The Honors Program
Spring 2013

THESIS ABSTRACTS
Joseph Bacchi

**Thesis Title:** “The Great Health” as Interpretive Key to Nietzsche and Zarathustra

**Thesis Advisors:** Bruce Milem, Philosophy; Eugene Heath, Philosophy

**Thesis Abstract:** With the rise of science, a new picture of the universe has come into focus, complete with narratives to explain humanity's existence and purpose; however, Nietzsche warns, with the death of God-the guarantor of intrinsic value-all “purposes” have become arbitrary, and all striving has been reduced to pointless activity. In a world in which people feel weak and lack the willpower to live with conviction, “higher” individuals will cease to exist and history itself will stop.

Though the death of God culminates in an age of nihilism, it also opens up the possibility for new ways of being. In the character Zarathustra, Nietzsche creates a living model for a new, heroic form of life affirmation. To understand the Zarathustra type, Nietzsche says, one must first understand his “physiological precondition”—i.e. “the great health.”

By following Nietzsche's hints in *The Gay Science, The Genealogy of Morals*, and *Ecce Homo*, this paper aims to shed new light on the great health and its connection to Zarathustra, as well as to show how this health might generate new narratives that enable nobility and heroism. In seeing ourselves in a romantic light as wanderers, seafarers, and knights out to harvest the greatest fruitfulness from existence, we become the heroes of our own life-story who simultaneously prepare the “soil of man” for something greater, i.e. for a future humanity, beyond good and evil, that laughs and plays in the search for knowledge like a child – or a god.
Daryn Bleach

**Thesis Title:** Transcend

**Thesis Advisors:** Dennis Doherty, English; Pauline Uchmanowicz, English

**Thesis Abstract:** Through a collection of poems and short stories, I am to carry my readers beyond the limits of ordinary experience. I attempted to create a spirit of interdependence between time, memory and perception with a focus on relationships, both intimate and familial, my works of creative writing are intended to summon feelings of nostalgia and transcendence.

Kathleen Brousseau

**Thesis Title:** The Collegiate Architecture of Ralph Adams Cram and Eero Saarinen

**Thesis Advisors:** Kerry Carso, Art History; Jaclynn Kner, Art History

**Thesis Abstract:** Comparing Ralph Adams Cram and Eero Saarinen's architecture represents two architectural approaches of the twentieth century. Ralph Adams Cram's collegiate architecture looks to the medieval past for inspiration while Eero Saarinen's collegiate designs are more common of the twentieth century modernist movement (with some historicized elements). Both architectural styles are compared because each had an impact on universities, such as West Point, Princeton and Yale, which were looking for new ways to incorporate the different learning theories of the time into their buildings. Ralph Adams Cram's architecture characterized formalist learning theories while Eero Saarinen's symbolized modern learning theory. Through comparison of the two architects and their collegiate architecture’s impact on collegiate design one can question which style deems fit for the most successful university lifestyle.
Stephanie Brynes

Thesis Title: La Traductologie: une Etude de L'Occupation et sa Traduction The Possession

Thesis Advisors: Vicky Tromanhauser, English; Paul Fenouillet, Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Thesis Abstract: I intend to research different theories of translation and their values. I then intend to do a critical analysis of Annie Ernaux's "L'Occupation" in its original French form as a francophone reader, and of its English translation as an Anglophone reader. I will then compare the two, discussing alterations (cultural, lingual, and ideological) and how these novels represent critical themes in the study of translation.

Jaime Burns

Thesis Title: Land of the Alone

Thesis Advisors: Jan Schmidt, English; Dennis Doherty, English

Thesis Abstract: Inspired by my careful examination of Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," Dante's Inferno, and the works of American Gothic Romantic Edgar Allen Poe, my fictional novella "The Land of the Alone" incorporates time manipulation, dream language, overarching allegory, and Gothic idiom into an accessible piece of contemporary literature. Thomas Hopper, the main character of the work and a struggling poet, abandons his current composition in a drunken, melancholic delirium, and stumbles upon the Land of the Alone, a barren desert kingdom host to persons consumed by moral anguish manifested into physical suffering and their empathetic Queen. As the chapters alternate between Thomas' travels across the barren wasteland and his bitter memories of his mother and his ex-wife, the narrative leads readers to the protagonist's sole epiphany and tragic demise. I hope this cathartic narrative can help readers cope with their emotional struggles by both identifying and distancing from the protagonist, offering thinking space to learn from his tragic flaws and reach personal epiphanies. As an undergraduate thesis, "The Land of the Alone" accumulates years of English and Creative Writing studies into a literary experiment sharpened for future publication.
Kyle Corkins

**Thesis Title:** Derived-Principle Partiality and Value-Added Rule Utilitarianism

**Thesis Advisors:** Eugene Heath, Philosophy; Jeff Miller, Political Science

**Thesis Abstract:** Acting partially to certain others based on our specific relationships to them is often considered problematic or inappropriate to proponents of impartialist or universalist ethical systems, and utilitarianism is no exception. However, by adopting a rule-utilitarianism standard and deconstructing what exactly partiality means and what consequences it entails, one can find a level of compatibility and overlap where partiality can better maximize utility than a strictly-impartial approach, while also identifying what other considerations a partialist perspective must be constrained by to remain morally defensible.

Amanda Dallara

**Thesis Title:** An Interrupted Life: Etty Hillesum’s Journey to Spiritual Liberation

**Thesis Advisors:** Jan Schmidt, English; Bryan Cracchiolo, Languages, Literatures & Cultures

**Thesis Abstract:** The purpose of my thesis is to introduce Etty Hillesum’s life and the new religion she discovered during the Holocaust. I will discuss the ways in which her ideas relate to beliefs found in Judaism, Christianity, mysticism and Buddhism. Then I will explore the way this path enabled her to open her life to God, liberation and enormous compassion for her people. These spiritual achievements made her equipped for being the witness for her people as so many call her: “the balm for all wounds”.

Thesis Title: Parental Effect on Young Adult Sibling Relationships

Thesis Advisors: Elizabeth Munz, Communication & Media; Anne Roschelle, Sociology

Thesis Abstract: Much research has been conducted on parent-child relationships as well as sibling relationships. However, less research has examined the link between these two relationships. The current study looks to examine parental effect on young adult sibling relationships. Through the adaption of C.M. Stocker, W. Furman, and R.P. Lanthier's Adult Sibling Relationship Questionnaire as well as K. Ellis' Parent Confirmation Behavior Indicator this study will strive to clarify the following research questions and hypothesis:

RQ1: How do siblings characterize their relationships?
H1: Is the amount of perceived conflict between siblings inversely related to the amount of perceived warmth in a sibling relationship?
RQ2: Does the amount of contact between siblings affect the amount of perceived warmth or conflict in the relationship?
RQ3: Does the amount of perceived parental confirmation differ from the amount of perceived warmth in a sibling relationship?
RQ4: Does the amount of rivalry for parental attention differ from the amount of perceived warmth in a sibling relationship?
RQ5: Does race affect the amount of rivalry between siblings for parental attention?
RQ6: Does family structure affect the amount of rivalry between siblings for parental attention?
Hillary Horowitz

Thesis Title: Arguments Towards an African-Centered Linguistics

Thesis Advisors: Karanja Carroll, Black Studies; Laura Dull, Secondary Education

Thesis Abstract: Linguistics as an academic discipline puts forth the façade of being a culturally aware study of human language. Beyond literally being aware that there are numerous cultures and languages being spoken, linguists still operate within a Eurocentric framework. Linguists are taught to focus on the structure of language with little importance being placed on the actual meanings and concepts being expressed. Since language plays such an integral role in defining culture and personal identity it is necessary to approach linguistics from a more culturally specific perspective. This paper will critique and analyze the approaches of Cheikh Anta Diop, Theophile Obenga, and Joseph Greenberg to the field of African linguistics. Ultimately a model of African-Centered linguistics will be suggested as a more applicable manner for studying African languages.

Evan Hulick

Thesis Title: The Humanities as a Resource for Solving Global Environmental Crises

Thesis Advisors: Jeff Miller, Political Science; Harry Stoneback, English

Thesis Abstract: Many people seem to regard the Humanities as irrelevant to concrete political and environmental global problems. However, this thesis argues that there are clear and concrete resources in the Humanities that are useful in terms of contending with these issues. This paper will specifically reference patterns throughout a variety of sub-disciplines including political theory, literature, and comparative politics, and demonstrate their specific value in reaction to broader global contexts such as global warming, climate change, and the process of hydraulic fracturing.
2013 Thesis Abstracts

Mathew John

Thesis Title: The Ancient Egyptian Origins of Greek Philosophy

Thesis Advisors: Karanja Carroll, Black Studies; Daniel Werner, Philosophy

Thesis Abstract: According to the widely-accepted claims of world history, philosophy and all of its theories, concepts, achievements and advancements have all been credited to the intellectual accomplishments of Ancient Greece and its innovative thinkers. In spite of this, much of what is currently understood to be Ancient Greek Philosophy today was significantly influenced by the philosophies and systems of thought of Ancient Egypt. This paper will be centered on, in an overall context, on African philosophy and spirituality. Through a historical context, as presented by African scholars such as Cheikh Anta Diop, this paper will demonstrate how different groups of people, specifically the Ancient Greeks, traveled to Egypt to study and learn from knowledgeable members of Egyptian society. As such, many later Ancient Greek philosophical concepts and beliefs may be traced back to an Egyptian prototype. This work will explore, explain, and provide evidence for this statement, argue that Ancient Egypt was a Black civilization, and defend the idea that people of African descent have abundantly contributed to Western civilization. Through the paper’s anthropological, historical, and sociological discussions an unacknowledged connection, as well as a history denied, will become evident.
Marissa Kactioglu

**Thesis Title:** Married Israeli Women and the Israeli Rabbinical Courts

**Thesis Advisor:** Lewis Brownstein, Political Science

**Thesis Abstract:** Upon its declarations as an independent state in 1948, Israel followed a precedent formerly established under the Ottoman millet system regarding religious control of personal status matters. In this regard, Israel has upheld the practice of Rabbinical courts retaining control over issues in marriage. This has contributed toward a religious and secular debate regarding marriage that has been ongoing ever since. This research will test the hypothesis that the jurisdiction of Rabbinical courts over personal status matters influences the allocation of associated rights to married Israeli women.
Erin Kellar

**Thesis Title:** The Stigmatizing Nature of Disaster: A Closer Look at Severe Mental Illness

**Thesis Advisors:** Greta Winograd, Psychology; James Halpern, Psychology

**Thesis Abstract:** This paper will explore the population of people living with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and their experience with disasters. People with SMI are one of the more vulnerable populations, so learning about their experience of disasters and how to meet their needs before and during such events is of key importance. This paper will examine the possibility that people with SMI will become more symptomatic due to added stressors. People with SMI are already likely to be isolated, so in the event of a disaster this may become even worse. We also must consider that mental illnesses are different, so there may be particular illnesses that we should be more concerned about when a disaster happens.

Many other factors come into play such as the type of disaster, the scope, and intensity and especially whether or not it is human caused, which may challenge individual morals and trust in humanity. Each of these factors has the potential to exacerbate an individual’s symptoms, as well as the community’s general intolerance and lack of understanding of mental illness. In the event of a disaster, the community in general is often unsettled/fearful from the event. The added anxiety and loss of safety has a great potential for stigma based on certain misconceptions about mental illness, as the literature examines.

The literature review will also examine the extent to which individuals with severe mental illness are generally prepared for disaster, and have access to the necessary facilities in the after-math. Finally, the literature review will discuss areas for future research and suggest avenues for promoting resilience via outreach programs.
Saira Khan

**Thesis Title:** Comparing Sayyid Qutb and John Locke on Political and Spiritual Liberties

**Thesis Advisors:** Eugene Heath, Philosophy; Clinton Bennett, Philosophy

**Thesis Abstract:** The ideological background of different societies can sometimes clash based on contrasting fundamental beliefs. While political liberalism in the west allows for social unity through the acceptance of varying religious doctrines and the separation of church and state, Islamic doctrine outlines rules for the unification of all aspects of life to religious values. This leads to a clash of values between conservative Muslims and liberal western governments.

Sayyid Qutb was a main ideologue of the Muslim Brotherhood and his ideology has influenced many Islamists. His views sharply contrast with those of western society, as he tried to free humanity through Islam instead of having the world enslaved to individuals or their own desires. This contrasts with the western conception of freedom, which focuses on freedom and choice. I will compare Qutb's ideological background and conception of freedom with that of John Locke, a British philosopher who was often classified as the first of the great English empiricists. Locke greatly influenced the western political tradition and encouraged the usage of reason. He also believed in the separation of church and state. However, like Qutb, Locke had undeniably religious foundations, interconnected with his Protestant background.
Shanshe Khosroshvili

Thesis Title: Communitarian Critique of Political Liberalism

Thesis Advisors: Jeff Miller, Political Science; Joel Lefkowitz, Political Science/Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Thesis Abstract: The theoretical work examines flaws in political liberalism from the communitarian point of view. By closely examining John Rawls’ work in *Theory of Justice*, the book that lies at the roots of contemporary liberalism, I analyze some of the most prominent issues that arise with the theory. To challenge some of the assumptions made under liberal framework, from the communitarian perspective, I refer to the works of Michael Sandel and Alasdair MacIntyre – for their works have highly influenced the way debate is conducted between the two theories. In the paper I identify and analyze several main issues between the two theories and I conclude that despite the critique, political liberalism seems more desirable in the Western world.
Yael Krevsky

**Thesis Title:** Living on the Periphery: A Case Study of Neve Sha’anan

**Thesis Advisors:** John Sharp, Geography; Ben Junge, Anthropology/Latin American & Caribbean Studies

**Thesis Abstract:** This work seeks to give visibility to the marginalized and peripheral neighborhood of Neve Sha’anan, in southern Tel Aviv. Historically, the area has been neglected by the municipality, however, a relatively recent phenomenon has been occurring in the past 20 years reconfiguring the demographics of the community. Starting in the early 1990’s Neve Sha’anan witnessed a surge in foreign migrant worker and asylum seeker residency and has thus been identified by the municipality as the “core area” of the foreign migrant worker and refugee population in Tel Aviv. By visually documenting the neighborhood through photographs I highlight the marginalized and misunderstood inhabitants of Neve Sha’anan in hopes of empowering their otherwise neglected experiences. The photographs, along with the maps I created, work to deconstruct and examine the push and pull factors for the new immigrants of Neve Sha’anan in order to provide order and context for this seemingly chaotic space. Though the research was conducted specifically for Tel Aviv, the larger implications of this case study can be applied to other urban settings that are experiencing the phenomenon of semi-transient migrant worker communities. This work questions the ideas of membership within a city and encourages the plausibility and functionality of assimilation of foreign migrant workers and refugee within an urban space.
Thesis Title: Effects of Accented Speech Backgrounds on Speech Perception

Thesis Advisors: Navin Viswanathan, Psychology; Anne Olmstead, Psychology

Thesis Abstract: Typically during speech perception, speech signals compete with other background signals. The manner in which such backgrounds disrupt speech perception, a phenomenon known as masking, can be studied to provide greater understanding of the complex processes which underlie speech perception. The current study investigates masking effects of different kinds of background speech. For instance, Van Engen and Bradlow (2007) demonstrated that background foreign language speech produce lower disruption (less masking) than native language backgrounds – an effect known as release from masking. This release is reduced for bilinguals who speak the target and distracter languages (Brouwer et al., 2012). In the current study, we propose to investigate how foreign-accented English speech backgrounds affect the speech perception of monolingual and bilingual English speakers. In our study, three groups of listeners (monolingual English, Spanish-English bilingual, Mandarin-English bilingual) will monitor target monolingual English speech under Mandarin-accented, Spanish-accented, and unaccented background conditions. The listeners will be given the task of transcribing the sentence spoken by the target speaker which will then be coded for accuracy (percentage words correctly transcribed). Specifically, we will examine whether accented speech serves as a greater distracter and whether this depends on our listener (native or non-native).
Susan Mason

**Thesis Title:** Intelligibility in a Global World: Cases of Accent Shifts and Management

**Thesis Advisors:** Navin Viswanathan, Psychology; Inge Anema, Communication Disorders

**Thesis Abstract:** This paper will explore current linguistic theories outlining dialect shift and bilingualism, in specific, the shift from the debated “Indian English” dialect to the “American English” dialect. It will document the clinical experiences of an adult multilingual individual whose goal is to increase intelligibility in his L3 (third language) dialect, American English, which he was exposed to later in life. This paper will explore the changes that occur both in perception and production during the semester-long accent-management clinic.

Jennifer Maurer

**Thesis Title:** The Impact of an Experiential Program on Self-Reported Attitudes Regarding Homophobia

**Thesis Advisor:** Robin Cohen-LaValle, Student Development

**Thesis Abstract:** Traditionally, higher education institutions serve as tools for students to use to not only get an education but also to grow as individuals as they transition into adulthood. However, these institutions have a hard job when it comes to addressing the issues and concerns of its diverse student population. For many students, campus resources are needed in order to make a college education possible as well as successful. For students who identify as a part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community, these resources are necessary in ensuring a positive campus climate by decreasing homophobic attitudes at colleges.
2013 Thesis Abstracts

Kathryn Miecznikowski

**Thesis Title:** A Year in Feng Shui

**Thesis Advisor:** Howard Good, Communication & Media

**Thesis Abstract:** “Our landlord lives in our wall,” we would tell our friends and family. During my fourth year at college, four friends and I signed a lease and unwittingly contracted ourselves to a year with a surprising additional roommate – our landlord and his son, who lived within a makeshift nook built into our apartment. This collection of stories and illustrations, inspired by nonfiction authors Sarah Vowell and James Thurber, capture that year. In our home there were walls he left unfinished, doors that wouldn’t lock and a mysterious cubbyhole that had been nailed shut. “A Year in Feng Shui” tracks how my personal relationships strained and changed as a result of the omnipresent man within our wall.

Kaitlin Montelione

**Thesis Title:** Animal Liberation and Feminism

**Thesis Advisors:** Heather Hewett, Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies/English; Kathleen Dowley, Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies/Political Science

**Thesis Abstract:** This course will look at the aspects of both animal liberation and feminism, exposing the inherent links between the epistemologies. Examining theory and practice, we will use sources from streams of thought produced by ecofeminism, women’s studies, and the animal rights movement. By the end of the course, students will be able to locate speciesism as an oppression amongst the ranks of sexism, racism, ableism, as well as the patriarchal structure of Western society.
Alexander Moser

**Thesis Title:** Air Born

**Thesis Advisors:** Pauline Uchmanowicz, English; Heinz Fenkl, English

**Thesis Abstract:** A remarkable journey of Heinz Herrman, a German WWI pilot who flew with the Red Baron, shot down dozens of enemy warfighters, and participated in one of the largest dogfights in European history, told from the perspective of a young student who tries to study the veteran. Parallels are drawn between the old and the young in this classic tale that questions our interpretation of history.

Peter Mulligan

**Thesis Title:** National Security vs. Civil Liberties: America’s Enduring Struggle

**Thesis Advisors:** Patricia Sullivan, Communication & Media; Nancy Kassop, Political Science/International Relations

**Thesis Abstract:** Encroachments on civil rights have become an increasing concern in post 9/11 America. The government has recently passed legislation which they argue is necessary to preserving national security, but some would argue violates the Constitutional rights endowed to US citizens. I argue that this phenomenon of passing legislation that infringes upon civil rights in times of threat or perceived threat to national security is not uncommon, and is in fact a trend within US history. By comparing the provisions and historical context of the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act of 2011 with the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950, the Communist Control Act of 1954, and the Alien and Sedition Acts, I will illustrate the trend of utilizing fear and uncertainty to pass questionable laws.
Anne Petrosino

*Thesis Title:* Lucid, A Novel

*Thesis Advisor:* Heinz Fenkl, English

**Thesis Abstract:** Lucid is a discovery of the 21st century young adult consciousness, via the medium of lucid dreaming. Josephine is a charming, yet painfully irresponsible party girl. She falls into a deep depression upon returning from a failed and fabricated service learning program. Frequent lazy sleeping bouts lead her to discover that she can create her own world in her dreams. It seems lonely enough, until she unexpectedly comes across a network of lucid dreamers from around the world. She's the only one who knows their secret in her waking life, and through a series of events, is forced to choose between reality and a world free of responsibility and human suffering.
As I have begun to identify myself as an art teacher I am constantly making connections to myself as an artist. This study came about through curiosity about the ways in which I could create a direct correlation between my art work and the development of curriculum as an educator. Through the writing of James Hall along with Mark Graham and Susan Zwirn, it became apparent that being a practicing artist has a significant influence on teaching in the art room. Because of these ideas I began thinking about my making and in response developed a stop-motion animation, with memory as the thematic focus. My influence for this piece came from professional artists dealing with memory such as Rene Magritte and Sigmar Polke, along with William Kentridge’s process of drawing animation. Through the creation of this animation, along with documentation of my practice, I consider a variety of influential factors for my practice as a teacher. I intend to use this work, its thematic focus, and process as a ground for developing curriculum. This research could give pre-service art educators guidance as they are developing themselves both as artists and teachers. By making thoughtful connections between these two identities, educators may have a greater impact in the art room.
The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition, Text Revision (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 2000) specifically defines a trauma as direct personal experience of an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury, or other threat to one's physical integrity; or witnessing an event that involves death, injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of another person; or learning about unexpected or violent death, serious harm, or threat of death or injury experienced by a family member or close associate (Criterion A1). The person’s response to the event must involve intense fear, helplessness, or horror (or in children, the response must involve disorganized or agitated behavior) (Criterion A2). The prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder among delinquent youth is up to 8 times higher than in community samples (Wolpaw and Ford, 2004) and over 90% of delinquent youth have experience a traumatically stressful life event. The typical delinquent has experienced an average of 14 distinct traumas in his or her lifetime (Abram et al.2004), yet few such youth are identified as traumatized, and fewer receive appropriate treatment or placement. While holding those youth who engage in delinquent behavior is important, it is critical that trauma exposure be considered in placement decisions, as youth who receive treatment in the community have better outcomes than those placed in correctional facilities (Johnson & Ratliff, 2010). The following literature review and set of personal interviews attempt to demonstrate the overlap of symptomology of trauma and “disruptive behavior” psychopathy, while highlighting the importance of understanding the traumas typical of juvenile offending adolescents, guiding the development of informed assessment and treatment of trauma-exposed youth within the juvenile justice system.
Tara Scarola

**Thesis Title:** Sex Trafficking of Girls in Nepal

**Thesis Advisor:** Jan Schmidt, English

**Thesis Abstract:** My thesis will be about the trafficking of children in Nepal. I will discuss the reasons why trafficking is so high in this area as well as explain the conditions that these children live in. I will also talk about WGO’s that are working to stop this problem as well as my own experiences in Nepal working with children who have been rescued.

Debra Schaeffer

**Thesis Title:** Unhinged

**Thesis Advisor:** Thomas Sarrantonio, Art Department

**Thesis Abstract:** The goal of my artwork is to use humor as a means of drawing attention to problematic societal norms, specifically those relating to my age group. For example, my first piece entitled “Paid Internship” is a sarcastic celebration of finding paid work after graduation. Meanwhile, my second piece “GRE” is a critique of standardized testing and its over-importance in determining a student’s abilities. My hope is that by invoking laughter, I also begin discussion regarding the absurdity of these practices.
Samantha Schwartz

**Thesis Title:** Perspective Geometry and its Applications in Art

**Thesis Advisors:** David Clark, Mathematics; Francois Deschamps, Art Department

**Thesis Abstract:** The proposed research will closely follow the proofs included in “Euclidean Geometry: A Guided Inquiry Approach” by David M. Clark. Upon discovery and completion of proofs on perspective/solid geometry, one can use a mathematically proof-based approach to perspective drawings. This will lend itself to application in the arts (either in drawings or photography) where an art thesis may also be tied in.

Grace Seghini

**Thesis Title:** Dance on Film: Evolution of the Moving Body in Hollywood

**Thesis Advisors:** Anita Gonzalez, Theatre Arts/Latin American & Caribbean Studies; Elizabeth Munz, Communication & Media

**Thesis Abstract:** Dance on Film has become a staple in the current film and television industry, with movies that not only showcase dance, but also its impact on individuals, culture, and society. Successful dancers soon found a new audience as they shifted from the dance world to the film dance world. This project will focus on the popularization and shift of dance film from the 1950s to the 2000s, with a case study of four movies over the course of this time period. While older movies gained popularity in the musical theatre form with elaborate dance sequences and minimal cuts, the modern dance film is given an edgy flair and more camera cuts than ever before. How is the moving body captured on film, what sparked the dance movement in Hollywood, and will the movement continue to live on?
Jasmine Shovlin

**Thesis Title:** Learning from Queer Students: Reconceptualizing Support, Development, and Resources for a Diverse Student Body

**Thesis Advisors:** Karl Bryant, Sociology/Women's, Gender & Sexual Studies; Heather Hewett, English/Women's, Gender & Sexual Studies

**Thesis Abstract:** I conducted 7 individual interviews and 1 group interview with SUNY New Paltz students who identify within the LGBTQ community. I asked them questions about their college experiences, self-identity and opinions about how to open up conversations addressing diversity on a college campus. Through my own research/data and scholarly research in higher education, I hope to contribute effective ways that will help eliminate hate and discriminations on college campuses and provide a better, safer learning environment.

Eli Siems

**Thesis Title:** The Evening of Things, a Novel

**Thesis Advisors:** Heinz Fenkl, English; Christopher Link, English

**Thesis Abstract:** This is a novel about technology and the weather. A catastrophic blizzard knocks out the technological grid. Protagonist is an ex-military programmer turned hacker who works against the government to preserve electronic information in the face of technological collapse.
Marissa Stephani

**Thesis Title:** An Alternative Perspective of Student Involvement: Through a Visual Lens

**Thesis Advisors:** Robin Cohen-LaValle, Student Development; Andrea Frank, Art Department

**Thesis Abstract:** This research will explore the concept of student involvement on a college campus. Student involvement will be defined as “any activities to which a student devotes physical and/or psychological energy.” My research will analyze the impacts of over-involvement and how students balance their personal, academic, social, and self-care responsibilities. Students whose extracurricular involvement falls across the spectrum: minimally involved, actively involved, and over involved, will be interviewed and photographed. This photographic study will span the length of one semester at SUNY New Paltz.
Thesis Title: It Is Only A Novel: The Function of Fiction in Jane Austen’s Northanger Abbey

Thesis Advisors: Andrew Higgins, English; Glenn Geher, Psychology

Thesis Abstract: Northanger Abbey's Catherine Morland is “in training for a heroine,” learning life lessons from the texts she reads with great alacrity — poetry, but also, more questionably, Gothic or “horrid” novels. Radcliffe's The Mysteries of Udolpho and the so-called Northanger canon (a set of seven novels that, until recently, were believed to have been thought up by Austen herself) hang over the plot like ghosts, guiding Catherine in a variety of false directions, before it becomes apparent that the ultimate teacher in not, in fact, novels, but life itself. Despite this, horrid novels have clearly served an important function in Catherine's formative years, providing entertainment, guidance, and refuge from a household of twelve. The principles of literary Darwinism, when applied to Austen’s text, could guide an examination of just why Catherine has chosen to engage with these so-called horrid novels — what sorts of stories do they offer her? Could they, in fact, teach valuable lessons, missed when one only reads for leisure? An examination of the novel's Gothic intertexts could provide an interesting glimpse into both Catherine's mind and Austen's, a better insight into just what the text is saying about novels, reading, and life.
Thesis Title: People First Language – Beautiful Individuals

Thesis Advisors: Thomas Sarrantonio, Art Department; Wendy Bower, Communication Disorders

Thesis Abstract: Even in this day and age there is so much stigma and negativity involving the perception of disabilities and individuals with disabilities. When most people think of disabilities such as learning disabilities, or physical disabilities, or individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, etc. the typical person feels pity and doesn't see these individuals as capable human beings. There is always some sort of negativity involved such as marginalization, prejudice, devaluation, labeling, discrimination, and many more. When an individual has a disorder, many people just see the disorder and not the person. Individuals with disabilities may not always be “Sam, the one who is amazing with music,” or “Joe, the kid who is a rocket science at marine life.” Instead people might think of these individuals as “the one with Fragile X Syndrome” or “The autistic kid.” What people don’t understand is that nobody is perfect and disabilities are a natural part of life! How many people need glasses to see? Wasn’t there one subject that you just could not wrap your head around? How many people do you know who broke a limb and needed assistance? Disabilities are a natural part of life and if we label everyone by their disabilities, no one would get to know the real individual.

People First Language is the concept where the disability does not define the individual and we should all eliminate the hurtful words that come with labeling, marginalization, stigmatization, and discrimination.

For my honors thesis project, I would like to create eight pieces of art portraying the theme “People First Language” and “Disabilities are Natural.” Four of the eight pieces will be portraits of individuals with disabilities. However, I will ask these four individuals how they would like to be portrayed. These four portraits will highlight the beauty of the individuals and it will take the characteristic traits of their disability, and turn it into something that does not define them, but that they define. The next four portraits will be of four individuals who are typically learning and functioning individuals, who have or had experience with some disability or other (anything from terrible eyesight to having had a language learning disability…etc).