

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.