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Special thanks to those who have made the 2019 - 2020 Honors Program at Austin College possible:

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Hometown: Denton, TX

Major: Economics

Future Plans: Masters in Economics & MBA

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Daniel Nuckols

Committee Members: Dr. Audrey Flemming & Dr. Kevin Simmons

Thesis Title: Predicting Federal Student Loans of Austin College Graduates with FAFSA Data

My research focuses on identifying factors that affect the amount of financial debt held by Austin College graduates. The research uses only FAFSA variables to see if FAFSA data can be a huge determinant in predicting federal student loan debt. Austin College’s 2015 cohort is examined using the following variables: total family income, household size (dependent student), total gift aid, parent assets, students assets, expected family contribution (EFC), tuition, and average direct cost over four years (2018-2019) cost of attendance. The variables were obtained from Austin College’s Financial Aid Office. The research anticipates these variables will increase federal student loan debt: household size, tuition, average direct cost, and need. The results from this study will enable one to draw conclusions on how to approach federal student loan debt in the future, and hopefully how to decrease it.
Jasmine Babool

Hometown: Plano, Texas

Major: Public Health

Minors: Science and Human Behavior

Future Plans: Jasmine plans to pursue a Master’s in Public Health at Boston University.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Mathias Akuoko

Committee Members: Dr. Saritha Bangara & Dr. Mikidadu Mohammed

Thesis Title: A Comparative Analysis on the Utilization of Complementary and Alternative Medicine practices and the burden of Postpartum Depression in the United States and Thailand

Postpartum depression is a major issue among women throughout the world. In the United States, awareness is increasing that curative medicine alone may not be the best solution to address rising rates of postpartum depression among mothers. More than two-thirds of women experience some form of postpartum depression in the United States compared to less than ten percent in countries such as Thailand. A substantial amount of knowledge exists detailing that utilization of complementary and alternative medicine practices that would not only reduce the burden of postpartum depression but would also minimize the healthcare cost and other comorbid conditions associated with postpartum depression. We examined the utilization and effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicine practices in the treatment of postpartum depression within both the United States and Thailand. Data was extrapolated from peer reviewed studies that focused on the treatment of postpartum depression to draw a cross-cultural comparison between the two health frameworks. Additionally, we reviewed current topics such as general depression, pain, and the cost of services in this study. We recommend further evaluation of postpartum depression among women in the United States and the use of complementary and alternative practices to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs associated with postpartum depression.
Shelby Paige Bagby

Hometown: Forney, Texas

Majors: Business Finance and Spanish

Future Plans: Medical School Class of 2024 – School TBD

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Patrick Duffey

Committee Members: Dr. Terry Hoops & Dr. Elena Olivé

Thesis Title: Dos cuentos de Santiago Ramón y Cajal bajo de un microscopio: “La casa maldita” y “El pesimista corregido”
Two Short Stories by Santiago Ramón y Cajal Under a Microscope: “The Cursed House” and “The Corrected Pessimist”

Santiago Ramón y Cajal, a neuroscientist and doctor, also wrote literary works, the most popular of which are Vacation Stories. This thesis focuses on two of those stories, "The Cursed House" and "The Corrected Pessimist." While there are aspects that vary between the two stories, there are some qualities that they share: the protagonist resembles the author, a religious tone, a fascinating social critique on traditional gender roles, and maybe the most important - a vision that Cajal has for the regeneration of Spain. The present study analyzes the work of past critics of Cajal’s writings, such as Ryan Davis, Lauria Otis, among others. Even though Cajal wrote the short stories over 100 years ago, many of the themes are still relevant today.
Nicole Jordan Baker

Hometown: McKinney, Texas

Major: Biology

Minor: Creative Writing

Future Plans: Nicole plans to pursue post-graduate research internships in biology before attending graduate school for a Master’s in Entomology.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Loriann Garcia

Committee Members: Dr. David Aiello & Dr. James Hebda

Thesis Title: *Aphid-Parasitoid Interactions: Effects of Host Plant Defenses and Genetic Consequences of Parasitoid Stress*

Aphids (Hemiptera: Aphididae) are widespread herbivorous insects found on a variety of host plants. For most of the year, aphids reproduce asexually and are viviparous, resulting in large aphid colonies. Aphid populations, however, can be controlled by predators such as parasitoid wasps (Hymenoptera). Parasitoid wasps lay their eggs inside the aphid, which then hatch and grow inside the aphid’s body. My first project focuses on the relationships between host plant, aphid, and parasitoid wasp (*A. colemani*), and how they are affected by plant cardenolide concentrations. The milkweed aphid (*Aphis nerii*) is targeted by numerous parasitoid wasps, despite feeding on milkweed. Milkweed plants produce cardenolides, which are chemicals that damage cardiac tissues. *A. nerii* sequester this toxin in their bodies, making them a toxic host for parasitoids. In addition, we investigate effects of water stress on this system, which can alter the cardenolide and nutrient concentrations in milkweed. This change in toxicity can alter an aphid’s suitability as a parasitoid host.

In addition to lethal effects, parasitoid wasps can also have non-lethal effects on aphid populations by altering their behavior and/or morphology via changes in gene expression. It is well known that pea aphids (*Acyrthosiphon pismum*) form winged morph offspring in response to stress and overcrowding, which is a change in gene expression. It is known that the expression of cuticular protein genes in mother aphids is altered after exposure to lady beetles. These protein genes are upregulated in the legs after stress, and it is believed that their upregulation is related to the ability of aphids to better “sense” a potential predator. In my second project, I focus on how three distinct cuticular protein genes in *A. pismum* are altered in response to the threat of parasitoid wasps across three generations of aphids.
Lois Ann Bronaugh

Hometown: Buda, Texas

Majors: History and English with Creative Writing Emphasis

Future Plans: Fulbright ETA in Germany; graduate program in intercultural studies or English literature.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Hunt Tooley

Committee Members: Dr. Max Grober & Dr. Jennifer Johnson-Cooper

Thesis Title: Forever the Thinker: The International Context of Marx(ism) in the 1840s

In the decade leading up to the publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848, Karl Marx underwent a turbulent period of personal and intellectual growth. For example, in the years between 1840 and 1849, Marx finished his doctoral thesis, married the aristocratic Jenny von Westphalen, published various revolutionary writings, and lived in four different countries (having been expelled from three of them). In my study, I explore how Marx’s experiences living and working as a student, journalist, researcher, and revolutionary across Europe encouraged him to reflect and expand upon his earlier philosophy towards socialism from a domestic complaint to an international call to revolution. My research indicates that as his physical and societal environment changed, Marx developed his theoretical approach to account for international conditions, such as the Chartist worker’s movement in England. Specifically, I explore how Marx’s partnership with Friedrich Engels, a German economist involved in the textile industry, provided a practical anchor for his subversive inclinations by establishing England as the necessary initiator of worldwide change. Although their prediction of a social revolution was only partially fulfilled, I argue that the principles which Marx formed in the 1840s stuck with him for the rest of his life, establishing the foundation of what would later be commonly referred to as “Marxist thought” or Marxism. I conclude by asserting that the different roles which Marx assumed in these various international contexts enabled him to remain what he always was: a thinker.
Zaliah Abriel Finegan

Hometown: Bayside, California

Majors: Communications and Political Science

Future Plans: Semi-finalist for a Fulbright ETA position in Malaysia, graduate program in public policy or communications.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Michael Fairley

Committee Members: Dr. Audrey Flemming & Dr. Erin Copple-Smith

Thesis Title: The Impact of Presidential Campaign Tweets on Our Democracy: A Rhetorical Study

Twitter has played an active role in politics, specifically the presidency, since the 2016 election, so it comes as no surprise that it is currently a popular platform used among 2020 presidential candidates, the incumbent included. It allows them to easily share their political views and campaign promises, as well as at least “appear” to be informal and casual, and thus connected with their constituents. However, the President’s and the presidential candidates’ frequent and informal use of Twitter has led to numerous questions and concerns. A prominent one being what impact does politicians’ use of social media have on America’s democracy. This study examines a number of tweets released by Republican President Donald Trump and the top three 2020 Democratic presidential candidates Joseph Biden, Bernard Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren in the two months preceding the 2019 Iowa Caucus to better understand the relationship between Twitter, campaigns, and constituents. Using Gerard Hauser’s theory focused on the interaction between formal and vernacular rhetoric in the public sphere, this thesis argues that the presidential candidates informal use of Twitter contributes to the current polarization between American political parties.
Nicholaus Paul Frederick

Hometown: Pantego, Texas

Majors: History and Mathematics

Future Plans: Nicholaus will be teaching at Pearson Middle School in Frisco, Texas this fall while pursuing his Masters of Arts in Teaching from Austin College.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Victoria Cummins

Committee Members: Dr. Light Cummins, Dr. Martinella Dryburgh, & Dr. Andrea Overbay

Thesis Title: Senator Hattie Caraway: Silent Power

Senator Hattie Caraway was born in the rural American south on a farm in Tennessee. She would attend college to be a teacher, where she met her husband Thaddeus, and latter move to Jonesboro, Arkansas as he pursued a career in local law and national politics. Thaddeus would become a senator in Arkansas, and after he died in office, Hattie was appointed to his senate seat. Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell (D-AR) tried to use Caraway as a placeholder in order to seek the senate seat himself, along with five other male politicians. Hattie Caraway shocked the political establishment and won the general election. Historians have analyzed Caraway’s surprise victory in terms of the men in her life, mainly her late husband Thaddeus Caraway and Senator Huey Long (D-LA) who campaigned for Caraway in Arkansas. By examining her personal journal, other primary sources, as well as secondary material relating to gender politics of the time, a more complete picture of Hattie Caraway emerges. Thus, Hattie Caraway is a more tactical politician than previously thought as she became America’s first elected female senator.
This thesis examines Iraqi writers’ use of the genre of science fiction to analyze and protest the United States’ invasion of their country in 2003. Evidence comes primarily from the ten short stories in the 2016 anthology entitled Iraq +100, edited by Hassan Blasim, which depicts Iraq in 2103, a century after invasion. Their settings range from an Iraq invaded by aliens that eat humans, to a government-controlled dystopia, to a utopia surrounded by desolated lands, to an Iraq that has forgotten its past. My project examines the impact of the American invasion by looking at Iraqis’ attempts to process their experiences by looking through the lens of a genre so closely associated with the West, particularly the US, and thus with its progressive vision of the future and of human nature. In effect, the empire writes back in the language of its invader. With comparisons drawn from famous Western science fiction works such as H.G. Wells’s War of the Worlds and Isaac Asimov’s Foundation series, the thesis treats the nature of imperialism, a common theme in science fiction. Through comparisons to these Western works and an exploration of Iraq’s history, it provides evidence that many Iraqis see the American invasion as an imperialist power-grab that has damaged the lives and cultures of a region that birthed some of the first human civilizations.
John T. Haynes

Hometown: Fairview, Texas

Majors: Anthropology and History

Future Plans: John plans to attend the Graduate School for Archaeology at Yale College of Arts and Sciences.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Brian Watkins

Committee Members: Dr. Martin Wells & Dr. Terry Hoops

Thesis Title: Resistance in Submission: Galilean-Jewish Reactions to a Late Roman World in Mosaic.

The conquest of Ancient Israel by the Roman Empire and the subsequent cultural “Romanization” of the region is often seen as a classic conquest scenario - a weaker group is overcome and conquered by a stronger one, and forced to adopt the cultural traits of the conqueror to survive in their new, dominated world. This simple view of the interaction between dominator and dominated is particularly at home in studies of the ancient world, which due to the nature of such studies, often struggle with the essentializing process of ignoring the complexity of human reactions to cultural domination. Oftentimes, evidence of how peoples resisted their oppressors in small, everyday ways, simply does not survive into the archaeological record. Thankfully, in the past several decades, a series of discoveries from the 5th and 6th centuries in Israel’s Upper Galilee have given us a window into a previously unknown branch of Judaism, which syncretized with and adopted Roman culture in enlightening ways. Adopting symbols from the Greco-Roman world, but changing their meanings and contexts to reflect local, rather than Roman, realities and concerns, this Upper Galilean sect of ancient Judaism produced an artistic tradition that both accepts Hellenistic artistic traditions, and rejects the Greco-Roman cultural context behind them in an extremely complex and subtle display of what can be termed “resistance art”. This paper aims to place the art of Upper Galilean synagogues in context with other forms of resistive colonial art to create a fuller picture of the many ways in which art can be used as a form of resistance, and how ancient peoples interacted with colonizing influences.
Hometown: Denton, Texas

Majors: Economics and Finance

Future Plans: Seth plans on attending the University of North Carolina-Charlotte Graduate School to pursue a Master’s in Economics and Mathematical Finance. After completion of his masters, Seth will pursue a Ph.D. in Economics.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Kevin Simmons

Committee Members: Dr. Peter Schulze & Shannon Cornelison-Brown

Thesis Title: *Firm Behavior in the Face of Severe Weather: Studying the Effects of Deterministic and Probabilistic Warning Systems*

In the face of increasing severe weather, particularly tornadoes, it is necessary to understand how firms process and react to information related to storms. More specifically, research is needed to predict and understand firms’ behavior in response to various storm warning systems. This project responds to the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017, H.R. 353, which calls for the use of social and behavioral science to study and improve storm warning systems. The goal of this project is twofold: predictive results with a logit model and point estimates and estimate potential cost savings with change in warning systems. The regression results explore variables which have the most influence in how firms react and behave in response to deterministic and probabilistic warning systems. Beyond increases in probability, trust in the warning and training provides the most significant changes to firms’ behavior. Estimated savings are calculated through finding the response cost and potential loss of each warning scenario. Using a midpoint method, the estimated savings of the probabilistic warning system approaches $2 billion.
Hometown: Southlake, Texas

Major: English

Future Plans: Master of Arts in Teaching with the Austin Teacher Program

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Thomas Blake

Committee Members: Dr. Alex Garganigo & Dr. Mark Hébert

Thesis Title: *Laying the Law: Mary as Legisatrix in “The Miracle of Theophilus”*

This thesis explores the Virgin Mary’s relationship to, and feminine agency over, law and text within the context of the medieval Marian miracle legend, “The Miracle of Theophilus” (late 13th century). Although many medieval Marian miracle legends portray Mary as a mediatrix between her Son and humankind, “The Miracle of Theophilus” portrays the Virgin not as a mediatrix but an empowered legisatrix who cleverly outwits Satan in a prolonged legal battle that culminates in her tearing away the contract binding Theophilus’ soul. Evaluated through new-historicist and psychoanalytical feminist theoretical lenses, this miracle legend is analyzed alongside contemporaneous illuminations of the Virgin fighting Satan in Middle English manuscripts and contrasts this agency with her removal from the legend in the early modern period. Mary’s influence over law and text, her reinvigorated agency in late medieval England (specifically within the Rawlinson manuscript, c.1450), and how her role as a Jewish/Christian woman connects to the social context outside the miracle legend are examined herein. I additionally discuss how Mary’s legal actions challenge imposed understandings of masculinity and women’s access to law in the 15th century, and why her connection to both law and text are significant for her role as a historical and religious figure in medieval England.
Haeun Noel Kim

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea
Major: Psychology & East Asian Studies
Future Plans: Law school
Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Scott Langton
Committee Members: Dr. Melinda Landeck & Dr. Brian Watkins
Thesis Title: “I Was Murdered Because I Was Born A Woman”: Feminism Today In South Korea and Japan

Despite its rapid modernization and development, South Korea has taken the 118th place out of 144 in gender equality ranking, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2017. This dismal ranking reflects the fact that violence against women in South Korea is perpetrated by the country’s social structure and social institutions. Such gender disparity has directed South Korean citizens, especially women, to expand their knowledge in feminism. A growing number of South Korean feminists has revoked nationwide #MeToo, Off-corset movement and protests in 2017-19, raising the awareness of gender inequality in South Korea and other East Asian countries. Women in South Korea are constantly being stigmatized for being feminists; however, they are challenging their nation to change.

Similarly, women in Japan also have faced a long history of victim shaming and misogynistic culture. Japan has taken 114th place out of 144 in gender equality ranking, being the lowest ranking country among the Group of Seven industrialized nations. Victims of gender disparity in Japan, however, were often silenced. Confucian ideology, which also influenced South Korean gender inequality, and Bushido, the way of “samurai” culture emphasized the vulnerability of women in Japan. This deeply embedded culture of benevolent sexism made it hard for the Japanese #MeToo movement to grow any bigger. However, feminists in Japan continued to fight against Japan’s institutionalized violence against women. Through more subtle feminist movements such as KuToo and redefining their Kawaii culture, Japanese feminists have constructed their own societal reformation.

As a result, women in South Korea and Japan are coming together as sisters who share similar culture and experiences to fight their patriarchal social structures together. Even though the current political tension and climate between South Korea and Japan have predicted the worst relationship between these nations. The recent societal reformation and progressive changes in South Korea and Japan deserve more attention. This paper will examine the impacts of feminism on gender equality in South Korea and Japan, as well as the struggles and drawbacks that are expected within the society. Similarities and differences of feminism in Asia and Western nations will further challenge scholars around the world.
Protein homeostasis is crucial for the proper working of the cell. Misfolded proteins are non-functional and can become toxic, leading to many diseases such as Alzheimer’s and cystic fibrosis. Alpha Crystallin is a protein found in the eye lens that acts as a chaperone to prevent misfolding of other proteins. In this way, alpha crystallin helps maintain the proper refractive index and clarity of the eye lens. αB-crystallin is an isoform of alpha crystallin and is found in many different types of tissue. The mechanism by which αB-crystallin prevents aggregation is not yet fully understood. In normal conditions, αB-crystallin is known to form large heterooligomers and exchange subunits extensively. This study investigated the correlation between subunit exchange and chaperone function of a mutant of αB-crystallin (3E) utilizing fluorescently labeled proteins. The 3E mutant is a model for phosphorylated αB-crystallin and has shown to have exceptional chaperone efficiency. By using Forster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET), subunit exchange could be observed between donor and acceptor labeled proteins as a function of time. Previous experiments with wildtype αB-crystallin show a correlation between higher chaperone function and higher oligomer exchange. As such, we hypothesize this mutant will show heightened subunit exchange compared to wildtype in all temperatures to be tested (25°C, 37°C, and 45°C) and at different pH conditions (6 and 7).
Oliwier Marcin Owczarek

Hometown: Ostrzeszów Wielkopolski, Poland

Major: Economics

Minor: History

Future Plans: Graduate School for Data Analytics/Economics

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Mikidadu Mohammed

Committee Members: Dr. Jack Mealy & Dr. Daniel Nuckols

Thesis Title: A Basic Solution

The purpose of this research is to analyze the effects of a Universal Basic Income (or UBI) on willingness to work and on macroeconomic performance of the United States. To analyze the effects a UBI will have on individuals’ willingness to work, a survey was conducted to examine the important determinants of reservation wages. For the impact of UBI on U.S. macroeconomy a structural vector autoregression model was utilized. At the micro level, the study finds that following at $12,000 UBI-related increase in annual income, reservation wages of workers rise, resulting in a statistically significant decrease in willingness to work. At the macro level, an increase in overall government welfare (UBI) spending causes a statistically significant increase in unemployment and inflation, and a statistically insignificant decrease in real GDP. Altogether, the results suggest that UBI may not have any expansionary or recessionary effects, and while changes in unemployment and inflation are significant, they do not reach the destructive levels many critics claim.
Manuella Owusu

Hometown: Kumasi, Ghana
Major: French and English with a Creative Writing Emphasis
Future Plans: Finding a job; Grad school
Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Stacey Battis
Committee Members: Dr. Colin Foss & Dr. Randi Tanglen
Thesis Title: *Métissage-Marronnage: la démarginalisation du canon littéraire antillais*

This project posits an alternative approach to French Caribbean literature, one that centers its marginalized voices in an effort to reconfigure the present discourses that privilege canonical texts. The purpose of my research therefore is to study and analyze the ways in which women in Antillean literature are changing how their literature presents and discusses their subjectivities and that of the Antilles. Suzanne Dracius, who presents an alternative discourse on Antillean literature that is important to the understanding and reframing of our intellectual approaches to Francophone literature in general, serves as a major focal point in this work. My research thus focuses on her identity theory of métissage-marronnage, in a comparison against the major theories associated with Antillean literature (Négritude, Antillanité and Créolité) to provide insights that create new understandings and new ways of reading counter narratives presented by women within Antillean literature and Francophone literature as a whole.
Emma Jewell Page

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

Majors: Physics

Future Plans: Currently applying to graduate schools for a PhD in Physics.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. David Whelan

Committee Members: Dr. David Baker & Dr. Andrea Overbay

Thesis Title: *A Photometric Method for Identifying Binary Stars*

Our goal is to create a data-driven photometric method for discovering binary companions for O-, B-, and A-type stars. Using all-sky surveys Tycho-2, 2MASS, and WISE, we compare the photometry for a sample of 972 stars of known spectral type to model spectral energy distributions based on Kurucz model atmospheres, identifying those which closely match the models and show no signs of binarity or contamination by dust emission. This sample allows us to compute intrinsic photometric colors as a function of spectral type and luminosity class which are then used as the benchmark for other stars. Unique color excesses for dust emission and binarity are independently identified, and the method is tested by removing the sample color excesses to recover the primary spectral type colors. By combining survey photometry with spectral types, we have a straightforward method for identifying approximate spectral types of binary companion stars.
Natalie Grace Randall

Hometown: Delray Beach, Florida

Majors: Mathematics and Computer Science

Future Plans: Graduate School for Applied Mathematics

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Catie Patterson

Committee Members: Dr. Aaron Block & Dr. Vince Gregoric

Thesis Title: Meal to Funding Source Assignment for Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County

Meals on Wheels Inc, of Tarrant County (MoWTC) is a non-profit organization whose primary function is to prepare and deliver free meals daily to its clients. These clients are unable to provide meals for themselves due to age, health complications, or financial circumstances. MoWTC delivers more than one million meals a year to their expanding client network in Tarrant County, Texas. The cost of preparing and delivering these meals is covered by two kinds of donations: restricted funds and community funds. Restricted funds come from outside agencies, and each restricted funding source comes with its own set of client requirements based on characteristics like age or health status. This project’s focus is on the creation and implementation of an algorithm that determines the optimal client meal to funding source assignments that maximizes restricted funding source usage.
**Toni Jean Richardson**

Hometown: Era, Texas

Major: Music

Minors: Nonprofit Organizations and Public Service

Future Plans: Toni plans to attend graduate school to pursue her Master’s in Vocal Pedagogy and Performance.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Wayne Crannell

Committee Members: Steven O’Day & Sylvia Rivers

Thesis Title: *Cross-training for the Female Vocalist: Reconciling the Conflicts Between Classical and Commercial Vocal Techniques*

Belting is a singing technique used in musical theatre in order to achieve specific tone qualities derived from speech. These tone qualities are able to resonate in concert halls without microphones or other amplification while providing speech-like communication of text using an extended tessitura. The belt voice is a controversial topic of discussion among music and theatre communities. Unhealthy belting can create excessive tension in the throat, leading to injuries of the vocal cords. This is so common that many classical voice teachers refuse to teach their students to belt. However, for 21st century vocalists, the technique is required in many fields, including musical theatre and most kinds of other popular music. This research examines the belting techniques used by non-classically trained female vocalists and reconciles the conflicts by applying classical techniques to the belt voice while maintaining its distinct timbre. The development of belting as a legitimate vocal technique in the classical voice studio remains ongoing, but its advance on Broadway has led to mainstream acknowledgement as a legitimate technique on its own.
John William Thompson

Hometown: McKinney, Texas

Majors: Finance and History

Future Plans: Master of Finance at SMU

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Felix Harcourt

Committee Members: Dr. Victoria Cummins & Dr. Brian Watkins

Thesis Title: Cults and Communes in Texas

This project will attempt to uncover Texas’s rich history of cults and communes, examine the development of them as well as their leaders, delineate key factors among cults in Texas, and analyze the societal impact of these cults/communes. The religious and ideological background of Texas will be scrutinized as well as the general conditional, psychological, and sociological traits behind the genesis of cults and communes. Groups of various sizes will be examined, but particular attention will be paid to those that made the most significant impact both locally and nationally. The factors behind the successes and failures of these groups will be considered as well as the reason behind the reactions of the general populous to these separatist societies.
Jillian Rose Vandergrift

Hometown: Carrollton, Texas

Major: Creative Writing

Minors: Psychology

Future Plans: Pursuing a Master’s in Library Science

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Randi Tanglen

Committee Members: Dr. Lisha Daniels Storey & Dr. Colin Foss

Thesis Title: *Art for Truth’s Sake: Feminism and Christianity in Elizabeth Stuart Phelps’ Novels*

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (1844-1911) was one of the most well-known nineteenth-century spiritualist and reformist authors, but is now categorized as a recovered writer. In particular, she was a key player in the social gospel movement, which emphasized Christian values as justification for social reform and Christian practices as the solution. Through close readings of three of her novels, I explore the intersection of Phelps’ major themes of feminism and social gospel. My research centers around three of Phelps’ novels: *The Gates Ajar* (1868), *The Silent Partner* (1871), and *A Singular Life* (1895). *The Gates Ajar* and *The Silent Partner* feature female protagonists with agency and intelligence, while *A Singular Life* reveals Phelps’ efforts to make her feminism palatable to a Christian audience by nearly forgoing her ideals entirely. In this juggling of two forces that many often view as incompatible with one another, the question of a greater truth arises. Phelps is vocal about art as a vessel for conveying truth, and yet her depictions of central truths shift in her work throughout her life. By tracking the trajectory and exchange of Phelps’ feminism and faith, I draw connections between her historical and personal contexts and the characters in her works.
**Anthropology**  
Emily Jean Aller*  
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Rachel Ann Young*  

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**Political Science**  
Joshua Amin Himelfarb  

**Psychology**  
Abigail Lynn Anderson  
Makayla D. Dunlap  
Caroline “Grace” Fullerton  
Abigail Kathryn Goodman*  
Alyssa Anne Longaker  

**Public Health**  
Caroline Elyse Glaister  
Matthew J. Li  
Priya Suresh Shah  

**Spanish**  
Jaran Max Rudd*  
Odalys Ruby Sarabia*  
Felix Alejandro Soriano  
Génesis Naomi Velázquez  

*Nominated in two departments*
Alpha Chi is a national honorary society devoted to the promotion and recognition of scholarship effective among the undergraduate students in the academic division of the colleges and universities in the United States. Each year the faculty elects to the Alpha Chi membership the appropriate number of qualified candidates. Candidates for Alpha Chi are elected from the top ten percent of the senior class and the top five percent of the junior class by grade point average.

**ALPHA CHI**  
National Scholastic Honor Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zachary M. Aamold</th>
<th>Victoria Jean Dodd*</th>
<th>Khanh Tran Minh Nguyen*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Jean Aller*</td>
<td>Samantha Fawcett*</td>
<td>Caroline Noelle Ogden*</td>
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<td>Abigail Anderson*</td>
<td>Zaliah Abriel Finegan*</td>
<td>Rachel Erin Oney*</td>
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<td>Savy Flores*</td>
<td>Addie M. Pederson</td>
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<td>Nicholas P. Frederick</td>
<td>Nicole Pinkerton*</td>
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<td>Caroline G. Fullerton</td>
<td>Isabel Ruch*</td>
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<td>Megan Goyal*</td>
<td>Antonio Miguel Saavedra*</td>
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<td>Saif Haque*</td>
<td>Ann Louise Savage</td>
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<td>Lydia Ana-Marie House*</td>
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<td>Haeun Kim</td>
<td>Jessica Thoennes*</td>
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<td>Jillian Rose Vandergrift*</td>
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<td>Jason Nasu Chen*</td>
<td>Wenhao Li</td>
<td>James Thomas Wyche</td>
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<td>Freyja Grace Coe*</td>
<td>Zachary Magers*</td>
<td>Rachel Young*</td>
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<td>Brittany Quynh Thi Dang*</td>
<td>Camarah McLean*</td>
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* 2019-2020 New Members
The Phi Beta Kappa Society, the oldest academic honor society, has a mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in undergraduate liberal arts and sciences. Selection to the Austin College chapter is by vote of faculty Phi Beta Kappa keyholders based on scholarly achievement, broad cultural interest, and good character. New members are selected from the graduating class each year with attention given to their overall scholarship with weight given to both the academic record and the breadth and proportion of the candidate’s program demonstrated by the number and variety of courses taken outside the major. Candidates display a spirit of intellectual adventure, which is manifest in many ways including, but not limited to independent research, scholarly activity, significant advanced work outside the major, and significant coursework across all three divisions of the college.

PHI BETA KAPPA
National Undergraduate Honor Society

Zachary Matthew Aamold*  
Esmeralda Crystal Alejo*  
Piriton Phoebe Ilaye Angaye*  
Shelby Paige Bagby*  
Lois Ann Bronaugh*  
Sandra Carrasco-Bueno  
Jason Nasu Chen*  
Victoria Jean Dodd*  
Samantha Lynn Fawcett*  
Zaliah Abriel Finegan*  
Savannah Shea Flores*  
Nicholaus Paul Frederick*  
Lydia Ana-Marie House*  
Holly Marie Kapp*  
Haeun Noel Kim*  
Katia Alejandra López Leiva  
Isabella J. MacMiller*  
Camarah A. McLean*  
Angel Montelongo*  
Khanh Tran Minh Nguyen*  
Caroline N. Ogden*  
Rachel E. Oney*  
Addie Marie Pederson*  
Natalie Grace Randall*  
Antonio Miguel Saavedra*  
Ann Louise Savage  
Rita Elizabeth Spellman*  
Bridget T. Tolle*  
Jillian Rose Vandergrift*  
Alisa A. White*  
James Thomas Wyche*

* 2019-2020 New Members