society for American Archaeology Conference in Florida on April 7, 2016.

Victoria Sluka
• Major in Anthropology
• Minor in Studio Art
• Adviser: Ian Kuijt
“The Celebration of Distinction: Craft Beer Culture in the Midwest”

The purpose of my thesis was to research the unique culture that is craft beer drinking. Through ethnographic interviews and numerous surveys, I was able to form a hypothesis as to why craft beer has become so popular since the early 2000s. My topic is in the field of socio-cultural anthropology. Out of the four areas of anthropology, this has been the field I’ve been most interested in because it deals so closely with people’s shared experiences. The topic I chose is unique since there has been very little work published on craft beer culture.

“Bonaventure and the Epistemic Relationship Between Philosophy and Theology”

In the first part of my thesis, I investigate various interpretations of Bonaventure regarding the relationship between philosophy and theology. In the second part, I take the best interpretation and evaluate its validity. Is Bonaventure still relevant today? Bonaventure is my favorite philosopher and is scandalously undervalued today. I hope others will find a love for him too.
There’s No Parent Training: The Interplay of Medical, North American, and Traditional Parenting Models in Nicaragua

As North American influence increases in southwestern Nicaragua through tourism and NGOs, Nicaraguan parents face challenges to their traditional parenting methods from medical and North American authority figures. This paper explores how the community is responding to this increased influence in their lives by asking how they raise, and believe they should raise, their children. After receiving a grant to intern at a pediatric clinic in southwest Nicaragua from the Kellogg Institute last summer, I found that the organization faced challenges of both a medical and cultural nature in the changing community. As a hopeful future pediatrician, I was excited to explore the intersection of childhood development and international development in my thesis.

Cyber: The Future of War?

My capstone project provides some dialogue on whether the definition of war really satisfies the reality of current warfare. Cyber and information attacks are used all the time by governments and defense departments around the world. The important question to answer is if these actions constitute an act of war. If so, should there be international laws to govern the use of such actions? Is cyber the future of war? I interned last summer at Deloitte in the Cyber Risk Division and interned for a semester at the House Committee on Homeland Security. These experiences sparked my interest in public policy, national security, and information security.