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THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
THANKS YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR
STUDENTS. GOOD CHEER TO ALL!

Eighth Annual
Undergraduate
Research Exposition

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011
FROM FOUR TO SEVEN O’CLOCK
SIXTH FLOOR, FLANNERY HALL
Nativism and Latino Homelessness: Liminal Lives and Engaged Ethnography in Santa Ana, California

By: Melissa Wrapp

In the United States, “the Latino” is increasingly constructed as fundamentally threatening and problematic by both nativist ideologies and seemingly more neutral media discussions. Santa Ana, California, is a city whose population is over 75% Latino and 50% foreign born.

This is where I spent two months (summer 2010) conducting personal interviews and participant observation in order to investigate how this narrative plays out on the ground. In particular, as an intern at the Orange County Catholic Worker House, I engaged the city’s low income and homeless Latino population, gaining a unique perspective of its interaction with local government. Empirical research reveals not only the inadequacy of this narrative, but also its socially divisive efforts that distinctly marginalize Santa Ana’s homeless population.

Applying ethnographic methods and a broader anthropological perspective to such an issue with growing social impacts is essential in rooting engaged scholarship, political discourses, and religious social teachings in the lived experiences of individuals and the larger context of urban life, and is the only means through which truly effective policy change can be developed.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maurizio Albahari

Funding: Center for Social Concerns (Summer Service Learning Program)
Constructions. Changes that occur on a landscape are not just adaptations to a new environment; rather they contain meaningful symbolic elements of social relationships and ideologies. Spaces like "houses, barns, and gardens that comprise cultural landscapes embody information about their makers because the built environment actively serves to create, reproduce, and transform social relations" (Rotman and Nassaney: 1997). Despite ever-changing social trends and ideologies, these physical manifestations can assist in making links of continuity across various landscapes. After exploring both Beaver Island and ÁRAINN MHÓR, recovered data is revealing intriguing links between the Irish and American mental templates as exhibited and illustrated through an examination of the domestic spaces.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman

Funding: Nanovic Institute for European Studies; Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant; Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts; Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement

Introduction

Eighth Annual University of Notre Dame Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Research Exposition April 28th, 2011

As a department our commitment to collaborative learning and “hands-on” engagement results in the annual production of innovative research projects by students in the classroom, the laboratory, and the field. This poster presentation and multi-media reception highlights the original research work of our undergraduate students and emphasizes the diverse and rich academic environment at the University of Notre Dame.

We are pleased that you have joined us to recognize and celebrate our students’ achievements in creating and disseminating knowledge. Thank you for attending this event.
Senior Thesis Oral Presentations

621 Flanner Hall

Claire Naus 5:00pm-5:10pm

It Feels Bad: Hunger, Food Insecurity, and the Liminal Status of Women in Lesotho

Kevin Danchisko 5:10pm-5:20pm

Protraying Indigenous Culture: How Indigenous Identity is Created and Represented in Indigenous, University, and National Museums

Molly Boyle 5:20pm-5:30pm

Human Trafficking in the United States Food Industry and NGO Activism

Claire Brown 5:30pm-5:40pm

The Commodification of Heritage: The Changing Role of the Connemara Pony in Western Society

Faculty Host: Dr. Ian Kuijt

Spatial Dimensions of Social Relations: An Examination of Beaver Island and Árainn Mhóir Through Domestic Space

By: Jacqueline Thomas

“This story is unique in the history of emigration from Ireland, it tells of an eviction from an island in the year 1851. It tells how those evictees made their way to the new world and founded a parallel island community. It tells how the Irish and American islands found each other again in modern times.”


These quotations describe the relationship between ÁRAINN MHÓIR in the county Donegal, Ireland and Beaver Island, Michigan. The two communities, although separated by the Atlantic ocean, are inextricably tied to one another and remain one of the most fascinating stories of emigration in North America. Beaver Island "Reminded them of the old, in family after family the words have come down, 'it was like Ireland'” (Collar: 1976). One of the most interesting concepts of Irish immigration to Beaver Island is the aspect of space and how gender roles and the domestic space of Irish immigrant families was transformed when they emigrated. Rooted in the “strong American belief in the power of architecture to shape lives” (Spain: 2001), this project seeks to retain an understanding of space and gender relations by referring to the physical manifestations and transformations found within the architecture of ÁRAINN MHÓIR and Beaver Island.

Landscapes are malleable entities that are molded to suit the needs of their inhabitants. Analyzing a landscape is a telling feature about inhabitants and reveals prevalent social and gender...
Morality, Control, and the Production of Healthy Bodies at the University of Notre Dame

by: Jennifer Schulte & Megan Stoffer

Notre Dame is often classified as a “health-conscious” campus as a majority of the student body places an exceedingly high emphasis on physical fitness and healthy eating. This research investigates why students engage in health promoting activities and what implications these pursuits have on their sense of physical embodiment and sense of self. We used dorm-wide questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with undergraduate students who regularly engage in fitness activities. These reveal that Notre Dame students establish and prioritize personal health and fitness goals, and feel good about their bodies, physically and psychologically, when they achieve these aspirations. Students imbue health behaviors and their bodies with moral judgments. Ideas of self-worth are contingent upon students’ abilities to successfully control their bodies through adherence to self-imposed fitness standards. The widespread expression of a desire to control one’s body and the perception that the body as distinct from and subject to regulation by the mind suggests that students’ health behaviors are also influenced by the dominance of Cartesian Dualism in the Western tradition.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka

Senior Thesis Oral Presentations

625 Flanner Hall

Andrew Hessert 5:00pm-5:10pm
Creative Expression in the Brazilian Favela: WordsCannotExpress.com

Elizabeth Young 5:10pm-5:20pm
Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Language and Identity Negotiation in Contemporary Madrid

Elise Gerspach 5:20pm-5:30pm
Native American Communities and American Museums: Continuing the Project of Decolonization

Hannah Jackson 5:30pm-5:40pm
Defining Rural Development: A Case Study of Educational Initiative in Southwestern Tanzania

Katie Fitzpatrick 5:40pm-5:50pm
Menarcheal and Menopausal Studies: Toward a Unified Methodology

Faculty Host: Dr. Maurizio Albahari
It Feels Bad: Hunger, Food Insecurity, and the Liminal Status of Women in Lesotho

Claire Naus

621 Flanner Hall

5:00 PM - 5:10 PM

This thesis will explore the everyday experiences of women in Lesotho, specifically how they experience hunger, contend with food insecurity, and negotiate their liminal status in a fragile but staunchly patriarchal society. Women are considered subordinate to men in Basotho society; however, as a result of the absence of their husbands due primarily to labor migration, many women act as de facto household heads and are, for all intents and purposes, single parents. I will examine how resilient Basotho mothers and grandmothers support their households and sustain their communities despite desperate conditions of poverty and widespread food insecurity in an area ravaged by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The majority of this research was conducted on my second visit to the isolated, rural highlands of Lesotho from May to July of 2010. Methods used to understand the lived experiences of
It's All in Your Head: Heat Related Deformation & Color Change in the Frontal Bones at Bab edh-Dhra'

by: Katie Whitmore, Elena Rodriguez, Jamie Ullinger, & Dr. Sue Sheridan

Heat related deformations, such as warping, delamination, deformatory fractures, and bone color can be used to determine whether bones were burned in a wet versus dry state. This study investigated frontal bones from charnel house A22 from the Early Bronze Age (2950-2200 BC) site of Bab edh-Dhra', Jordan. It was hypothesized that skulls would exhibit few deformations, as archaeological records indicated that fire was not a part of the site’s mortuary tradition, despite the extensive burning seen in bones from the tomb. Additionally, this study hypothesized that deformations would occur more frequently with gray and white bones (colors indicating that the bone was exposed to high heat). The presence of warping, delamination, and deformatory fracturing was assessed on three different landmarks (midpoint of the supraorbital tori, frontal eminence and mid-coronal suture) on 122 frontal bones. Color was also assessed with both the Munsell Color system and by using a spectrophotometer. Delamination was only found on one of 77 supraorbital tori (1.3%), while warping was found as high as 10.8% (9/83) and fracturing was as high as 12.0% (9/75). Specimens from the right side were analyzed and showed no difference among the frontal regions for warping (p=0.41), delamination (p=1), or deformatory fracturing (p=0.17). Finally, preliminary analysis suggested deformatory features appeared more often on calcined bone. The lack of directional burning in addition to a comparison of other known archaeological and forensic sites indicated

Basotho women include participant observation and semi-structured interviews with forty mothers and grandmothers and five nurses. Although hunger, food insecurity, and gender inequality make the liminal lives of Basotho women incredibly difficult and, thus, seem out of the ordinary, these struggles have come to be routine for women in Lesotho. This thesis will explore how various forms of everyday violence have become normalized and how the liminal status of Basotho women, specifically their ability to move between the public and private spheres, has the potential to give women an integral role in initiatives that seek to ameliorate hunger, food insecurity, poverty, gender inequality, and other forms of hidden violence in their lives.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka;
Dr. Catherine Bolten (second reader)

Funding: Kellogg Institute for International Studies; Glynn Family Honors Program
Portraying Indigenous Culture: How Indigenous Identity is Created and Represented in Indigenous, University, and National Museums

Kevin Danchisko
621 Flanner Hall
5:10PM-5:20PM

The purpose of this thesis is to identify and explore factors that help determine indigenous people’s identities particularly in reference to indigenous museums. These influences on identity formation include the perspectives and worldviews of indigenous and non-indigenous people, the notions of objectivity and subjectivity, the history of misconstructions of indigenous identity that museums have helped perpetuate, and the idea of contested history. Three different kinds of museums, indigenous, university, and national, are examined for differences in how indigenous people relate to them and how the museums create indigenous identity. Literature review formed the basis for the theoretical background of this thesis, and visits to museums and interviews with

Dancing Shiva
by: Emily Reineccius

Shiva, also known as Nataraja, is an iconic Hindu god. As displayed in the Snite, he is in his vigorous lively form, dancing the Dance of Bliss surrounded by circle of fire. Shiva represents the cycle of life and death, creation and destruction. Shiva stands most commonly outside of temples as a statue made of shiny bronze. The most important part of Shiva is the four mudra, or hand gestures within his dance. In his upper right hand, Shiva holds an hourglass shaped drum, which represents the creation of life between a man and a woman. The upper left hand holds a small fire, symbolizing destruction. Shiva’s pose is very energetic and powerful as he crushes the egoistical dwarf below him. The hands stretched out in front of Shiva signify his triumph over ignorance and fear. His energy extends throughout the entire universe in the wonders of creation and destruction. I will focus my presentation on the strength of Shiva on the life opposites in creation and destruction. As related to gender, Shiva uses his sexuality with the dance to portray his power over ignorance. I will use his sexuality as a discussion point to compare the Hindu god to Christian values and to Western culture in the differences of gender in a powerful male figure with a lot of sexual energy.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman
Cultural Norms, and (5) Challenges accompanying demographic trends.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka

Funding: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters, the University of Notre Dame, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies

Museum workers were conducted to expand on the scholarly literature. The Zuni people are used as a primary case study, and supporting details from other indigenous groups are presented. This thesis suggests that a major way in which identity creation can be controlled by indigenous people is through cooperative work with Western museums, particularly in creating collaborative catalogues with them. By understanding how identity is influenced by museums, people can better understand indigenous relationships with museums.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanne Mack

Funding: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts
Human Trafficking in the United States Food Industry and NGO Activism

Molly Boyle
621 Flanner Hall
5:20pm-5:30pm

Whereas the eating experience in the United States has become a venerated cultural and social practice, food production is mired in inhumane abuse of labor. Because of the invisibility of the food production process, abuses of the workers’ most basic human right to move freely continue, despite legal protections of labor. This paper explores trafficking in the United States food industry and the role of NGOs in identifying and assisting survivors. The paper presents results of research on one agency in Washington, D.C. that reaches out to victims of trafficking.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Richman

Declining Birth Rates in France: An Anthropological Investigation of Cause and Consequence

by: Alison Podlaski

Throughout Europe, birthrates have been steadily declining for over a century, profoundly impacting individuals, families, nations, and the entire global community. In attempts to combat these plummeting birthrates, pro-natal policies that encourage people to have children in a variety of ways have emerged throughout Europe that function by offering incentives and providing services to make raising children a more appealing prospect [1]. Although the institution of such policies is widespread, they are not all equally successful, and many regions continue to suffer from the fertility slump. [2] One nation that has displayed resilience in the midst of this general slump in fertility through the effective implementation of pro-natal policies, however, is France. Yet, it is undeniable that pro-natal policies represent only a small part of the larger cultural context in which birthrates are declining.

This study attempts to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the current demographic trends in birthrates in France and throughout Europe as a whole by investigating the implications of cause and consequence and examining how policies interact with cultural norms. Research was conducted with an interdisciplinary approach through a series of interviews that contextualize existing publications and relevant studies. Areas explored include: (1) historical context, (2) current policies in France, (3) the dynamics of policy-sharing between nations, (4) the importance of
Gender in The Rape of Prosperpina

by: Iris Petersen

I will be presenting on the oil painting of The Rape of Prosperpina for my Gender Anthropology class with Professor Rotman. The painting by Jean-Francois de Troy encompasses many ideas about the power of men over women, the voice a woman should have in matters of sex and marriage, and the tension developed between the family a girl grows up with and the one she is expected to create after marriage through a depiction of Roman mythology. Jean-Francois de Troy painted the piece in 1735. Previous artists had depicted the same myth without the aspect of women having the aspect to choose (omitting Cyane, who proclaims this idea). This addition to the painting reflects the developing ideas of women’s very basic rights. The painting depicts the Roman myth of the birth of spring through the Rape of Prosperpina’s. In this context and time, “rape” meant both kidnapping and the modern definition. Pluto takes Prosperpina to the underworld with him after being struck by Cupid’s arrow. Cyane tries to prevent this act, and Prosperpina’s mother must go to great lengths to get her back. Each of these pieces is presented in the painting. De Troy depicts Prosperpina as a stereotypical helpless woman. Pluto takes advantage of her with ease, and others must work to save her. Also, the knowledge that Pluto is supposedly in love with her creates a reflection of roles in love, which are very extreme. The man is in complete control, and Prosperpina simply being controlled. However, the painting also points toward the idea that the act should involve the consent of the woman, which shows a turn in the ideas of the time.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman

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The Commodification of Heritage: The Changing Role of the Connemara Pony in Western Irish Society

Claire Brown

621 Flanner Hall

5:30pm-5:40pm

Connemara pony shows in western Ireland are critical social, economic, and political forums in which a close-knit community shares breeding knowledge and develops intricate social networks. This research examines the extent to which social networks are created by animal breeding, thereby shaping rural social life. Over the last 30 years the role of the Connemara pony has changed from an economic commodity bred for agricultural tasks to one in which the pony is a physical and symbolic reflection of regional Irish heritage and status. In light of the current economic crisis this is a pivotal time in the breed’s history, and a moment when there is a transition occurring between traditional social values, economic value, and show standards. Thus, this research also investigates how breeding is directed by the shifting definition of what represents
The idealized Connemara pony in a newly international, rather than agricultural, showing and breeding landscape.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Agustin Fuentes & Dr. Ian Kuijt

Funding: The Nanovic Institute for European Studies; Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Revolution, Romanticism, and Gender: The Illustration of Gender Ideals in Muller's The Last Roll Call of the Victims of the Terror

by: Katie O'Rourke

This project examines the illustration of gender in The Last Roll Call of the Victims of the Terror, painted in 1850 by Charles-Louis Muller. The painting portrays a prison scene from the Reign of Terror in 1794, a period when those who were suspected of supporting the counter-Revolution were imprisoned and executed. In the scene, a Revolutionary guard announces the names of the prisoners—both men and women—who are to be brought to the guillotine. The expressions and gestures of the men and women are very different; the women are all in poses that clearly portray great distress, while the men, though also distressed, are much more composed. This contrast between the portrayal of different genders can shed light on how women were perceived not only during the French Revolution, but also during the Romantic Period, when Muller produced the painting. Women were well-respected before the Revolution, but came to be seen as a threat by the Revolutionaries. Consequently, they experienced a diminished standing in society after the Revolution, one that would be challenged by artists like Muller who were part of the Romantic movement. Symbolism and historical inaccuracies depicted in the painting can further clue us in to Muller’s own ideas about the Revolution and Romanticism. Examination of all of these elements in The Last Roll Call reveals a fascinating illustration of gender and the Revolution from Muller’s perspective.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanne Mack

Creative Expression in the Brazilian Favela:
WordsCannotExpress.com

ANDREW HESSERT
625 Flanner Hall
5:00pm-5:10pm

“Não consegue expressar só em palavras bonitas.”

“One cannot express only in pretty words.”

Underscored by this phrase is a community living in poverty, experiencing challenges, tragedy, and triumph. The children in this community are the future that we are doubtful of. Lack of education, healthcare, dangerous enticements of all sorts, and most of all, lack of self-esteem threaten to keep them in a stagnant state of suffering. Driven by the creative expression of art, music, and culture, their stories create the foundation for the construction of a hopeful future. What can we learn from their stories? How must we see these stories in the context of a billion people around the world living in extreme poverty? How do we learn from those in extreme poverty, when they do not have access to the narrow window through
WHICH KNOWLEDGE PASSES TODAY? WE CANNOT INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR PROBLEMS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNLESS WE WIDEN THAT WINDOW THROUGH WHICH WE TEACH AND LEARN. TO BRING THE ISSUES OF POVERTY AND MARGINALIZATION TO ACADEMIA, IT MUST FIRST PASS THROUGH THE IMPOVERISHED AND THE MARGINALIZED. WE MUST FLIP OUR NOTION OF TEACHER AND STUDENT ON ITS HEAD. LISTENING TO THEIR STORIES MAY ALLOW US TO DO THIS, AND DISCOVER SOLUTIONS THAT BECOME EVIDENT THROUGH A WIDER LENS.

I HAVE CREATED AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE TO SHARE A COLLECTION OF STORIES BASED ON THE THEMES AND VARIOUS REALITIES I WITNESSED DURING MY FIELD RESEARCH IN THE FAVELAS OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL. THESE STORIES, PAIRED WITH ETHNOGRAPHY AND ANALYSIS, PRESENT WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH WE MAY LEARN FROM THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF THOSE LIVING IN THE SLUMS.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Nordstrom
Funding: Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Art in Miniature: Questions about a Model Totem Pole

by: Liz Olveda

The Native American Collection at the Snite Museum of Art contains a Northwest Coast model totem pole (1985.067.023), about which little is known. When the piece was originally accessed into the museum’s collection, only the most general descriptive information was recorded. This form of description mimics the perception of the public, who incorrectly interpret totem poles as symbols and icons of a generalized Native American identity (that has no respect for individual native cultures). With such little known about the piece, it becomes relatively useless in correcting this perception or furthering any sort of educational or institutional goals. As the piece continues to be stored and cared for, it is imperative that it be properly identified. My research focuses on the identification, categorization, and description of 1985.067.023. Description proved to be the least difficult. The style of art particular to the Northwest Coast is quite distinct, and scholars have been especially vigilant in researching the aspects of totem pole art that characterizes the culture of the Northwest Coast. Description includes materials, dimensions, and the identification and meaning of the figures used. Through categorization and identification I mean to connect the style of the pole with a specific Northwest Coast culture and to identify a possible function. Several issues particular to this object prevented positive results. First, information from the donor makes the origin of the piece incredibly difficult to trace. Second, as the totem pole is a model, normal modes of categorization could not be used. Third, often
Quality of Life for the Sick and Dying: Challenges in Palliative Care and the Disparity between Access and Allocation of Palliative versus Curative Services

by Hanna O'Brien

Uganda's health rankings are among the poorest in sub-Saharan Africa due to geographical isolation, lack of resources, political corruption, and continuous governmental alteration to district boundaries. With the recent accelerated success of the palliative care movement in Uganda and with cancer rates at the highest, my research addresses how the limited access to anticancer treatments and how the understanding of palliative care and cancer affects the local perception of the medical need and illness. I will present data based on ethnographic research carried out in the Central Region of Uganda last summer which will also carry into this upcoming summer. My results elucidate the development of palliative care and show the discrepancy between accessibility and allocation of medical services. The results will help develop a new "re-distincting" formula in order to create a tangible difference in Uganda healthcare by providing sustainable health initiatives and by strengthening material and social support. Additionally, my findings address the issue of power, communication, and efficacy in international efforts and provide valuable information which may assist other areas of the developing world better work toward sustainable development.

faculty mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka

Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Language and Identity Negotiation in Contemporary Madrid

Elizabeth Young
625 Flanner Hall
5:10pm-5:20pm

Analyses of indigenous culture generally suggest that indigenous identity is lost when a community assimilates into a more dominant social group, migrates away from its ancestral homeland, or embraces non-indigenous behavior. In particular, the adoption of a different language is among the most common arguments employed to claim that a group has strayed from its indigenous roots. Grounded in review of existing literature, observation in the field, and personal interviews, my research explores this identity-migration dichotomy and examines how Peruvian migrant communities in Madrid, Spain incorporate traditional elements of Andean culture and indigenous language into their daily lives. Discussions of colonial history and imposed shame, along with an exploration of various integration processes, will contribute to my investigation of the following research questions: Can immigrants reconcile cultural traditions of the Andean countryside and memories of...
IMPERIAL SUBJUGATION WITH THE MODERNITY AND GLOBALIZATION THAT CHARACTERIZE MADRID? HOW DO PERUVIAN MIGRANTS EXPERIENCE LINGERING CULTURAL COLONIZATION IN THEIR NEW SPANISH COMMUNITIES AND ACHIEVE SOCIAL RECOGNITION OR VALIDATION OF THEIR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PRACTICES AND NATIVE LANGUAGE? THE CASE OF PERUVIAN MIGRATION TO SPAIN HIGHLIGHTS AN EMERGING PARADOX IN SCHOLARLY DISCOURSE OF HIERARCHICAL POWER RELATIONS: INDIGENOUS PERUVIAN POPULATIONS THAT WERE ONCE SUBORDINATED AND MARGINALIZED BY PROCESSES OF SPANISH IMPERIALISM ARE RETURNING TO THE ROOTS OF EUROPEAN INFLUENCE AND SEEKING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT FROM THE SAME TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT WERE ONCE PROHIBITED. THIS RESEARCH OFFERS AN ETHNOGRAPHIC EXAMPLE THAT CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF COSMOPOLITANISM AND INDIGENEITY AS MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. IN PARTICULAR, EXAMINATION OF INDIGENOUS SOCIAL SURVIVAL AND CULTURAL REPRODUCTION ILLUMINATE THE WAYS IN WHICH INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS AND ETHNIC IDENTITIES ARE RECONSTRUCTED TO ALLOW FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC SURVIVAL, AND THUS CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD AS PAROCHIAL AND STATIC.

FACULTY MENTOR: DR. MAURIZIO ALBAHARI
FUNDING: INSTITUTE FOR SCHOLARSHIP IN THE LIBERAL ARTS; CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

ERE IBEJI AND GENDER

BY: LAURA MITTELSTAEDT

FOR DR. ROTMAN’S ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER COURSE, I RESEARCHED AND STUDIED THE ERE IBEJI FEMALE TWIN FIGURE PRODUCED BY THE YORUBA PEOPLE OF NIGERIA. THE YORUBA TRIBE IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN AFRICA AND ALSO HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF TWINNING IN THE WORLD: 4.5% PERCENT OF ALL BIRTHS ARE TWINS. BECAUSE TWINS ARE SO COMMON, THEY HAVE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE YORUBA CULTURE: TWINS ARE CONSIDERED EMIL ALAGBARA, OR POWERFUL SPIRITS, WHO ARE “CAPABLE OF BRINGING RICHES TO THEIR PARENTS AND MISFORTUNE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HONOR THEM.” HOWEVER, BECAUSE TWINS ARE OFTEN VERY SMALL AT BIRTH, IT IS COMMON FOR ONE OR BOTH OF THEM TO DIE AT A YOUNG AGE. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, AN IBEJI WILL BE COMMISSIONED FROM A MASTER CARVER. THE FIGURE IS THEN CARED FOR IN SPECIFIC WAYS FOR THE REST OF THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER’S LIFE, AS A WAY OF MOURNING THE TWIN’S DEATH AND APPEASING ITS SPIRIT. FOR THE YORUBA, THE IBEJI ARE NOT JUST MEMORIAL FIGURES; THEY ARE TREATED AS LIVING CHILDREN BECAUSE THE CAREGIVER FEELS AS THOUGH THE CHILD’S SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN THEM. IBEJI ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF OUR CLASS’ CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GENDER BECAUSE THE IBEJI ARE ALWAYS CARVED WITH ADULT FEATURES, WITH DEVELOPED BREASTS AND GENITALS, EVEN WHEN THE TWIN DIED AT A YOUNG AGE. ADDITIONALLY, BECAUSE MOTHERS ARE OFTEN THE CAREGIVERS FOR IBEJI, CARING FOR THEM AND APPEASING THEIR SPIRITS BECOMES PART OF THE FEMALE GENDER ROLE. THE IBEJI PRESENT INTERESTING IDEAS ABOUT GENDER AND EMPHASIZE THE STRONG FAMILY VALUES THAT CHARACTERIZE YORUBA SOCIETY.

FACULTY MENTOR: DR. DEB ROTMAN
Native American Communities and American Museums: Continuing the Project of Decolonization

Elise Gerspach
625 Flanner Hall
5:20pm-5:30pm

Museums are places where people go to seek information, knowledge, and a greater understanding of the topic with which a particular museum engages. In Western cultural tradition, museums, especially historical museums, use their exhibits and facts to legitimize a dominant Western worldview and historical framework, and therefore represent a colonial enterprise. This project focuses on how traditional museums are a manifestation of a persisting colonialist attitude toward Native Americans in our culture and how new museum practices are developing to call into question and combat that troubled history. Repatriation of Native American artifacts, further involvement of Native peoples and new respect for their cultural beliefs in museum practices, and the creation of community and tribal museums under the direction of specific tribe members are ways in which Native Americans reclaim cultural...
Authority in a space to which they traditionally have not had access. Special attention is given to the Zuni A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Cultural Resource Center, and the National Museum of the American Indian as examples of how increasing Native American involvement in museum practice allows them to question and reframe Western master narratives. Each of these museums, though, also has its own controversy over the extent to which it represents a true victory for Native Americans. However, it is still clear that as the museum field moves toward the increasing inclusion of and respect for Native American views, there is great opportunity to transform museums into spaces for decolonization and empowerment of Native voices.

**Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanne Mack**

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**Sexual Assault at Notre Dame**

**By: Jennifer James & Rhiannon Duke**

Our research investigates a very serious and under-addressed problem at Notre Dame: sexual assault. We focus exclusively on Notre Dame students’ experience and awareness of sexual assault at this university, however we do not suggest that it is an issue that affects students exclusively. It is imperative to understand sexual assault among students at Notre Dame because it is of grave concern to their physical, mental and emotional health and well-being. We examine the issue of under-reporting by analyzing disparities between official reports of the assault and anonymous reports in our survey. We also discuss what components of the unique atmosphere of Notre Dame student life may contribute to the prevalence of sexual assault. Finally, we explore the degree of awareness of sexual assault that exists among students and whether or not this awareness translates into efforts for prevention, understanding, and/or support. Through our analysis we will further understand why sexual assault plagues this university, yet is not fully addressed by both the students and administration. In investigating this important issue among Notre Dame students by encouraging them to share their stories and opinions, we began to generate dialogue about a problem that is too often silenced.

**Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka**
INCLUDE CONSUMERS FOCUSING ON QUALITY RATHER THAN QUANTITY, LUXURY OVER NECESSITY, AND POPULARITY OVER PRICE. SUCH A SHIFT WAS NOTICEABLE ON A MICROECONOMIC LEVEL, AND THUS LEADS TO THE HYPOTHESIS OF DRASTIC CHANGES IN MACROECONOMIC TRADING PATTERNS BETWEEN BULGARIA AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS. THE POSTER THAT WILL BE USED TO HIGHLIGHT THIS RESEARCH WILL PHOTOGRAPHICALLY AND VERBALLY DEPICT HOW CONSUMERISM HAS INFILTRATED THE SCENERY IN SOFIA.

FACULTY MENTOR: DR. RAHUL OKA

FUNDING: INSTITUTE FOR SCHOLARSHIP IN THE LIBERAL ARTS; THE NANOVIC INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

Defining Rural Development: A Case Study of Educational Initiative in Southwestern Tanzania

HANNAH JACKSON

625 FLANER HALL

5:30PM-5:40PM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS A WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED AND DISCUSSED GOAL IN CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL RELATIONS. A CONFLUENCE OF SEPARATE INSTITUTIONAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND INFLUENCE HOW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE CHOSEN AND IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. ALIGNMENT OR DISCONTINUITY WITHIN AND ACROSS THESE SYSTEMS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT HOW “DEVELOPMENT” IS DEFINED, AS WELL AS THE HOW THE MEANS FOR ACHIEVING IT ARE ENACTED. USING A MIXED METHODS ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACH, THIS CASE STUDY EXPLORES EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT A BASIC EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE-LEARNING PROGRAM IN A RURAL VILLAGE IN SOUTHWESTERN TANZANIA. A CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THIS INQUIRY PROJECT WAS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND A COMMUNITY’S ATTEMPTS TO CREATE AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT WILL LEAD VILLAGERS OUT OF POVERTY AND SUBSISTENCE LIVING AND TOWARDS A MODERNIZED FUTURE OF PROSPERITY. THE WORKING

Changes in Consumer Spending Behaviors in Bulgaria

BY: MORGAN C. IDDINGS

ALTHOUGH IT IS WIDELY HELD IN THE UNITED STATES THAT MANY CITIZENS LIVING UNDER AUTOCRATIC RULE IN EASTERN EUROPE DURING THE SOCIALIST ECONOMIC ERA WERE UNHAPPY SLAVES TO THE GREAT RUSSIAN BEAR, MOST BULGARIANS WOULD BEG TO DIFFER. MANY AMERICANS, HIGHLY INFLUENCED BY ANTI-SOVIET MEDIA FROM THE 1940S TO 1990, ARGUE THAT CITIZENS IN EASTERN EUROPE WERE UNHAPPY AND LIVED UNFULFILLING, GOVERNMENTALLY-MONITORED MISERABLE LIVES. IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A SEVERE CULTURAL MISCONCEPTION BETWEEN HOW AMERICANS PERCEIVE THE LIVES OF SOCIALIST-ERA SLAVS AND HOW THE SUBJECTS OF THIS ECONOMIC SYSTEM PERCEIVED THEIR OWN PLACES IN SOCIETY. THESE MISPERCEPTIONS LEAD MANY AMERICANS TO BELIEVE THAT EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE CONSIDERABLY BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY IN TODAY’S WESTERNIZED WORLD THAN THEY WERE TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS AGO. THIS RESEARCH ADDRESSES THIS MISCONCEPTION AND FOCUSES ON THE SHIFTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN CONSUMER SPENDING TENDENCIES OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. THROUGH SPENDING THREE WEEKS WITH A LOWER-MIDDLE CLASS BULGARIAN HOST FAMILY, I HAD THE ABILITY TO OBSERVE THEIR SPENDING HABITS AND INTERVIEW THEM ABOUT HOW THESE PARTICULAR INCLINATIONS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE DOWNFALL OF THE SOCIALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THROUGH THIS, I LEARNED THAT THEY GREW PARTICULARLY INSECURE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF GOODS OWNED BY PEERS AND FELT A SENSE OF COMPETITION TO HAVE THE NEWEST INNOVATIONS, REGARDLESS IF THEY WERE OUTSIDE OF THEIR BUDGET. IN ADDITION, THE EMERGENCE OF FREE CREDIT APPEARS TO HAVE ENABLED SUCH CONSUMERS TO SPEND OUTSIDE OF THEIR BUDGETS AND ONLY CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THEIR INDEBTEDNESS. I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A SHIFT TOWARDS WESTERN SHOPPING TENDENCIES, WHICH
**Veneto’s Portrait of a Woman: The Female Gendered Experience in the Italian Renaissance**

*By: Savannah Hayes*

I chose this piece of artwork from the Snite Museum because I thought the image offered several avenues for research. I was particularly drawn to the image after I learned a little bit about the symbolism at work in the painting. It turns out that the painting would actually have been part of an arranged marriage— and in many cases the only way a future husband would have seen his bride before the wedding. The likeness of Veneto’s painting to da Vinci’s Mona Lisa is also an intriguing feature. The similarity of the background of the painting to some of da Vinci’s works is striking and could expose some interesting things about Veneto and what he was trying to portray with this painting. The areas that I foresee myself investigating include the traditions of arranged marriages in the 16th century and what factors influenced the families’ choices to wed. In particular, I’m interested in the roles of the monetary transaction, the possible political advantages or disadvantages, and the importance of carrying on the husband’s family name (aka fertility). Finally, I will research how these factors were portrayed in the image itself, and what the painter was trying to express.

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman*
Menarcheal and Menopausal Studies: Toward a Unified Methodology

Katie Fitzpatrick
625 Flanner Hall
5:40 PM-5:50 PM

Menarche and menopause mark two key transitions in a woman’s lifespan: the beginning and end of fertility. The timing of menarche and menopause has been associated with numerous health problems, including ovarian cancer, breast cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Because ages of menarche and menopause have direct implications for women’s health and fertility, it is critical that menarcheal and menopausal studies reflect accurate reliable data. My aim is to assess the current state of these studies, highlight their findings and their failings. To do so, I have conducted an extensive literature review of all past and current studies relating to ages of menarche and menopause. In addition to various health risks, both ages have been associated with secular trends, environmental and lifestyle factors, genetic influences, and an array of evolutionary explanations. Upon my review of the literature, I have

Hylas and The Nymph

By: Erin Hattler & Natia Jonas

On our visit to the Snite Museum, we were struck by the painting of Hylas and the Nymph. While not on the list of potential works of art, we were drawn to the use of light and color especially around Hylas. The painting is also based on Greek Mythology and immediately we wanted to find out the story of Nymph. Greek Society is also interesting to study because of their different attitudes towards sexuality, which Sexing the Body discussed. The figure of the nymph is intriguing as well, because of how it portrays women, as temptresses and seductresses. In the painting, the female is seducing the male, a situation that is not often seen in contemporary society. Hylas and Herakles are also intertwined in Greek mythology, and may represent the open attitudes Greeks has on homosexuality. We plan to focus on all of these aspects of male and female relations in our talks and explore the ways in which their attitudes differ from current perspectives. To do this we have set up a meeting with Ms. Matthias for later this week to discuss the painting. We want to in our presentation, be able to link the painting to the overall perspectives of ancient Greeks on sexuality. Ideally, we will be able to reference some other Greek myths and epics. We both feel very passionately about this painting and look forward to delving wholeheartedly into the subject matter.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman
Who's Your Daddy?: Male Alloparenting in the Barbary Macaque (Macaca sylvanus)

by K.T. Hanson & Erin Scott

Among non-human primate species with polygamous mating systems, it is quite unusual for males to play a role in infant caretaking. However, the Barbary macaque of Gibraltar exhibits extensive interactions between infants and males. This study attempts to explain male infant-handling in terms of evolutionary and social benefits for the males. Observational data and fecal samples were collected over a two-month period during the birthing season. The data analysis shows definite interaction patterns between specific groups of males and certain infants. In addition, the results of fecal analysis will be used as an indicator of relatedness between males and infants. The results of this study will be beneficial for the genealogical records of the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, the organization responsible for care of the macaques.

In terms of modern evolutionary theory application, the results of this study may be used as comparative analysis for multiple caretaker, kin selection, same-sex pair bonding, and reciprocal altruism postulates. Furthermore, if results support the hypothesis that males care for infants related to them, additional research into the notion of pheromone detection may be relevant.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Agustin Fuentes

Funding: Learning Beyond the Classroom Grant, and an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, and the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement

Concluded that multiple problems exist with both the data collection and analysis of menarcheal and menopausal studies. The data collection incurs errors from (1) recall bias, (2) self-selection in the observed population, and (3) differing definitions of menarche and menopause. Furthermore, consideration has not been given to the ethical and cultural costs of introducing medical definitions of menarche and menopause during data collection. As for data analysis, inaccuracies in the data arise from (1) failure to control confounding variables, and (2) the use of different methodological approaches. Addressing these problems, I present my criteria for a new, uniformed approach for menarcheal and menopausal studies. The application of this approach will allow for an accurate and reliable international index of menarcheal and menopausal ages.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Agustin Fuentes
Clay Clues: An Assessment of Two Prehistoric Southwest Bowls

By: K.T. Hanson

The Snite Museum at the University of Notre Dame houses a modest collection of Western Puebloan artifacts. This study is an assessment of two prehistoric polychrome bowls from this collection: “Bowl with Spirit Face Interior” (1994.44.04) and “Bowl with Thunderbird Interior” (1998.16.002). Mr. and Mrs. Paul Markovits generously donated these bowls to The Snite Museum in 1994 and 1998, respectively. However, Snite accession records contain limited historical information about each piece. This study attempts to augment the Snite’s information as well as reevaluate the records’ original archaeological classification of the bowls. The accession records indicate that both pieces date from 1350 to 1400 and are from the Upper Little Colorado River drainage area of East-Central Arizona, suggesting that the bowls belong to the White Mountain Redware Tradition (Carlson, 1970). Each bowl was classified through careful analysis of type and design-defining characteristics, including: construction, paint color, fields of decoration, color patterns, most common forms, slip color, paint use and application, motifs, and interior details. Analysis of these features confirmed the classification provided in the accession records: both bowls may be defined as Fourmile Polychrome with Pinedale design styles.

Faculty Adviser: Dr. Joanne Mack
THE BRONZE AGE.

FACULTY MENTOR: DR. SUE SHERIDAN

FUNDING: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

POSTER PRESENTERS

JENNIFER JAMES & RHIANNON DUKE

PHILIP LETTIERI, CLAIRE BROWN, & IAN KUIJT

LAURA MITTELSTAEDET

HANNA O’BRIEN

LIZ OLVEDA

KATIE O’ROURKE

IRIS PETERSEN

ALISON PODLASKI

EMILY REINECCIUS

KATIE WHITMORE, ELENA RODRIGUEZ, JAMIE ULLINGER, & DR. SUE SHERIDAN

JENNIFER SCHULTE & MEGAN STOFFER

JAQUELINE THOMAS

MELISSA WRAPP
Carbon-Isotopes and Maize Consumption in Caborn-Welborn Villages

by: Elise Alonzi

The Caborn-Welborn phase in southwestern Indiana encompasses a protohistoric culture likely arising after the collapse of the Angel Chiefdom around A.D. 1400. Caborn-Welborn sites were arranged in a hierarchy from large villages, to small villages, hamlets, and farmsteads. Studies of human carbon stable isotope ratios from the Slack Farm site, a large Caborn-Welborn village, indicate that maize consumption was highly variable at this site, suggesting differing childhood diets. Stable carbon-isotope ratios from human burials at the large village of Hovey Lake and the small village of Mann are used to assess inter-community and inter-individual dietary variation within the Caborn-Welborn phase and to compare those patterns with dietary variation at the Angel site, an earlier Middle Mississippian civic-ceremonial center.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Schurr

Funding: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grant Through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

There's Nothing Humerous About Cremation: A Study of Distal end Humeral Burn Patterns

by: Theresa Gildner

Color is one characteristic useful in determining the conditions under which bones were burnt. In this study, Munsell color charts and L*a*b values determined with a spectrophotometer were used to assess the color of humeral distal ends excavated from charnel house A22, located at the Early Bronze Age site of Bab edh-Dhra', Jordan. It was hypothesized that the bones would exhibit color patterns consistent with burn patterns from the fire that destroyed the burial structure, different from the pattern seen in intentional cremation. Two regions of the humeri, an articular surface and a non-articular surface, were examined. It was expected that if fully articulated bodies were intentionally burned the articular surface would be consistently less burnt than the other areas of the bone, due to shielding effects. The degree of burning on the humeri in relation to provenience within A22 was also examined for discernible patterns. Over 50% of both the articular surfaces (79/146) and non-articular surfaces (87/155) were burned to a temperature hot enough that they turned gray and white. There was no significant difference in burn color between the 146 articular surfaces and 155 non-articular surfaces (p=0.30, p=0.86), suggesting that intentional cremation of articulated skeletons was likely not performed in Bab edh-Dhra'. Additional results imply burning in A22 was concentrated along the periphery of the house, particularly along the east wall. These findings provide a new understanding about the mortuary practices of this site during
The Effects of Immigration on Irish Islander Place-Based Identity

by Bianca M. Fernandez & Dr. Deb Rotman

Prepared for submission to the Journal of Beaver Island History

With a strong sense of place-based identity, islanders experience a linkage between the land and one’s sense of belonging. Part of this identity is based on the stories told and the names of certain places on the island. In addition, they have a sense of independence, a “can-do” attitude that makes islanders a group apart. Árainn Mhòr and Beaver Island are connected, both through the mass emigration from the former to the latter and a twinning ceremony in 2000 that linked the two islands. There is a wealth of stories and memories that define the people who live in both places, many of which are embedded in the physical landscape. On Árainn Mhòr, Irish place names describe the physical environment as well as a possible event, while commemorative and history-based placenames are more common on Beaver Island. Through legends and myths linked to the sea or Lake Michigan, residents and islanders of both islands feel a pull to island life, a connection to both the land and water, which draws its inhabitants back. We explore place-based identity through interviews with residents of both islands coupled with an examination of maps and physical spaces.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman

Funding: the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, The Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement, and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Household Health Production in South Bend

by Shelly Birch

Household Health Production is an analytical framework developed and used largely to evaluate the effectiveness of health technologies in developing countries. This framework remains valid for developed countries like the United States because important determinants of health occur at the household level: decisions are often made at the household level, the health of one member of a household may affect another (sharing of disease, health of a breastfeeding mother affecting her baby), and resources are often shared at the household level. I investigated ways in which low-income workers in South Bend manage household production of health: In what ways do they manage preventative care and everyday health concerns? What determinants affect their ability to perform health-promoting behaviors? I conducted informal interviews with members of twenty different households in South Bend who either had children or had an elderly parent whom they cared for, increasing the probability of caretaking behavior. I found the construction of gender and trust in the biomedical establishment to be two large determinants of health in this population, with the exception of immigrant workers, who retain their home country’s culture. This research is important because it provides information to volunteer organizations to recognize and respond better to the health needs of the workers in South Bend, and enhance the practice of healthcare practitioners by raising awareness of activities used to promote health within the household.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-Oka
An Ethno Archaeological Study of the Life of a Nun

By: Dianna Bartone & Aaron Gutierrez

What can be learned about a person by examining the way they organize and decorate their living space? What can be learned from what they throw away in their trash? Whereas interviews and surveys often yield less-than-objective data, there is valuable unbiased information regarding values, habits, and lifestyle ready available if one looks in the right places. This project seeks to understand what it means to be a nun living in a residence hall on the Notre Dame campus through an examination and analysis of material culture. Data was gathered from one week’s worth of trash and a walk around the living room and then followed up with an interview to address the validity of the conclusions reached. Although community and relationships with others is of high importance to the subject, our findings led us to believe that such a lifestyle is, in reality, a very lonely path to tread.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Meredith Chesson

Structural Barriers to Diabetes Health in South Bend: Latino Outreach Services as a Case Study

By: Julia Duranti, Kerry Reardon & Danielle Rush

Anthropological research suggests that Latino immigrants, particularly women, face numerous health inequities, including higher mortality rates than non-Hispanic whites for tuberculosis, liver disease, diabetes, homicide, and AIDS (Williams 2009:18). Young Latina mothers are also more likely to experience social isolation and depression than their male counterparts (Ornelas 2009:6). With a focus on the psychosocial stress model that examines the health consequences of racism and discrimination (Dressler 2005:238), our project examines how the daily lived experiences of Latinas and other female diabetic patients in South Bend factor into these overall health trends. Using Latino Outreach Services programs at Memorial Hospital as a case study, we focus on the responsibilities, behaviors, and challenges that female patients face regarding nutrition and diet in their diabetes management. By engaging patients in interviews and attending diabetes classes, we examine the roles of female patients in the family, the workplace, and the social sphere; their conceptions of nutrition and healthy lifestyle; and how gender and immigration status influence their ability to navigate structural barriers to health care.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vania Smith-oka
**Funding**: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grant Through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts; And a Senior Travel and Research Grant from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies

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Gender Roles in Revolutionary France: Élisabeth Vigée Lebrun the Impossible Man

**By**: Meghan Brennan

My project is on the Portrait of the Marquis of Puységur. It is a painting of oil on canvas done by Élisabeth Vigée Lebrun in 1786. From the piece can be inferred the life of a professional female artist in France before, during, and after the French Revolution. Before the Revolution, Vigée was Marie Antoinette’s portrait painter. In this world, men dominated and women were only expected to nurse their children. Lebrun was called a man, monster, and hermaphrodite because her colleagues were intimidated by such skill from a woman. Lebrun painted Portrait of the Marquis of Puységur three years prior to the revolution. Although the painting is of another person, the painting primarily brings about questions of the life of female artists such as Vigée during this time. Vigée was not as highly regarded as a male artist during any time in her career. Other male artists especially looked down on her. During this time, it was thought that women could not be great or even good artists. However, Vigée’s work clearly shows the opposite. She shows how her gender held her back from achieving the success she deserved. Likewise, because she was an artist she was not considered a “proper” woman. A proper woman of the time would work in the home raising children and pleasing her husband. The Portrait of the Marquis of Puységur primarily addresses gendered experiences as an artist around the time of the French Revolution.

**Faculty Mentor**: Dr. Deb Rotman
Investigating Provenience for a Buffalo Calfskin

by Melissa Coles

In the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame, object 1981.114.006 is a painted buffalo calfskin detailing seven battle vignettes. Although these figures have faded over time and the calfskin shows signs of deterioration because of display on a wall, it nevertheless represents a fine example of Native American Plains hide painting. However, as happens with many Native American pieces, the calfskin was separated from its provenience before its arrival at the Snite. The couple who donated it bought it at a crafts fair in California with very little background information. Without provenience, the pictograph war record is a piece of art and history, but it does not have context. Therefore, study has been conducted over the past one and a half years to discover the vignettes’ meaning and tribal affiliation. With this information, the calfskin becomes a more significant historical and artistic object, which has the potential to increase understanding of pictographic war records from the late 1880s and early 1900s.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanne Mack

Interethnic Marriage in the Irish-American Experience: Social Transformation on Beaver Island, Michigan

by: Rhiannon Duke & Dr. Deb Rotman

This article explores the various interactions and relationships between the minority non-Irish population and majority Irish immigrant and descendant population on Beaver Island, Michigan in the late the 19th and early 20th centuries. Focusing specifically on marriages between Irish and non-Irish, we seek to understand the changing dynamics of both interethnic relationships as well as the institution of marriage. We examine the period of Irish cultural dominance from the post-Mormon period of the 1850s until the 1920s, when the arrival of the Beaver Island Lumber Company marked the end of Irish hegemony on the island. Using information about matchmaking customs, marriage practices, and interactions with non-Irish ‘outsiders’, we will illustrate the contextual mindset in which the immigrants arrived and constructed their lives on Beaver Island. We will also trace shifting attitudes towards what made an ideal marriage partner, how those choices were made, consequences of the decisions and their effects on Beaver Island identity through successive generations. Factors that will be considered include: marriage as an economic arrangement or as a love match, the importance of religion, ethnicity and occupation in terms of who is considered marriagable, how gender affects the criteria for marriage choice, and differing attitudes towards these factors between older and younger generations. This relatively isolated island community of Irish immigrants and few others experienced marriage as both a cause and effect of social transformation.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deb Rotman