

Honorable News

Volume 10, Issue
4

4-24-15

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Senior Thesis Excerpts | 2 3 4 |
| They Say, We Say | 4 |

Time to Spring Forward

Dr. Kleier, Associate Honors Director

Spring is always a time of renewal. Somehow, even as a biologist, it’s surprising to see that first magnolia blossom on the tree just west of the science building, or that first tulip “spring” up from the ground. Just yesterday, on a jog around Sloan’s Lake with my son, he stopped, and joyously pointed at the lake and exclaimed, “The pelicans are back! It’s summer!” Indeed, it felt like a summer day, and I almost believed him. Spring is such an apt term because it comes upon us so fast, then before we have time to let it soak in, summer has arrived.

Of course, it’s a bit cliché, but it is the same with the honors students. Just yesterday, they were struggling to understand the meaning of Chaos and Order, and now those sophomore are juniors preparing their thesis projects. The seniors are now almost finished, when it seems they were just proposing their projects barely a year ago. I wonder, does this time seem to spring upon them as it does upon me? Are they taken by surprise that their college career is almost over?

And yet, there is still a bit of time to stop and smell the flowers. There are still two and half weeks till graduation, and in classic Jesuit parlance, I would ask us to stop and reflect on the semester, the year, and the years. What has meant the most to us? What has meant the least, or phrased another way, what can we let go? For me, this year has

been all about the relationships I’ve formed – with my colleagues, with my students, and with my community. Looking back, I wished I attended more events with people and perhaps reviewed one less article or created one less assignment for my students. Oftentimes, when I reflect, I think to myself that I could have done more, or I should have done more. This year, I would have done not or less, but perhaps just differently.

The spring in all of its frenzied tumult of life pushes us to do more and be a bit scattered ourselves, but as summer approaches, I hope to live out my reflection – to do less with more intention and purpose – to do more with others – and less with myself. In this same vein, how can your reflections of the semester, the year, your time at college, guide your path as you

leave our institution – for the summer or for your next step?

Like a chaotic spring, I find that the first year after college can be rough for many students. It’s a time of questioning, of finding purpose, of finding one’s place, one’s passion, and a time of taking temporary jobs, or something less than dream jobs in the pursuit of one’s heart’s desire. It’s like a year-long spring – unsettled, new starts, lots of energy, perhaps not an obvious focus. Still, summer will arrive, and your lives will calm. I will leave you with a piece of advice my father, also a professor, gave to me at your juncture: you never get “there,” there is no “there.” You will always be striving and working for the next thing, so some spring will always stay with you, enjoy it.



Senior Thesis

Thomas Wells

Writing About Reading: My Journey Through Authors and Novels in Order to Become a Better Writer

In order to learn what it takes to write a great novel I read a couple classic novels and read the advice famous authors have written to blooming writers. I've learned about how to write better characters, how to effectively develop my own style, and how I can write better in general.

Ashley Knox

Resurrecting the Humanity of the Undead: Humanism and Posthumanism in Zombie Films

This thesis will examine this pop culture phenomenon through current trends in modern zombie films and explore how these films comment on cultural fears and concerns. Modern zombie films portray the conflict between humanist and posthumanist ideals and ask what it means to be human.

James Persichetti

"Say It, Othello!": A Socio-Linguistic Inquiry into William Shakespeare's Othello and the Effects of Expectation on the Linguistic Performance of Self

My thesis examines these pressures through William Shakespeare's Othello, looking at how Othello's identity is negotiated in his dynamic language and how the Venetian society sees him as an other by analyzing the density of Latinate words in various characters' monologues.

Timothy Wanninger

"By it I see everything else:" The interplay between God, the Bible, and Nature in the study of origins

In beginning to address this contention in my own life I explored the role of God, the Bible, and science in understanding our relationship to God and His interaction with the natural world, particularly with respect to our understanding of the origins of the natural world

Robynne Connell

Bridging the Gap between Healthcare and Non-Profits: a comparative analysis of the implementation and role of pediatric cancer non-profit organizations in the United States and South Africa

The main focus of this thesis is to provide an in-depth comparative analysis of the current medical models and non-profit models implemented in the United States and South Africa for pediatric cancer patients.

Gina Morgan

The decrease in antibiotic funding: an exploration of tuberculosis and the perpetual fight against bacteria

A discussion on tuberculosis and the need for novel antibiotics, the decreased investment in antibiotic research and development (R&D), avenues for improvement, and research towards the identification of inhibitors of Mycobacterium tuberculosis class IIa fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (MtFBA), an essential enzyme in Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Katie Vuletich

What Makes: Cold War era Representations of Femininity and Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn Monroe is undoubtedly iconic. She is on everything – posters, t-shirts, even advertisements – so often any luster her beautiful face used to have has faded to a dull kitsch. But more than either face or body, she and her blonde contemporaries spoke to the desires of a generation through their unique representation of femininity. What really made these women so inexhaustibly iconic?

Matt Binder

A Beautiful Life

My thesis engages with the question of how ought we to live, specifically through investigating the vital role stories play in creating meaning in our lives. Overall, it forms a personal take on the relationship between quantity and quality of life, looks at the neuroscience underlying the formation and retrieval of memories, as well as emotions, and then draws from the realm of philosophy, along with personal experience, to comprise my ideology of life and what makes it truly worthwhile.

Zoe Vlastos

Technology in Love: Stories of Change in Romantic Relationships

This digital storytelling project investigates the effects of technology on romantic relationships. Focusing on stories of online dating and long distance relationships, this thesis portrays a snapshot, via audio interviews, blogs posts, research, and discussion, of love in the age of technology. It asks the question, given the way things are, how out we to live and love?

Class of 2014

Matthew Hildebrandt

The Ethics of Employment and Payment in the United States' Restaurant Industry

This thesis will analyze the unethical treatment of employees in the U.S. restaurant industry. Issues based around wages, benefits, and hours will be compared and contrasted with French restaurant culture, legal protections, and employee treatment.

Corey Allen

Neurons and Narratives: Living in a Wittgensteinian World

My thesis explores the running narratives that are present within the mind, prodding at whether or not there is any significant difference between this consciousness and a fictional narrative that we read in a book. .

Emma Shewmaker

Dancing Toward a Better Life: How Dance Enhances an Understanding of Cura Personalis

This thesis focuses on the positive impact that dance can have on a person's life. This includes physical benefits, like improved balance and heart health, psychological benefits, like reduced depression, stress, and anxiety and improved self-esteem and body image, and other social and personal benefits. The implications in regard to cura personalis are also discussed.

Brandon Ward

Man Versus Machine: Can Computers Crack Cryptography?

I set out to write an Android app capable of decrypting substitution ciphers and discovered that some things inherently easy for the human mind are rather difficult for a computer and vice versa. I wanted to know why. It turns out that machines can mimic intelligence more effectively as computing power rises, and I ultimately had to ask if this 'fake intelligence' is enough to break modern cryptography.

Levi Kramer

Our Capacity to Do Work: The Future of Energy

My thesis introduces several energy development technologies, explaining how they work and what impact they have on both the current energy market and the future energy market. Using the descriptions of each energy technology, along with personal research experience and reflection, the thesis provides a preemptive picture of our future energy market and how society can contribute to the pursuit of this market.

Jace Prokupek

Redefining the NGO Education Approach to Fit Individual Communities

This thesis will expand on how grassroots education NGOs, operating in developing countries, can create a sense of empowerment for the indigenous youth through nontraditional NGO structures, high levels of community involvement and honoring native culture through programs and lessons.

Briana Regelin

The Graceful Prince of a Trivial Comedy: Symbolism and Aesthetics in The Picture of Dorian Gray and De Profundis

The Picture of Dorian Gray, written by Oscar Wilde in the heyday of his academic career, can be contrasted against Wilde's De Profundis (a letter written during his imprisonment following his arrest for homosexuality) to provide a portrait of the author's transformed philosophy of beauty, truth and meaning. entire worldview. My paper explores this transformation.

Kenji Tanaka

Human Genetic Technology: A Call to Mutate a Reactive Society into a Proactive Society

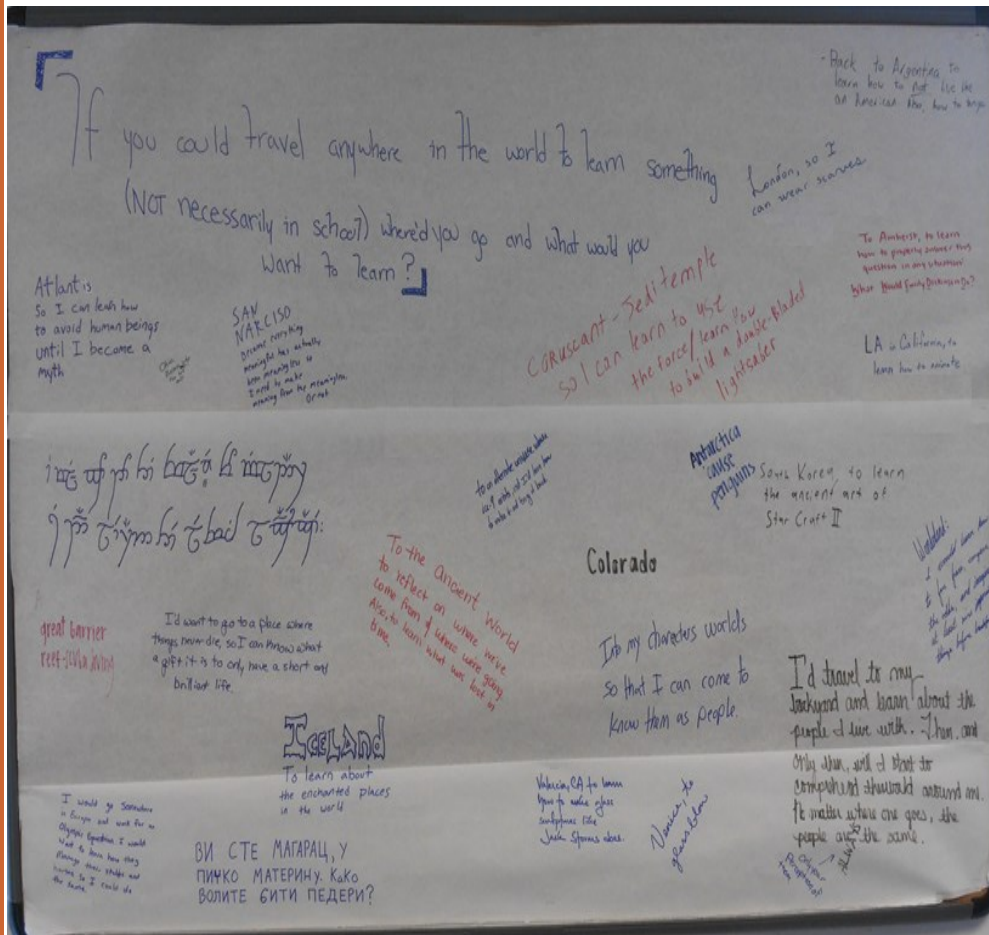
Genetic research and development has grown dramatically in our recent history and will become prevalent in all of our lives in the foreseeable future. My thesis springboards from my experience with genetic testing as well as a background on the technology and dives into an exploration of the past, present and hypothetical ethical issues.

Erica Getz

Why Classical Music Still Matters: The Aesthetics and Science Behind the Value of Western Art Music

We Say, They Say: If you could travel anywhere in the world to learn something, where would you go and what would you learn?

The discussions on our Honors board continue to excite enthusiastic responses and thought-provoking ideas. This round our question came from Dr. Arnold. See what students have said and what Dr. Arnold's answer and Dr. Vartabedian's answer are, and stop by the Honors study room to see what our next question is!



Words from Dr. Arnold

I would like to travel to Mecca to experience/witness the hajj, the sacred pilgrimage in which millions of Muslims come together each year to worship and to reenact the founding of the House of God in Mecca by Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael. I would especially want to witness and learn about the experience of unity of the worldwide Muslim community in the context

Words from Dr. Vartabedian

I hope to one day travel to Ushuaia, which is the southernmost city in the world; it on the Argentina side of Tierra Del Fuego, at the very tip of South America. As a kid, I was fascinated with the explorers and particularly Magellan, who seemed to explore for the sake of exploring (at least, that's what I thought when I was a kid); he was with the first Europeans to arrive there. Traveling to Ushuaia would satisfy a lifelong fascination for me, and would allow me to learn more about the original inhabitants of Tierra Del Fuego and the hardiness required to live in such a place. An opportunity to absorb that radical landscape is quite appealing to me.

Newsletter requests, ideas, submissions? Contact Michael Sucharski at msucharski@regis.edu for further information.

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Stevie Kelley

Liquid Unhappiness: The Story of an Alcoholic's Son

My thesis is an exploration into alcoholism. Meaning, I am discussing the role alcohol plays in our everyday lives. This is done using my own narrative as well as other research that I have done alcoholism.

Ian Drew

Finding Truth in the War Narrative: An Integration of Media

Throughout the years our definition of war has come from two distinct sources often kept separate. Truth in the context of war is often limited to those who have experienced it first-hand or vicariously through the eyes of the reporters. War, however, is a complex narrative. By tracing media and military attitudes through depictions of Vietnam to the modern conflicts in the Middle East we can find ways to engage with finding truth in war.