Apr 25th, 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

2014 Senior Symposium Program

Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences

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DEAN’S GREETING

One of the hallmarks of an Oberlin education is the opportunity to undertake independent research or creative endeavors. Each year, hundreds of students engage in intensely focused work on their own projects: investigating phenomena in the laboratory, combing through archival materials, analyzing a collection of texts, finding new patterns in social science data, or creating new works for exhibitions or performances. The Senior Symposium is a forum in which the college community recognizes and celebrates these accomplishments, and we invite students to share their work in the laboratories, libraries, and studios with the community as a whole. In our fifth annual celebration this afternoon, 49 seniors will present their work, and dozens more will be displaying or performing their work in other venues throughout April and May.

This event was made possible by the efforts of Randal Doane, assistant dean of studies, with funding from the Mellon Foundation. Cosponsors for this event include the Office of the Dean of Studies and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences. To the seniors presenting at the symposium: congratulations on your accomplishments. I am looking forward to hearing more about your work.

Steven Wojtal
Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

OPENING REMARKS • 1:00 PM

Steven Wojtal, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Geology
Location: Science Center, Craig Lecture Hall

SESSION I • 1:30-2:30 PM

PANEL 1: The Disorder of Things: Conservation and Risk with Cranes, Coral Reefs, and Crayfish
Moderator: Angie Roles, Assistant Professor of Biology
Emily Lumdaine
My Summer in Costume: Crane Reintroduction and the Conservation of Small Populations
Christopher Pickens
Response of Herbivorous Fish Communities to a New Resource: Insight into Macroalgal Phase Shifts on Coral Reefs
Dyani Sabin
The Complete Mitochondrial Genomes of Two Crayfish in the Genus Orconectes: O. Rusticus and O. Sanbornii
Location: Science Center, A154

PANEL 2: Meiosis, Memory, Mutation: Studies in Reproduction, Menopause, and Ovarian Cancer
Moderator: Tracie Paine, Associate Professor of Neuroscience
Karin Yoshida
Histological Changes in Monodelphis domestica Uteri During Pregnancy
Veronica Burnham
Luteinizing Hormone and the Brain: Implications for Post-Menopausal Memory Decline
Tae Nyu (Brian) Uhm
Selection of DNA Aptamers for Ovarian Cancer Biomarker CA125
Location: Science Center, A155
SESSION II • 2:45-3:45 PM

PANEL 6: Experiments in Root Formation, Damselfly Parasites, and Intestinal Fortitude
Moderator: Marta Laskowski, Professor of Biology
Ari Schwartz
Understanding Lateral Root Formation: Genetic Control of Lateral Root Spacing and Emergence
Ben Garfinkel
Parasites of the Damselfly Ischnura verticalis: Relationships to Sex and Egg Load
Trip Freeburg
Analysis of an RNAi-Induced Defect in the Caenorhabditis elegans Defecation Motor Program
Location: Science Center, A154

PANEL 7: Careful What You Wish For: Cautionary Case Studies in (Radical) Democracy
Moderator: Chris Howell, Professor of Politics
Reid Palmer
“You Started Something When You Joined the International Brigade, Papa”: Alvah Bessie, the Spanish Civil War, and the Communist Party of the United States of America
Samsun Knight
Democracy and the Effects of Drought
Arielle Swernoff
Is Participatory Democracy Possible? A Study of Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Chicago, and New York
Location: Science Center, A155

PANEL 8: Enigmatic Art Objects: Case Studies of Social Practice, Tricksters, and Patronage
Moderator: Susan Kane, Mildred C. Jay Professor of Art and Classical Archaeology
Elias Wright
Art as Communication Objects in a Practice-Centered Account of Albrecht Durer
Anna Feuer
Reynard the Fox in Medieval Marginal Illustrations
Brenna Larson
The Balue Nielli: Intercultural Exchange and Conspicuous Consumption in 15th-century France and Italy
Location: Science Center, A254
SESSION III  •  4:00-5:15 PM

PANEL 12: Risk, Regulation, and Response: Biological Studies of Muscle Contraction, Carcinogens, and Black-Capped Chickadees
Moderator: Marta Laskowski, Professor of Biology

Sam McCrighth
Calcium Signaling and Neuropeptide Secretion in the Expulsion Step of the Caenorhabditis Elegans Defecation Motor Program

Anne Rich
Tree Core Analysis for Heavy Metal Carcinogens in a Childhood Cancer Cluster

Pearl Rivers
Do Eastern Gray Squirrels Eavesdrop on Black-Capped Chickadee Referential Alarm Calls?
Location: Science Center, A154

PANEL 13: Enigmatic Agents: Studies in the Decoding of Language and Action
Moderator: Cindy Frantz, Associate Professor of Psychology

Christopher Bromberg
An Exploratory Investigation of Word Aversion

Evan Tincknell
Effects of Providing Real-Time Feedback About Electricity and Water Consumption

Alex Bianchi
Becoming the Breath: Experience in the Practice of Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga
Location: Science Center, A155

Moderator: James Dobbins, James H. Fairchild Professor of East Asian Studies

Ryan Reynolds
Identity and Commerce along the Maritime Spice Route between Egypt and India

Katrina Cortés
The Hood Takeover: New York City’s Housing and Gentrification Organizing in the Face of Non-Profit Surveillance

Gabriel Kanengiser
Innovation and Reaction to Change in the Music Industry
Location: Science Center, A254

PANEL 9: Can You See the Real Me? Analyses of Aesthetics and Representation
Moderator: A.G. Miller, Associate Professor of Religion

Nicole Nance
Negotiating Respectability: Black Women’s Struggle for Self-Representation

Hadas Binyamini
Ethnic and National Identities in Jewish and Israeli Minority Literature

Ruby Robina Saha
The Politics of Display: The Exhibition of Islamic Art in a Post-9/11, Revisionist Context
Location: Science Center, A255

Moderator: Meredith Raimondo, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor of Comparative American Studies

Joseph Lubitz
Anxious Seas: Reading Affect in Dazai and Murdoch

Joelle Eliza Lingat
Self-Made Spines: Healing, Politicization, and Education through Zines

Meriel Stein
Life Imitates Art, When Art Holds the Upper Hand: The Scope of Turkish Contemporary Art and the Aesthetics of Hegemony
Location: Science Center, K209

PANEL 11: A Voice of One’s Own: Reflections on Writing, “Coming Out,” and Composing
Moderator: Jan Miyake, Conservatory Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Music Theory

Ryann Eastman
The Unsolved Problem: Anger and Female Authorship

Julia Harris
Without the Closet: A Critical Exploration of Queer Experiences of Visibility

Siena Castañares
Comparing Students’ and Educators’ Perspectives on Composing Music in the Elementary Classroom
Location: Science Center, A247
MEET THE PRESENTERS

SAMANTHA AISEN
ANTHROPOLOGY
Advisor and Mentor: Crystal Binik, Anthropology
Minds, Bodies, and Political Selves: Embodying Pro-Choice Activism
The recent introduction of legislation aimed to limit abortion access has reenergized activists on both sides of this issue. In this ethnographic study of political activists and clinic escorts, I examine the activists’ political beliefs on abortion and the ways in which they embody those beliefs. My research focuses on the rhetoric and embodied practices surrounding key issues in the pro-choice movement, including gender inequality, the body as an object, the influence of medicalization, and the status of the fetus.

Sam came to Oberlin from the suburbs of Chicago and for the past three years has focused on medical anthropology and reproductive justice. In spring 2013, she studied in Amsterdam and focused on social policy. In addition to her academic interests, Sam enjoys vegetarian cooking, travel, and cats. After college, she hopes to pursue a PhD in medical anthropology and a master’s in public health in order to conduct research on policies pertaining to reproductive rights.

ALEXANDER BIANCHI
RELIGION
Advisor and Mentor: Laurie McMillin, Religion and Rhetoric
Becoming the Breath: Experience in the Practice of Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga
The past decade has seen the emergence of modern yoga studies. While much of this scholarship dedicates itself to understanding yoga’s historical development over time, fewer scholars have sought to understand the transformative experiences of practitioners themselves. In this practice-based ethnographic study of Ashtanga Vinyasa yoga, I examine the experience of heightened sensitivities to—and alternate understandings of—body, mind, the corporeal presence of others, and the surrounding environment. Using these patterns of experience, I argue that the practice of Ashtanga yoga yields new ways of knowing the self and its environment not normally cultivated in daily life.

Alexander hails from the hills of western Massachusetts. His experience over the past four years in Ashtanga yoga includes training in adjustments with his teacher, Michelle Ryan, and a trip to Mysore, India, the birthplace and home of Ashtanga yoga. Through a Sahnsi grant, he practiced and conducted an ethnographic field study at the Sri K. Pattabhi Jois Ashtanga Yoga Institute. The study later became the basis of his capstone. In addition to studying religion, Alexander studies in Oberlin’s acting program and has appeared in numerous department and student productions. He plans to pursue a career in theater after graduation, at least for the foreseeable future.

HADAS BINYAMINI
HISTORY
Advisor: Zeinab Abul-Magd, History
Mentor: Shulamit Magnus, History
Ethnic and National Identities in Jewish and Israeli Minority Literature
My research examines the construction of ethnic-national identities through cultural work that subverts national-historical narratives. German and Israeli authors both rejected a dichotomy between Germaneness and Jewishness, and between Jewishness and Arabness, respectively. Here I explore the works of German-Jewish artists on Jewishness, and Mizrahi- and Palestinian-Israeli artists on Israeliness. The artists’ explorations of fragmented identities occurred in distinct historical contexts, but the similarities between the German-Jewish pre-WWII experience, and the Mizrahi- and Palestinian-Israeli contemporary experience, raise political and ethical questions about Jewishness, Israeliness, and nationhood.
Hadas spent half of her life in Israel and the other in California’s Silicon Valley. She is former cochair of Oberlin Students for Israel and a cofounder and former chair of J Street U at Oberlin, which advocates for vigorous and sustained American leadership in facilitating a negotiated, two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After college, she hopes to continue studying diaspora nationalisms and historical memory.

**TRUMAN BRASLAW**

**POLITICS**

Advisor and Mentor: Harry Hirsch, Politics

An Arbitrary Death? Capital Punishment and the Supreme Court

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Supreme Court decided three landmark cases on death penalty laws in the United States. While adjudicating these cases, the Court sought to address one of the central questions regarding capital punishment: can it be applied fairly? My paper attempts to understand how the Court found an answer to this question. I employ complementary frameworks of constitutional interpretation, formalism, and realism to suggest that the Court’s focus on judicial restraint and its weak understanding of race and discrimination led it to conclude that capital punishment can be applied “fairly enough” for our constitutional system.

Hailing from the sunny state of California, Truman has learned to alleviate his suffering during the dark Ohio winters by diving into his studies, playing indoor soccer, and indulging in excessively long lunch breaks. Truman also interned for the Immigrant Workers Project, where he teaches ESL classes and prepares clients for federal immigration court. Additionally, Truman has “the best job ever” (i.e., a tutor for American Constitutional Law), for which he is paid to have fun while learning about our country’s legal structures. This strategy demonstrated the ways in which the Pinochet years embodied the potential coexistence of authoritarian objectives and democratic and constitutional ideals. As a result, the country’s political system continues to function today as a protected democracy.

**CHRISTOPHER BROMBERG**

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Advisor: Travis Wilson, Psychology

Mentor: Paul Thibodeau, Psychology

An Exploratory Investigation of Word Aversion

In recent decades, a cultural phenomenon known as word aversion has been present in American culture. Words such as “moist” cause certain individuals to experience disgust and considerable discomfort. This research represents an extension of initial findings about the cause and prevalence of word aversion by attempting to determine if reactions to the word “moist” can be measured through behavior.

Chris grew up in central New Jersey and serves as a research assistant to professors Wilson and Thibodeau in the psychology department. He has also worked as a tutor for Introduction to Psychological Science and Developmental Psychology and as a teaching assistant for Cultural Psychology. After graduation, he hopes to study positive psychology and earn his PhD.

**VERONICA BURNHAM**

**NEUROSCIENCE**

Advisor and Mentor: Jan Thornton, Neuroscience

Luteinizing Hormone and the Brain: Implications for Post-Menopausal Memory Decline

Estrogen has long been studied for its positive impact on memory. Some hypothesize that decreasing estrogen in menopause creates the increase in risk for Alzheimer’s disease observed in postmenopausal women. However, estrogen replacement therapy has not proven to be an effective preventative measure, failing to consistently improve memory while increasing the risk of breast cancer. Exciting research from our lab indicates that a related hormone, luteinizing hormone, which increases dramatically after menopause, may play a role in memory decline. Intracranial injections of luteinizing hormone are shown to impair spatial memory formation in female rats, while blocking luteinizing hormone activity can rescue these deficits.

Veronica comes from a small town in slightly upstate New York and is completing an honors thesis in neuroscience. She is the cofounder and editor-in-chief of ‘The Synapse’, Oberlin’s science magazine, and is involved in a variety of science-outreach efforts on campus, including a mentorship program with the high school and a science radio talk show. She is also employed as a tour guide, a DeCafe smoothie-maker, and an academic ambassador. Veronica has done research on everything from polymer synthesis to sexual behavior in fruit flies and plans to pursue a PhD in neuroscience.

**SIEÑA CASTÁÑARES**

**MUSICAL STUDIES AND PSYCHOLOGY**

Advisor: Joseph Lubben, Music Theory, and Travis Wilson, Psychology

Mentor: Devin Burke, Musicology

Comparing Students’ and Educators’ Perspectives on Composing Music in the Elementary Classroom

Comparing music gives children a deeper understanding of themselves, better social and cognitive skills, and a sense of personal agency, according to dominant voices in music education research. Whether children who study music composition would agree is a question that researchers have only recently begun to ask. In this project, I use my work with students in local music programs to test the validity of prevailing pedagogical claims about the benefits of composition. By comparing my findings with previous ones, I hope to contribute to the burgeoning research into students’ perspectives on composition in the classroom.

**LILY BRYANT**

**HISTORY**

Advisors: Renee Romano and Steven Volk, History

Mentor: Kristina Mani, Politics

Between Force and Law: The Early Years of the Pinochet Regime

For 17 years, the authoritarian regime of General Augusto Pinochet ruled over Chile. My research explores the first two years of the dictatorship as a critical period for understanding contemporary Chilean politics and society. From 1973-1975, the regime sought to legitimize a violent repression of political dissidents through nuanced manipulations of the country’s legal structures. This strategy demonstrated the ways in which the Pinochet years embodied the potential coexistence of authoritarian objectives and democratic and constitutionalist ideals. As a result, the country’s political system continues to function today as a protected democracy.

Lily, from Los Angeles, is a student representative for the history department. She has volunteered as a social studies tutor at Oberlin’s Langston Middle School and is currently a mentor to Oberlin High School students in the Minds Scholars Program. In fall 2013, Lily studied abroad in Chile. She returned to Chile this past winter term to conduct research for her thesis after receiving the Artz Honors Research Grant and the Jerome Davis Research Award. After Oberlin, Lily hopes to serve as a Fulbright English teaching assistant to university students in Medellín, Colombia.

**SIEUEN CASTÀNAS**

**SPECIAL STUDIES**

Advisors: Joseph Lubben, Music Theory, and Travis Wilson, Psychology

Mentor: Devin Burke, Musicology

Comparing Students’ and Educators’ Perspectives on Composing Music in the Elementary Classroom

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Siena was born and raised in Los Angeles, but calls northern Oregon home. In her time at Oberlin, she participated in Professor Peck’s Practicum in Tutoring and the Eastwood Outdoor Classroom Exco, and she has worked as a data manager for Eastwood Elementary School and for music history professor Charles McGarity. She is an avid singer-songwriter and debuted two original albums on iTunes in her first winter term, and her third album is currently in the works. After graduation, she looks forward to enrolling in the Master’s in Music Teaching program at the Oberlin Conservatory.

**ALYSSA CIVIAN**
**MUSICAL STUDIES AND THEATER**
Advisors: Allen Cadwallader, Music Theory, and Daniel James, Theater
Mentor: Devin Burke, Musicology

Symmetries in Practice: Ruth Crawford Seeger’s Diaphonic Suites in Graphical Representation, Technical Analysis, and Historiographic Discussion
This paper re/presents Ruth Crawford Seeger’s four Diaphonic Suites (1930-1) and represents the first collective analysis of these works. Herein I use historiographic critique, as well as graphical analysis, to both “represent” these pieces by providing a structural overview and “represent” them by revealing problematic aesthetic and analytical trends in the last 40 years of scholarship. In doing so, my research uncovers valuable symmetries across the suites and their histories and offers a new understanding of these works and contemporary music theory itself.

Alyssa hails from Dedham, Massachusetts, and—as in addition to her majors—has studied mathematics and sociology at Oberlin. She has also held a variety of leadership roles on campus: treasurer for visiting performers, stage manager for a dozen productions, musician across five instruments, carpenter for theater and dance, OSCA facilitator, and president and top scorer on the rugby team. In the past year, Alyssa covered 45,000 ground miles around the country—a lifestyle that will continue after graduation as she organizes and performs on a number of national tours.

**SARAH COLE**
**HISTORY**
Advisor: Zeinab Abu-Magd, History
Mentor: Leonard Smith, History

Black September and Jordanian Nationhood
The Jordanian Civil War, colloquially known as Black September, placed Jordan at the forefront of international affairs, for it emerged as a battleground for Cold War tensions and Arab-Israeli hostilities. My research analyzes the Jordanian nation that emerged and its unique position as a refuge to multiple identities, held together by the monarchy, foreign investments, and a domestic desire for a stable state. Originally from Orange County, California, Sarah is a student representative for the history department. She has been involved with the Oberlin Democrats, Kosher-Halal Co-op, and multiple political campaigns. She spent spring 2013 involved with the Oberlin Democrats, Kosher-Halal Co-op, and multiple political campaigns. She spent spring 2013

Julia grew up on a small ranch in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with sheep, chickens, goats, donkeys, geese, and other unusual furry and feathered pets. While at Oberlin, she has served as an academic ambassador and played in numerous orchestras and ensembles. Next year, she plans to begin her graduate studies in violin performance. She hopes to spend her life bringing people together through music.

**KATRINA CORTÉS**
**COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES**
Advisors: Pablo Mitchell, Comparative American Studies and History
Mentor: Gina Perez, Comparative American Studies

The Hood Takeover: New York City’s Housing and Gentrification Organizing in the Face of Non-Profit Surveillance
This project examines gentrification and the struggle for immigrant housing rights through the work of two community organizations: Make the Road New York and CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities. I also analyze the structural limitations of the “Non-Profit Industrial Complex” (NIC), within which neoliberal policies hold non-profit organizations accountable to their funding sources, rather than their communities. How can these organizations navigate and strategize for the systematic empowerment of marginalized communities while working with neoliberal funding? I specifically analyze Make the Road and CAAAV’s methods of working around the limitations of the NIC and seek to understand how gentrification is displacing low-income Latinos and Asian communities within New York City.

Katrina hails from Jackson Heights, Queens. She is cochair of the Filipino American Students Association (FASA) and loves dancing, singing, and performing with La Alianza Latina and FASA. As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow, she focused on anti-gentrification organizing in New York City as a way of connecting real-world struggles happening at home. This research, among many other things, would not be possible without the folks at CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities and Make the Road New York, her Oberlin family, and her family at home. Katrina is very grateful for the people in her life at Oberlin and in New York.

**RYANN EASTMAN**
**CREATIVE WRITING and ENGLISH**
Advisors: Sylvia Watanabe, Creative Writing, and David Walker, English
Mentor: Hamod Suarez, English

The Unsolved Problem: Anger and Female Authorship
In *A Room of One’s Own*, Virginia Woolf addresses “the unsolved problem”: what is the true nature of women and fiction? Although the question remains unanswered, she discusses how the female artist can achieve success in a male-dominated market. I outline my interpretation of Woolf’s advice and demonstrate how her philosophy manifested in fictional works. I further discuss the role of anger and Woolf’s assertion that, in order to write honestly, a woman must speak outside of her repression. Lastly, I address Woolf’s possible self-censorship and consider whether modern female authors ought to follow her example today.
Anna is proud to call Chicago her home. She has spent her time in Oberlin cultivating a love of art history, library science, museum education, and ancient Rome. In her spare time, she appeared onstage in student and departmental theater productions and worked behind the scenes as a stage manager. After spending three wonderful years as an employee of the Clarence Ward Art Library, she hopes to continue working in art libraries in the years to come.

TRIP FREEBURG

Biology

Advisors: Katherine Cullen, Biology
Mentor: Maureen Peters, Biology

Analysis of an RNAi-Induced Defect in the Caenorhabditis elegans Defecation Motor Program

Caenorhabditis elegans undergoes a rhythmic three-step defecation motor program involving the intestine, neurons, and muscles. A genetic screen identified a mutant that dramatically reduces the frequency of the final step of this motor program. The mutant was generated with RNAi, a technique that lowers levels of specific proteins. To determine which cells were important in this process, we used RNAi to target either the intestine or neurons. Intestine-specific RNAi reproduced the defect, while neuron-specific RNAi did not. I also performed optogenetic and pharmacological experiments to test whether RNAi affected certain neurons and muscles. These experiments suggested that muscles and neurons may be affected.

Trip, who comes from Memphis, Tennessee, has been involved in undergraduate research since summer 2011 and is a member of Professor Peters’ lab. He plans to travel with the Peters lab to the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego this month to present a poster describing his honors research. After graduation, he hopes to work as a biomedical research technician and eventually enter an MD/PhD program with a focus on oncology and cancer biology.

Ben Garfinkel

Biology

Advisors: Keith Tarvin, Biology
Mentor: Chris Anderson, Biology

Parasites of the Damselfly Ischnura verticalis: Relationships to Sex and Egg Load

Found in every county in the state, the damselfly Ischnura verticalis (order: Odonata) is the most common damselfly in Ohio. This project explores, first, the diversity and intraspecific distribution of endo- and ectoparasites within I. verticalis populations and, second, the potential fitness costs of protozoan gregarine parasitism in I. verticalis. We demonstrate a female bias on gregarine intensity and prevalence. Collection site, but not gregarine intensity, had an effect on female egg load. Learning about these interspecific relationships informs future odonate research, as well as the study of fitness costs of parasite-mediated selection across other organisms.

Ben’s love of the outdoors and biology was cultivated in his wetland home of Seattle. He is a cofounder of The Synapae, Oberlin’s only student-run science magazine, and Kid Business, the short-form improv troupe. A lover of invertebrate biology, Ben spent winter terms in Florida performing gastropod censuses and in Seattle studying juvenile salmon diets. After graduation, he hopes to travel the world and then move back to the Pacific Northwest for a gap year before beginning post-graduate education.

Julia Harris

Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (GSFS) and Studio Art

Advisors: Meredith Raimondo, GSFS, and Pipo Nguyen-Duy, Studio Art
Mentor: Anuradha Needham, GSFS

Without the Closet: A Critical Exploration of Queer Experiences of Visibility

In this project I use interviews conducted at Oberlin to explore how queer women challenge and resist the dominant paradigm of coming out and enact new modes of understanding queer visibility. Guided by queer and feminist theory, my research reveals queer interventions that trouble the structure and content of the “coming-out narrative.” While the coming-out paradigm has served a political purpose for LGBT communities in recent decades, my research and analysis of alternative, contemporary narratives that challenge the relevancy of this paradigm in today’s world highlight new modes of understanding queer experience.

Rhys Hertafeld

Musical Studies

Advisor and Mentor: Joseph Lubben, Music Theory
Mentor: Devin Burke, Musicology

The Fusion of Timbre and Pitch in the Spectral Music of Gérard Grisey

In the 1970s, French composer Gérard Grisey pioneered a new form of avant-garde composition known as spectral music. In this music, Grisey creates soundscapes that obscure the distinction between pitch and timbre. The prominence of timbre in Grisey’s works challenges traditional music theorists’ treatment of pitch as the most important aspect of music. In my talk, I discuss the musical language of spectral music by analyzing Jour, Contre-Jour (1978), one of Grisey’s less well-known works. The innovations of this minimalist composition suggest new ways to understand the relationship between pitch and timbre.

Rhys grew up in Lansing, Michigan. While at Oberlin, he has been on the diving team, a violinist in the Arts and Sciences Orchestra, and a singer in Collegium Musicum. Rhys has spent past winter terms studying musical acoustics and TIMARA, and he holds a general interest in the physical properties of sound. After graduation, he will enroll in Oberlin’s Masters in Music Teaching Program, with hopes of becoming a high school orchestra director.
Gabriel, from Los Angeles, participated in the Rubin Institute for Music Criticism in 2012 and, in 2014, was selected to participate in the LaunchU Bootcamp and Accelerator. He spent spring 2013 living in Rio de Janeiro, where he studied abroad and learned Portuguese. Upon his return to Oberlin, he started singing in a bossa nova and samba ensemble on campus. After college, Gabe will continue to pursue a career in the music industry with his record label, Stereocure. Gabe much prefers the snowy Ohio winters to the year-round sun in Los Angeles.

MATTHEW KENDRICK
EAST ASIAN STUDIES and HISTORY

Advisor: David Kellely, East Asian Studies and History
Mentor: Ellen Wurtzel, History

“God Knows What I Know”: Trans-Eurasian Influence on the Sacred-Secular Conflict in 13th-century Europe

This project explores the effect of the Papal Embassy to the Mongols, from 1245-1247, led by Friar John of Plano Carpini, upon the conflict between the Holy Roman Empire and the Papacy. I argue that Pope Innocent IV saw the Mongols as an apocalyptic foe and, when he was informed of their bellicose preparations against Europe, he made the difficult decision to go to war with Frederick II of the Holy Roman Empire. At the root of this decision, I suggest, was the Pope’s fear that the Mongols would be able to exploit intra-European division and destroy Christendom.

Matt grew up on western Colorado and spent time in Arizona, Nevada, and Chile before arriving Oberlin. He is president of the men’s rugby team and cochair of the Student Honor Committee. Matt has previously conducted winter-term research on the history of his family as Colorado pioneers, specifically their role in the foundation of Aspen. After graduation, Matt hopes to travel to South Korea on a Fulbright ETA grant and later attend graduate school in the field of global and international history.

SAMSUN KNIGHT
ECONOMICS

Advisor: Ed McKeeley, Economics
Mentors: Barbara Craig and Tobias Pfutze, Economics

Democracy and the Effects of Drought

Are citizens of democracies cushioned from the vagaries of the business cycle? Using a dataset from 24 African countries, I find that democracy is correlated with significantly increased sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks (e.g. drought) for infant mortality rate and significantly reduced sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks for school enrollment. The most consistently salient aspect of democracy appears to be competitiveness of executive recruitment. The infant mortality findings are consistent with a political economy model, wherein more autocratic governments respond more robustly to drought, but have a more limited sphere of issues that they address.

Samsun is from Brookline, Massachusetts, and started his acting career in the role of Louis Stevens in Disney’s Enchanted. At Oberlin, he is the treasurer of the Oberlin Comics Collective, a teaching assistant for Introduction to Fiction, and a mathematics research assistant. On the silver screen, he is best known for his work in Transformers (2007), Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009), and Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011). After Oberlin he will serve as a research assistant for one year, working in labor economics, and then go on to graduate school.

GABRIEL KANENGISER
INDIVIDUAL MAJOR: PRACTICE AND ECONOMICS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Advisor: Barbara Craig, Economics
Advisor and Mentor: Charles McGuire, Musicalology

Innovation and Reaction to Change in the Music Industry

There is a common misconception that the Napster era (1999-2000) caused record sales to plummet and pushed the music industry into a free fall. Select musicians, though, continue to adapt successfully to changes and create sustainable careers. In the music industry, change correlates closely with technological advancements, which have dictated (or disrupted) different modes of control exercised by the publisher, the record label, or the Performing Rights Society. Through my review of the careers of Elgar, Duke Ellington, Radiohead, and Zoe Keating, I analyze how musicians and managers in the 20th and 21st centuries have responded to a changing industry and consumer desires by adapting quickly and seeking profitable, innovative opportunities.

Gabe much prefers the snowy Ohio winters to the year-round sun in Los Angeles.

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Mentors: Barbara Craig and Tobias Pfutze, Economics

Democracy and the Effects of Drought

Are citizens of democracies cushioned from the vagaries of the business cycle? Using a dataset from 24 African countries, I find that democracy is correlated with significantly increased sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks (e.g. drought) for infant mortality rate and significantly reduced sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks for school enrollment. The most consistently salient aspect of democracy appears to be competitiveness of executive recruitment. The infant mortality findings are consistent with a political economy model, wherein more autocratic governments respond more robustly to drought, but have a more limited sphere of issues that they address.

Samsun is from Brookline, Massachusetts, and started his acting career in the role of Louis Stevens in Disney’s Enchanted. At Oberlin, he is the treasurer of the Oberlin Comics Collective, a teaching assistant for Introduction to Fiction, and a mathematics research assistant. On the silver screen, he is best known for his work in Transformers (2007), Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009), and Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011). After Oberlin he will serve as a research assistant for one year, working in labor economics, and then go on to graduate school.

GABRIEL KANENGISER
INDIVIDUAL MAJOR: PRACTICE AND ECONOMICS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Advisor: Barbara Craig, Economics
Advisor and Mentor: Charles McGuire, Musicalology

Innovation and Reaction to Change in the Music Industry

There is a common misconception that the Napster era (1999-2000) caused record sales to plummet and pushed the music industry into a free fall. Select musicians, though, continue to adapt successfully to changes and create sustainable careers. In the music industry, change correlates closely with technological advancements, which have dictated (or disrupted) different modes of control exercised by the publisher, the record label, or the Performing Rights Society. Through my review of the careers of Elgar, Duke Ellington, Radiohead, and Zoe Keating, I analyze how musicians and managers in the 20th and 21st centuries have responded to a changing industry and consumer desires by adapting quickly and seeking profitable, innovative opportunities.

Gabe much prefers the snowy Ohio winters to the year-round sun in Los Angeles.

MATTHEW KENDRICK
EAST ASIAN STUDIES and HISTORY

Advisor: David Kellely, East Asian Studies and History
Mentor: Ellen Wurtzel, History

“God Knows What I Know”: Trans-Eurasian Influence on the Sacred-Secular Conflict in 13th-century Europe

This project explores the effect of the Papal Embassy to the Mongols, from 1245-1247, led by Friar John of Plano Carpini, upon the conflict between the Holy Roman Empire and the Papacy. I argue that Pope Innocent IV saw the Mongols as an apocalyptic foe and, when he was informed of their bellicose preparations against Europe, he made the difficult decision to go to war with Frederick II of the Holy Roman Empire. At the root of this decision, I suggest, was the Pope’s fear that the Mongols would be able to exploit intra-European division and destroy Christendom.

Matt grew up on western Colorado and spent time in Arizona, Nevada, and Chile before arriving Oberlin. He is president of the men’s rugby team and cochair of the Student Honor Committee. Matt has previously conducted winter-term research on the history of his family as Colorado pioneers, specifically their role in the foundation of Aspen. After graduation, Matt hopes to travel to South Korea on a Fulbright ETA grant and later attend graduate school in the field of global and international history.

SAMSUN KNIGHT
ECONOMICS

Advisor: Ed McKeeley, Economics
Mentors: Barbara Craig and Tobias Pfutze, Economics

Democracy and the Effects of Drought

Are citizens of democracies cushioned from the vagaries of the business cycle? Using a dataset from 24 African countries, I find that democracy is correlated with significantly increased sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks (e.g. drought) for infant mortality rate and significantly reduced sensitivity to exogenous aggregate income shocks for school enrollment. The most consistently salient aspect of democracy appears to be competitiveness of executive recruitment. The infant mortality findings are consistent with a political economy model, wherein more autocratic governments respond more robustly to drought, but have a more limited sphere of issues that they address.

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**BRENNA LARSON**

**ART HISTORY**

Advisor and Mentor: Erik Inglis, Art History
Mentor: Christina Neilson, Art History

The Balue Nielli: Intercultural Exchange and Conspicuous Consumption in 15th-century France and Italy

In the second half of the 15th century, the French Cardinal Jean Balue (c. 1421–1491) commissioned a lavish set of niello silver book covers decorated with New Testament scenes and emblazoned with his coat of arms. Now divided between the Cleveland Museum of Art and Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the nielli are a window into the confluence of political, artistic, and trade networks among the Valois court, the Vatican, and Florence. This study examines the possible dating of the covers, the nature of the manuscript they bound, the niello as an understudied medium, and Cardinal Balue’s identity as a patron in France and Rome.

Brenna grew up in Summit, New Jersey, and currently works as a research assistant for Professor Neilson and as a peer mental health advocate for the Office of Student Wellness. Brenna has worked in the American art department at the Newark Museum, the curatorial department at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, and the docent program at the Allen Memorial Art Museum. While abroad in Florence in fall 2012, she interned at the Cooperativa Archeologia, and in spring 2013 was awarded the Laurine Mack Borgiorno Prize for promising third-year art history majors. Brenna plans to spend time gaining more work experience before attending graduate school in art history.

**DAVID LEACH**

**JAZZ PIANO and CREATIVE WRITING**

Advisor: Dan Wall, Jazz Studies
Advisor and Mentor: Razino Ali, Creative Writing

“The Long Watch”: Original Poems / An Exploration of Poetic Voice

My project presents a selection of original poems I produced for my creative writing capstone. I drew inspiration for the poems in large part from the works of T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, Joyce, and Charles Wright. I explored the particularities of each poet’s voice at the syntactical, formal, tonal, and philosophical levels, in order to inform my own writing process. I hope that the elements of each poet that resonated most with me have coalesced into a versatile poetic voice, capable of uniting divergent influences while maintaining its own unique identity.

David grew up in Boston, where his writing and musical abilities emerged at a young age. He self-published his first book in kindergarten—a graphic novel about monsters that critics hailed as “Lovely! Let’s hang it on the fridge!” His early musical experiments with pots-and-pans percussion were less well-received. In addition to spending his time writing and performing with jazz groups in Oberlin and Chicago, David teaches piano lessons to Oberlin students and community members. After graduation, he hopes to continue teaching, performing, and writing.

**JOELLE ELIZA LINGT**

**COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES and ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Advisor: Janet Folk, Environmental Studies
Advisor and Mentor: Pablo Mitchell, Comparative American Studies and History

Self-Made Spines: Healing, Politicization, and Education through Zines

This project explores the capacities of zines to heal, politicize, and educate. Zines are informal magazines of both original and appropriated texts and images. They are often committed to distributing radical information to readers and—as “alternative textbooks”—can inspire direct action. This project contextualizes the increased presence of zines on Oberlin College’s campus in 2013, including three comic strips created in response to the March 4th racist events, and the “Disorientation Zine” created by students during fall orientation.

Joelle is a graduating third-year student from Jersey City. She has been involved with the Asian American Alliance and the Filipino/American Students Association, organizations that she now co-chairs. She is a Bonner leader, an academic ambassador, and an Oberlin College Dialogue Center mediator and facilitator. She studied in India, Senegal, and Argentina through the International Honors Program. After college, she hopes to continue fighting the good fight.

**NICHOLAS LOVALLO**

**ANTHROPOLOGY and MUSICAL STUDIES**

Advisor: Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, Anthropology, and Jennifer Fraser, Ethnomusicology
Mentor: Ian MacMillen, Russian and East European Studies

“Anyone Can Improvise”: Technology and the Quantification of Jazz Improvisation

In the past 20 years, jazz educators and researchers have expanded the use of technology to understand, teach, and perform jazz improvisation. These technological advancements include computer software such as Band-in-a-Box, improvisation algorithms, neuroscientific studies, and the use of improvisation as a model for computer-human interaction. In my presentation, I argue that these developments are a continuation of a concept of jazz improvisation as a quantifiable, technical process that is accessible to anyone. This concept, associated with educators such as Jamey Aebersold, has been the dominant view in institutionalized jazz education for over 50 years.

Nick hails from Chicago. During his junior year, he studied abroad in Ghana, and he hopes to continue traveling and seeing the world. Nick will work in Jacksonville, Florida, next year with City Year, an AmeriCorps organization providing educational assistance for children in underprivileged schools. He hopes to eventually pursue graduate studies in anthropology or ethnomusicology.

**JOSEPH LUBITZ**

**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

Advisor and Mentor: William Patrick Day, Cinema Studies and English

Anxious Seas: Reading Affect in Dazai and Murdoch

Martin Heidegger advanced a concept of anxiety as a constitutive way of being-in-the-world, one that stands in stark contrast to psychoanalytic theory and the stable bourgeois subjectivity of modern literature. Looking at two 20th-century literary works—The Sea, The Sea by Iris Murdoch and Ningen Shikkaku by Osamu Dazai—my research investigates how these two texts configure the sea as a space for reflecting on and subverting a stable modern subjectivity and its moods. In doing so I call for the necessity of reimagining the “Age of Anxiety” and a reevaluation of affect as it is represented in these anxious self-portraits.

Joseph grew up in Portland, Oregon. At Oberlin he served on the board of WOBC 91.5 FM, founded around the bike co-op and served as its treasurer, and danced quite a bit. He studied fine art at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam for a semester and spent last summer in New York City assisting the cultural critic Tarja Nygren’s and intermedia artist Mike Tajma. Joseph aspires to further his practice of the interdisciplinary study of aesthetics, literature, and critical theory well into the future.

**EMILY LUMSDAINE**

**BIOLOGY**

Advisor and Mentor: Angie Roles, Biology

My Summer in Costume: Crane Reintroduction and the Conservation of Small Populations

The critically endangered Mississippi Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis pulla) is found year-round along the Gulf Coast at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge. At the refuge’s establishment, in 1975, only 30 to 35 individuals were left in the wild. Currently, about 110 Mississippi Sandhill Cranes are left in the wild, including only 20 to 25 breeding pairs. Conservation efforts focus on preserving the remaining wild habitat and improving
population numbers through captive rearing and reintroduction. Challenges arise due to small population sizes and the difficulty of using a crane puppet to raise chicks with the necessary survival and reproductive skills.

Emily is from Bloomington, Indiana. She has been involved in OSCA for two years and is a member of the Recycled Products Co-op. She completed a Drosophila-focused Research Experience for Undergraduates at Indiana University in 2012 and worked as a research assistant for professors Roles and Petersen. Emily is a life-long animal lover who currently lives with a hamster. She hopes to pursue a career related to avian conservation.

SAM MCCRIGHT

Advisor: Katherine Cullen, Biology
Mentor: Maureen Peters, Biology

Calcium Signaling and Neuropeptide Secretion in the Expulsion Step of the Caenorhabditis elegans Defecation Motor Program

How does inhibiting communication within a tissue affect communication between that tissue and other parts of the body? In the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans, a three-step motor program is initiated by an intestinal calcium wave. The intestine releases the neuropeptide-like protein NLP-40, which is thought to serve as a messenger in the signal to initiate the last tissue contraction. Worms mutant for intestinal intracellular communication channels have faulty calcium waves and lack the last contraction. I have used optogenetic methods and in-vivo fluorescence microscopy to investigate whether faulty calcium waves inhibit release of NLP-40.

Sam, who hails from Des Moines, Iowa, has worked with worms in the Peters lab since his first year at Oberlin. He presented on this research at the 2013 Ohio Physiological Society meeting and was awarded a travel grant to present a poster at the 2014 Experimental Biology conference in San Diego. Outside of the lab, he is a nationally ranked fencer and treasurer of the fencing club. After graduation, he intends to work as a lab technician before continuing on to graduate studies.

NICOLE NANCE

ENGLISH

Advisors: Pam Brooks, Africana Studies, and Natasha Terson, English
Mentor: Gillian Johns, English

Negotiating Respectability: Black Women’s Struggle for Self-Representation

For African-American women, self-representation is vital because socially constructed images have the ability to moderate power relations between the self and society. While black female self-representation adapts to different eras, it is complicated by the ideologies of uplift and the politics of respectability. These ideologies have mutated from a useful tool for undermining racist structures into empty signifiers that promote a classist environment. My project studies three works—Ida B. Wells’ Crusade for Justice, Nella Larsen’s Quicksand, and Toni Morrison’s Tar Baby—and shows the differing statues of respectability politics: a tool for self-definition, or a barrier that destabilizes it.

Nicole hails from Flowermont, Illinois, and spends her elusive free time singing, reading, and baking. On campus, she is the secretary of ABUSUA, Oberlin’s Black Student Union. She spent her junior year at the Newberry Research Program in the Humanities in Chicago and at King’s College in London. Recently, she presented on her research at a gender studies conference at Notre Dame. For winter term 2014, she worked as a research assistant for professors Roles and Petersen. Emily is a life-long animal lover who currently lives with a hamster. She hopes to pursue a career related to avian conservation.

ANNE NIGRA

BIOLOGY

Advisor and Mentor: Mary Garvin, Biology

Tree Core Analysis for Heavy Metal Carcinogens in a Childhood Cancer Cluster

To test the hypothesis that heavy metal contamination of groundwater contributed to higher rates of childhood cancer in a rural northwest Ohio cancer cluster, we analyzed cores from eastern cottonwoods (Populus deltoides) for heavy metal contamination via inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. We found, first, that cadmium concentrations were greater in cores from trees sampled in the cluster area, compared to those sampled in the control area and, second, that cadmium contamination in cores collected within the cluster area was highest in growth rings deposited during the years preceding the observed increase in frequency of childhood cancer.

Annie grew up in western Pennsylvania and coordinates Oberlin’s HIV Peer Testing Program, where she has worked as a volunteer tester for three years. Annie has been part of the Garvin lab for three years and has volunteered with harm-reduction programs at the Free Medical Clinics of Greater Cleveland and with the City Fresh Community Supported Agriculture program. After graduation, Annie is headed to the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health to pursue an MPH in Environmental Health Sciences (Toxicology).

CUYLER OTSUKA

COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES and POLITICS

Advisor: Atia Oliyar-Mansa, Comparative American Studies
Advisor and Mentor: Harry Hirsh, Politics

Aloha, Marriage Equality: Unsettling Gay Constructions of Paradise

What does a decolonized queer futurity look like in the post-marriage era? Using Hawai‘i’s marriage equality 2013 special session as a case study, this project complicates the discursive relationship between marriage equality, Hawaiian Christianity, and decolonization. Tracing neo-imperialism within the LGBT community and evangelicalism in the Hawaiian community, I look to queer and feminist native Hawaiian scholars to articulate the liberation of kānaka ‘ōiwi and queer(ed) people(s).

Cuyler was born and raised on the island of O‘ahu. Committed to activist scholarship, Cuyler has worked for the Multicultural Resource Center, the Bonner Center for Service and Learning, and served as a residential assistant in Asia House. While in Stockholm in fall 2012, Cuyler studied the fraught relationship between Swedish feminism and asylum immigration politics. Cuyler hopes to one day find a career in higher education.

REID PALMER

ECONOMICS and HISTORY

Advisor: Ellis Tallman, Economics, and Len Smith, History
Mentor: Renée Romano, History

“You Started Something When You Joined the International Brigade, Papa”:
Alvah Bessie, the Spanish Civil War, and the Communist Party of the United States of America

This thesis challenges the traditional narrative of the Communist Party of the United States of America through a "microhistory" of one of its dedicated members, writer Alvah Bessie (1904-1985). By studying the documents, books, and letters Bessie left behind, I show how the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) accelerated the collapse of the organized revolutionary left in the United States. As revealed in Bessie’s narrative, the Soviet Union’s military mismanagement and strict anti-revolutionary policies led to a significant number of the most committed American communists being killed, wounded, or disillusioned with Soviet-style communism.

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Reid Palmer, Economic, and History

Advisor: Ellis Tallman, Economics, and Len Smith, History
Mentor: Renée Romano, History

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CHRISTOPHER PICKENS
BIOLOGY AND GEOLOGY
Mentor: Angie Roles, Biology
Response of Herbivorous Fish Communities to a New Resource: Insight into Macroalgal Phase Shifts on Coral Reefs
Herbivores play a key role in the maintenance of algal and coral communities. Reductions in herbivory can cause a shift to a macroalgae-dominated system, which decreases the biodiversity and restorative capabilities of coral reefs. An understanding of how herbivorous fish communities respond to macroalgae is crucial to the conservation and management of coral reefs. My project examines the response of both coral fish communities and individual fish species to the experimental introduction of a new resource (macroalgae) at a mid-shelf reef in the Great Barrier Reef.

RYAN REYNOLDS
GREEK AND LATIN
Mentor: Kirk Ormand, Classics
Identity and Commerce along the Maritime Spice Route between Egypt and India
This project studies the identities constructed by two merchants who traveled through Roman Egypt in the first few centuries CE: Sophon "The Indian" and Hermeros "The Adenite Red Sea Merchant." Both men make dedicatory inscriptions to Greek gods, written in the Greek language, and even use Greek names to identify themselves, yet they still consciously identify as non-Greeks. Their self-representation, I argue, is an attempt to integrate into pre-existing economic institutions while at the same time negotiating with Greco-Roman perceptions of their homelands.

PEARL RIVERS
BIOLOGY
Mentor: Keith Tarvin, Biology
Do Eastern Gray Squirrels Eavesdrop on Black-Capped Chickadee Referential Alarm Calls?
Alarm calls are vocalizations produced by animals in response to a perceived threat and may provide information about the presence of predators to others in the area, including conspecifics and heterospecifics with similar predators. Black-capped chickadees produce alarm calls that convey information about predator size and threat level. For this project, I tested the hypothesis that eastern gray squirrels are more likely to increase alertness in response to chickadee calls indicating larger predators than to calls indicating smaller predators. The results will indicate if squirrels attend to the most squirrel-relevant information, rather than to the urgency of the information for the calling chickadees.

DYANI SABIN
BIOLOGY
Mentor: Angie Roles, Biology
The Complete Mitochondrial Genomes of Two Crayfish in the Genus Orconectes: O. Rusticus and O. Sanbornii
Due to human action, the rusty crayfish (Orconectes rusticus) is now present in local rivers and placing pressure on native Sanborn’s crayfish (Orconectes sanbornii). My research looks at the genetic differences within the mitochondrial genomes of the two species to explore the relationship between them. Using the mtDNA of other related crayfish, I identify regions of genetic difference between our target species to answer questions of hybridization and evolutionary history.
Dyani is an Oberlin native. She has been part of the Oberlin Workshop and Learning Sessions program (OWLS) since her sophomore year and is currently the OWLS student coordinator. As a stage manager at Oberlin, she has worked on student theater productions (Vessel, Edges) and Oberlin Opera Theater productions (Thean of the Scrum, Bartered Bride). She is also the proud captain of the Oberlin College Equestrian Team. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in scientific literature and research.

MICHAL SAGAL
GREEK AND LATIN

Advisor: Kirk Ormand, Classics
Mentor: Christopher Trinacty, Classics

Spinning Stories: The Narrative Styles of Ovid's Minyves
This paper focuses on the tales of the daughter of Minyas, a story cycle in book four of Ovid's Metamorphoses. The first daughter tells the tale of Pyramus and Thisbe, the second of the adultery of Mars and Venus and the rape of Leucippe, and the third of the transformation of Hermaphroditus. Their distinct narrative styles enhance the stories they tell and respond to both their inherent fear of Bacchus, the wine-god, and to each other's tales. Each is also emblematic of Ovid's use of multiple genres within stories and internal narrators within the greater epic.

Michal comes from Westfield, New Jersey, where she was introduced to the classics by her collections of Greek myths and the discovery that Latin is the native language of dragons. She is a member of the Oberlin Women's Chorale and Chalilah capella, and spent spring 2013 studying at the Centre in Rome. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school for a master's in classics and eventually teach Latin in high school.

RUBY ROBINA SAHA
ART HISTORY

Advisor and Mentor: Erik Inglis, Art History

The Politics of Display: The Exhibition of Islamic Art in a Post-9/11, Revisionist Context
Since 9/11, the display of Islamic art has witnessed a major revival in museums across the world. These institutions seek to highlight the artistic achievements of centuries of Islamic civilization and to foster constructive cultural dialogue at a time of heightened public interest and fear of "Islam." My project evaluates the Metropolitan Museum of Art's 2011 installation of Islamic art as a response to the issues raised by a post-9/11 context, as well as the revisionist Islamic art scholarship that has emerged in the past few decades, in order to question the frameworks, scope, even the very designation of "Islamic art" itself.

Indian by nationality, Ruby was born in Indonesia, grew up in Australia, settled down in Singapore, and speaks French, Arabic, Bengali and Bahasa. Ruby is an associate editor of the Wilder Voice, has written articles for the Oberlin Review, and works at the Clarence Ward Art Library. Last year, she was awarded the Laureine Mack Bongiorno Prize for Art History and studied abroad in Paris, where she began her honors research at the Louvre. After graduation, Ruby will teach English as a Shansi fellow in Indonesia, where she will continue to pursue her passion for contemporary Islamic art.

ARI SCHWARTZ
BIOLOGY

Advisor: Jane Bennett, Biology
Mentor: Marta Laskowski, Biology

Understanding Lateral Root Formation: Genetic Control of Lateral Root Spacing and Emergence
Root system architecture varies in ways that maximizes success in different environments. This project examines the mechanisms that dictate where lateral roots form and the implications for plant growth efficiency. I predicted that lateral roots would form closer together in roots that have higher concentrations of the plant hormone auxin. I then performed multivariate experiments to determine if lateral root patterning changes in mutants that affect the level of auxin. The result shows that the spacing of lateral roots can be controlled by factors that regulate auxin accumulation.

Ari is from Davis, California. He played varsity soccer for four years at Oberlin and served as captain his senior year. For winter term 2011, he helped collect data for ecological research on the impact of crypsis on predation of scree plants in New Zealand. After graduation, Ari hopes to participate in research that maximizes the nutritional value of agriculture to benefit developing countries and to continue pursuing this field in graduate school.

MERIEL STEIN
ART HISTORY

Advisor: Erik Inglis, Art History
Mentor: Deniz Karakas, Art History

Life Imitates Art, When Art Holds the Upper Hand: The Scope of Turkish Contemporary Art and the Aesthetics of Hegemony
This paper analyzes the consequences of Western imperialism by way of the emergent aesthetics of resistance in the art worlds of Turkey. The development of a modern system of artistic production and display reflects initiatives in accordance with Turkey's ongoing bid to join the European Union. Using case studies of Turkish artists and art institutions within and beyond the borders of Turkey, this project explores how the art of the Middle East both feeds and pushes against Western cultural imperialism in the formation of a national identity and indigenous aesthetic style.

Born and raised in Linwood, New Jersey, Meriel is involved in various circus arts and visual arts collectives around campus. She works at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, compiling a bibliography database and cataloguing inscriptions on objects in the collection. Meriel has also interned for Fung Collaboratives, the American Visionary Art Museum, the Transformer Station, and the Living Machine. Her writing has been accepted at two graduate and post-doctoral conferences this year. After college, she will pursue a career in public art and museum accessibility and further her education in Islamic art.

ARIELLE SWERNOFF
POLITICS

Advisor: Michael Parkin, Politics
Mentor: Chris Howell, Politics

Is Participatory Democracy Possible? A Study of Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Chicago, and New York
Is an inclusive, empowered participatory democracy possible? For this talk, I developed an ideal-type model of participatory democracy, and then used it to test participatory budgeting projects in Porto Alegre, Chicago, and New York. My model examines whether these experiments in democracy are inclusive and empowering. If so, how can they be expanded? If not, can their shortcomings be overcome? I expect to find that while these participatory budgeting projects have significant failings, they provide hopeful insights into our own ability for empowered self-governance.

Arielle grew up in Northern California and, during her time at Oberlin, has been involved with political and educational groups. She served as president of the Oberlin College Democrats during the 2012 election and is always working to get her fellow students to vote. She also completed the Cole Scholars Program, during which she worked as a finance assistant for a Boston city council candidate. After college, she hopes to continue to work in progressive politics.
**Evan Tinknell**

**Environmental Studies and Psychology**

Advisor and Mentor: Cindy Frantz, Psychology

**Effects of Providing Real-Time Feedback About Electricity and Water Consumption**

Across the vast majority of human history, people received and depended on direct, immediate, and intimate feedback from the natural environment, but modern technologies and lifestyles have distanced daily activities from their environmental impacts. This research explores behavioral and attitudinal effects of exposure to various types of resource use feedback technologies. These feedback technologies, which are designed to monitor electricity and water consumption and provide real-time feedback to consumers, have the potential to reconnect individuals to the natural environment by promoting understanding of resource flows and awareness of personal impact on the environment.

Evan, who is from western Massachusetts, is a member of the men’s varsity soccer team and serves as chair of the Green EDGE Fund, a student group responsible for allocating student money to support efficiency and sustainability projects at Oberlin. For the past three years, he has been a member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund Research Team, an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students that develops and tests technologies designed to provide real-time feedback about resource consumption. He also served as an academic ambassador and hopes to further pursue social impact marketing or related academic research after graduation.

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**Tae Kyu (Brian) Uhm**

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

Advisor: Robert Thompson, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Mentor: Rebecca Whelan, Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Selection of DNA Aptamers for Ovarian Cancer Biomarker CA125**

Ovarian cancer biomarker CA125 is widely used to diagnose and monitor ovarian cancer. In order to develop novel diagnostic and therapeutic tools, nucleic acid aptamers with high affinity to CA125 were selected using One-Pot based systematic evolution of ligands by exponential enrichment (One-Pot SELEX). After several rounds of One-Pot SELEX, selected aptamers were sequenced using high-throughput sequencing and analyzed. Dissociation constants of selected aptamers were determined using affinity probe capillary electrophoresis and fluorescence anisotropy. This work is supported by the National Cancer Institute.

Brian is originally from Seoul, Korea, and currently identifies Illinois as his home. As a sophomore, he joined the deejay staff at WOBC; as a junior, he began his research assignment under the guidance of Professor Whelan. After graduation, he will take a gap year to work as a research assistant. He hopes to attend medical school in the future.

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**Timothy Woods**

**Religion**

Advisor: James Swan Tuite, Religion
Mentor: David Kamitsuka, Religion

**Sin in Hiding: Re-Envisioning Contemporary Christian Theology Through Shame-Talk**

My project addresses problematic beliefs dominant in contemporary Christian theological anthropology regarding sin and identity. I contend that the incorporation of psychodynamically informed interdisciplinary discourse on shame, a broad network of intractable relational phenomena suffused within Christian theology, better enables the Christian worldview to inclusively confront the inevitable existence of sin. My theological appropriation of shame-talk focuses on four elements: first, due attention to the social dynamics of identity formation; second, discussion of subsequent social exposure and vulnerability, termed ‘original shame’; third, reexamination of sin as hiding or concealment; and fourth, reconsideration of the particular manifestation of sin within the context of hiding.
### PLEASE JOIN OUR CONSERVATORY SENIORS FOR THEIR RECITALS IN THE FINAL TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Joseph Trumbo, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Cory Todd, bass</td>
<td>Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Michelle Ellison, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Jinhua Li, piano</td>
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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Kevin Grasel, horn</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Francesca Shipley, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Michelle Ellison, voice</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Emily Peragine, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Yi Qiao Li, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Christian James, composition</td>
<td>Fairchild Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Nathan Mendelsohn, jazz alto saxophone</td>
<td>Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Owen McTigue, clarinet</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Sophia Grabandt, violin</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Aubry Hagadorn, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Clara Yunjoo Lee, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Jaime Feldman, cello</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Eric Fischer, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Danielle Cheiken, voice</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Ethan Updike, trumpet</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Hunter Gordon, bassoon</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Ethan Philion, bass</td>
<td>Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Joseph Hauer, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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#### SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Aaron Keeney, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Theophilus Chandler, composition</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Daniel Gostelow, composition</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Bill Townsend, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Le Jia, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Shuhui Zhou, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Sunceray Tabler, jazz drumset</td>
<td>Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Hanyi Meng, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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#### FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Adrian Jewell, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please join our Conservatory seniors for their recitals in the final two weeks of the semester.
WE ALSO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING SENIOR RELIGION MAJORS, WHO RECENTLY PRESENTED THEIR CAPSTONE PROJECTS:

**JOHN BERGEN**  
“Who is My Mother and Who is My Brother?”: Mennonite Identity andUndoing Oppressions in the Contemporary United States

**JACK BLUMENTHAL BREWER**  
Before Affirmation: The Necessity of Tolerance in Sexual Ethics

**STEPHEN BURROWS**  
Tenrikyo and the Japanese State

**JENNIFER MURDOCK**  
La Vida Es La Lucha / Una Lucha De Nenapinta: Constructing a Mujerista Standpoint Ethic Through the Lived Experiences of Latinas

**HALLIE PARKINS**  
Theologies of Caregiving: Integrating Feminist Pastoral Theology in the Wake of Ectopic Pregnancy Loss

**ANITA PEEBLES**  
Ecotheology and the Parables of Jesus: Creative Re-Readings of Parables In Light of the Environmental Crisis

**ETHAN PHILON**  
Next to the Word of God: A Revised Account of Agency from Martin Luther’s Musical Texts

**SAMUEL RUBIN**  
Philosophical Nonviolence in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1960-1962

**CHARLOTTE W. VARI**  
The Sacramentality of Choice: Unplanned Pregnancy in Feminist Theology