



University of Notre Dame
Department of Romance Languages &
Literatures

2019 – 2020 Recognition Ceremony

Recognition of Recipients Undergraduate Academic Awards

Academic Achievement Award
International Economics Romance Languages And Literatures
Emily Pohl

Joseph Italo Bosco Award
For Superior Achievement In Italian Studies
Matthew Canonico

Endowment For Excellence Award
In Romance Languages And Literatures
Madelyn Steurer

Recognition of Recipients Undergraduate Academic Awards

Walter J. Langford Award
For Excellence In French Literature
Thomas Mologne

Walter J. Langford Award
For Excellence In Spanish Literature
Trevor Canty

2019 Indiana Outstanding College Student of Spanish and Portuguese Award

The Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese
(AATSP)

Julia Cogan

Amber Grimmer

Timothy Jacklich

Kyersten Siebenaler

Recognition of Recipients Undergraduate Service Awards

Mara Fox Award for Service to the Hispanic Community

Julia Cogan

José Tito Sigüenza Award for Service to Hispanic Youth

Trevor Canty

Morgan Peck

Carlos Aballi Award in Hispanic Cultural Awareness

Angela Rogers

Charles and Simone Parnell Award for International Awareness and Social Service Activities

Naana Ocran

Recognition of Honors Track Recipients

Iberian and Latin American Studies

Trevor Canty

Italian Studies

Clare Cahir

Beatrice Hall

Romance Languages and Literatures

Madelyn Steurer

Recognition of Honors Societies Recipients

Pi Delta Phi ~ National French Honor Society

Rev. Gregory Haake, C.S.C, Assistant Professor of French, Faculty Advisor



Haley Coleman
Maria Gomez Payan
Sheila Gregory
Sarah Harper
Maria Herrera Medina
Anna Kluender
Mark Kowalik
Mary Kriscovich

Rebecca Lam
Kata Lamb
Samantha Mariani
Erin Merrigan
Katherine Meyer
Maggie Miltko
Thomas Mologne
Naana Ocran

Hannah Oikawa
Emily Pohl
Kathleen Quinn
Kenna Scannell
Madelyn Steurer
Colin Vaughan

Pi Delta Phi ~ National French Honor Society



Honors Societies Recipients

Gamma Kappa Alpha ~ National Italian Honor Society

Sabrina Ferri, Associate Professor of Italian, Faculty Advisor



Antonia Ambrose
Mary Grace Babbo
Yunyi Bai
Carissa Baldwin
Alessia Bryant
Clare Cahir
Matthew Canonico
Matthew Cenci

Susanna Rose Cohen
Daniel Delfico
Claire DiOrio
Arianna Garcia Caffaro
Beatrice Hall
Ciara Hopkinson
Parker Imlay
Charlotte Langbo

Madeline Link
Margaret McGurn
Justin McLellan
Kathleen Shea
Anthony Skikos
Ashley Sullivan
Alessandra Turi

Gamma Kappa Alpha ~ National Italian Honor Society



Recognition of Honors Societies Recipients

Sigma Delta Pi ~ National Spanish Honor Society

Juan Vitulli, Associate Professor of Spanish, Faculty Advisor



Andrew Blake

Hugh Burke

Trevor Canty

Luke Chval

Julia Cogan

Mary Coleman

Andrew Frear

Linde Hoffman

Xinhui Hong

David Lund

Katherine Meyer

Thomas Naatz

Estella Park

Morgan Peck

Victor Pologruto

Peter Sabini

McKenzie Samson

Ryan Sheehy

Nicole Shumaker

Kyersten Siebenaler

Luis Urrea

Katherine Wallace

Jane Warshaw

Erin Whitney

Sigma Delta Pi ~ National Spanish Honor Society

 Andrew Blake	 Hugh Burke	 Trevor Canty	 Luke Chval	 Julia Cogan	 Mary Coleman	 Andrew Frear
 Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica <i>Class of 2020</i>		 Linde Hoffman	 Xinhui Hong	 David Lund	 Katherine Meyer	 Thomas Naatz
		 Estelle Park	 Morgan Peck	 Victor Pologruto	 Peter Sabini	 McKenzie Samson
		 Ryan Sheehy	 Nicole Shumaker	 Kyersten Siebenaler	 Luis Urrea	 Katherine Wallace

Thesis Romance Languages & Literatures Programs



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME | ARTS & LETTERS

2020 Senior Thesis Projects



Patricia Alquiza

- Majors: Spanish and Environmental Sciences
- Adviser: Vanesa Miseres

La Cultura de la Vaca Argentina

Using Esteban Echeverría's "El Matadero," I analyzed several contemporary art pieces that recognize the connection Argentinians have with the cow, whether that be proximal, symbolic, symbiotic, or even consumptive — and not just as means for nourishment but also to express self and communal identities. This further confirms the profound relationship each consumer has with food. It is not as ephemeral as a bite but remains influential always, from production to consumption to waste.

A perfect intersection of my majors and my general love for food, this thesis has allowed me to explore one nation's dynamic experience with the cow.

Study everything. Do anything.™

**Anthony Bell**

- Major: International Economics (Italian)
- Minor: Data Science
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

Political Turnover and Productivity in the Aftermath of Italy's *Mani Pulite* Investigations

After Italy's *Mani Pulite* (Clean Hands) investigations of the early 1990s, thousands of politicians at all levels were indicted for corruption crimes. What followed was a great period of political turnover, in which Italy's Second Republic was formed. I investigated the effect of local political turnover on productivity and economic growth at the regional level.

I chose this topic because it allowed me to follow my passion for Italian studies by examining what I think is Italy's most interesting political movement since World War II. When we think of Italy, we think of food, music, art, and beautiful vacation destinations, but it is also one of the most complex and dynamic political environments in the world, and I hope to bring light to that.

**Matthew Canonico**

- Majors: Mathematics and Italian
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Mathematics as a Linguistic Phenomenon: Tartaglia and the Need for Symbolic Notation

Symbolic notation in mathematics is a rather recent development. In my project, I study the solving of the cubic equation in Italy during the Renaissance and the language used to communicate the solution in order to underline the weakness of purely rhetorical mathematical communication and, ultimately, the necessity for symbolic notation.

This topic has allowed me to approach each of my majors simultaneously from a unique angle and to explore an immensely interesting bit of history that goes largely unmentioned. Further, I have realized that one main reason for my interest in mathematics is the qualities that it shares with language. To combine mathematics with Italian in my thesis and to consider the language of mathematical communication has been gratifying.

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**Trevor Canty**

- Major: Spanish (Honors)
- Supplementary Major: Arts and Letters Pre-Health
- Glynn Family Honors Program
- Adviser: Juan Vitulli

La Borgauesca

My project is an investigation of the work of author Jorge Luis Borges and his connection to the gaucho literature of his native Argentina. I argue that Borges opts out of his own rewriting, instead allowing his characters — largely constructions of the gaucho canon itself — to enact the reinterpretation of the genre. In the second section of my thesis, “Réquiem para la Borgauesca,” I explore the aftermath of this literary intervention.

After reading “El Sur” in a class in Spain my sophomore year, I was struck by how Borges, a famously cosmopolitan author, interacted with the literary traditions of his own country. Understanding the conversion from regionalism to universality in this literature is an important topic, especially in light of the rapid globalization of the 21st century.

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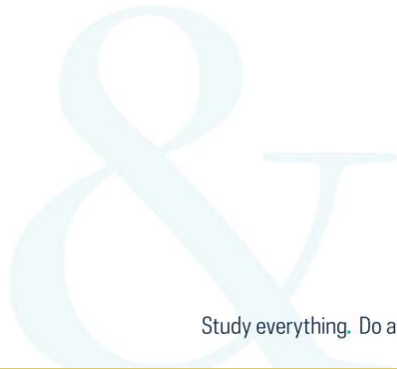
Matt Cyrs

- Major: Spanish
- Supplementary Major: Chinese
- Adviser: Carlos Jáuregui

20th-Century Philosophy in Borges

My project traces the influence of notable philosophers such as Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and Schopenhauer through several short stories of the Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges.

I have always been fascinated with philosophy, yet did not have the chance to take any philosophy classes beyond the two required at Notre Dame. Borges has always been my favorite Spanish-language author and is noted for the philosophical aspects of his work. I decided a thesis was the perfect way to bring these two interests together.



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Claire DiOrio

- Majors: Italian and Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Actuarial Science
- Adviser: Charles Leavitt

The Contradictory Nature of Italian Fascist Gender Politics and Its Impact on Women

The Italian fascist government explicitly promoted traditional gender roles through repressive policy and rhetoric aimed at confining a woman's role to the home. However, my thesis aims to demonstrate that the fascist party's rhetoric and policies regarding women were often too contradictory and ineffective to substantially impact the treatment and advancement of women in society.

I was interested in analyzing this subject because the rise of fascism coincided with a rise in international interest to redefine or re-evaluate traditional gender roles. I wanted to examine whether the repressive fascist policies had a significant impact on women under its regime.



Alex Engel

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

Spanish Populism After the Financial Crisis of 2008

I researched Spanish populist parties after the financial crisis in order to determine whether they were more successful in regions that were affected more by the crisis. Through the use of regional mortgage data and election results, I could see how the people of various regions responded to economic issues.

Through various classes, I have enjoyed learning about the recent economic history of Spain, as well as general political movements in Europe. I felt that this topic was a good way to combine all of my coursework and pursue a question that interested me.

Study everything. Do anything.™

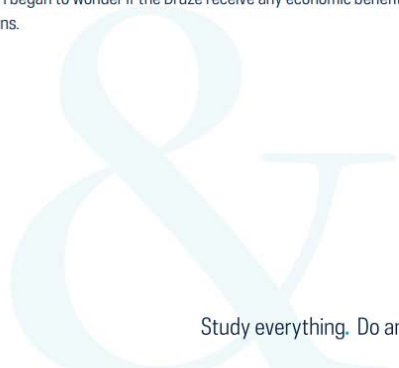
**Mark Fedoranko**

- Majors: International Economics (Arabic) and Accountancy
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

Income Discrimination Among Different Arab Groups in Israel

Over the course of Israel's history, one group of Arabs, the Druze, have held an unusual position. Despite being "second-class" Arab citizens of the state, they still participate in military conscription — a privilege usually reserved for Israeli Jews. My project sought to determine whether Druze Israelis experience less income discrimination than their Arab Israeli counterparts.

While studying in Jerusalem, I had several opportunities to interact with the Druze. Despite being Arab, there exists a fascinating dichotomy and paradox in their identity, specifically in regards to their military service. As a result, I began to wonder if the Druze receive any economic benefit for their services and unique positions.



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**Hanna Kennedy**

- Majors: Spanish and English
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Ben Heller

Exilio, Errancia, y lo Imaginario: La Escritura Como Relación en Cuentos Negros de Cuba

My thesis, written in Spanish, investigates the interplay of errantry and exile, themes outlined by Édouard Glissant in his *Poetics of Relation*, in the short stories of the Cuban author and ethnologist Lydia Cabrera. By looking at the publication history of *Cuentos Negros de Cuba*, I aim to demonstrate how translation both changes and spreads a cultural imaginary and that this has an impact on the culture's present identity.

I chose to write about Lydia Cabrera after taking two Spanish classes focused on the Caribbean. I loved learning the history of the place, but I was curious about why there were not very many female authors on either syllabus. One of my professors recommended I check out Cabrera.

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**Jack Meloro**

- Majors: History and International Economics (Spanish)
- Adviser: John Deak

'The Stadium and the Street': The Cultural Impact of Spanish Soccer

This project traces Spanish soccer's complex relationship with culture, politics, and society, from its inception through the present day. I focused specifically on its function as a form of resistance to the fascist Franco regime.

I chose this topic to combine my two passions, sports and history. I began my work almost two years ago when I wrote a history capstone on propaganda in the Spanish Civil War. That project gave me the platform I needed to dive deeply into the nature of the Franco regime and the people who lived under it.

Traveled to Spain with funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

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**Maggie Moriarity Miltko**

- Major: International Economics (French)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Advisers: Illenin Kondo and Denise Della Rossa

Coffee, Cotton, and Politics: A History of Haitian Trade

This historical and comparative analysis looks at trends in trade between Haiti and France and Haiti and the United States to explore Haiti's development between 1829 and 1986. I found that changing relations with France and the United States affected trade and that the early decolonization of Haiti made it an outlier from other countries in the Caribbean region.

I am extremely interested in post-colonial history and how that intersects with development and conflict. This project combines all my fields of study — French, economics, and peace studies.



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Kate Meyer

- Major: Romance Languages
(Spanish and French)
- Adviser: Pedro Aguilera-Mellado

Bécquer, Benjamin, and Storytelling in the Romantic Response to Modernity

My thesis looks at the legends of Toledo by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer through the looking glass of *The Storyteller* by Walter Benjamin. I explore how preserving the story is a Romantic response to modernity that shouts the value of the unquantifiable, of experience, and of mystery in a world of science and numbers.

I entered this project wanting to research the science of storytelling and realized that science is beside the point. And, thus, my true topic was born.

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Jade Panlener

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Advisers: Forrest Spence and Kasey Buckles

The Effect of the Great Recession's Unemployment on Drug Consumption in Spain

When the property bubble burst in Spain, unemployment skyrocketed to figures surpassed only by Greece. This problem is still persistent today. Economists have studied how unemployment is correlated to mental health or other health behaviors, so my project examines the impact on drug abuse in Spain during and after the recession.

It is important to understand how the business cycle may impact health behaviors and habits. Understanding these relationships can help policymakers plan for crises that may come as the result of an economic downturn.

**Peter Sabini**

- Majors: Spanish and Music
- Minor: Business Economics
- Adviser: Ben Heller

The Poetry of Carmen Colón Pellot

I translated and analyzed Carmen Colón Pellot's book of poetry, *Ambar Mulata*. Her poems deal predominantly with race but also with topics such as gender, nationalism, nature, and beauty. My project has a standard translator's introduction, an analysis of the major themes of her poems, and then the poems themselves, both in the original Spanish and my English translations.

Two years ago, I read a poem by Pellot for one of my Spanish literature classes, and then in a translation course with my adviser, Ben Heller, I continued to research Pellot for a smaller translation project. I felt quite captivated by her writing style and content, and when it came time to do a longer thesis project, I knew I had to keep working on Pellot's poems.

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**Sydney Schlager**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Supplementary Major: Peace Studies
- Advisers: Christopher Cronin and Denise Della Rossa

Individual and Cultural Determinants of Female Labor Force Participation in Chile

Although the Chilean female labor force participation rate has increased since 1990, it remains one of the lowest rates in Latin America and among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member states. My paper explores the potential factors that contribute to this statistic and considers which of these factors may have changed since 1990.

After studying abroad in Santiago during the fall of my junior year, I was interested in exploring a topic related to the Chilean economy. My interest in women in the labor force grew from my experience volunteering at a daycare in Santiago and interacting with the mothers of the children.

Laura Schoonmaker

- Major: International Economics (Italian)
- Minor: Constitutional Studies
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

How Does the Way Government Is Conducted in Italy and the U.S. Determine Its Susceptibility to Corruption?

My thesis compares Silvio Berlusconi, a former prime minister of Italy, and President Donald Trump and how their demonstrated corruption has affected the institutions meant to maintain government's integrity.

I chose this topic because I am extremely interested in politics, particularly the differences in how it is conducted across nations and how the leaders shape their governments and vice versa.



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**Madelyn Steurer**

- Majors: Romance Languages (French and Italian) and Marketing
- CUSE Sorin Scholar
- Adviser: Christian Moevs

Political and Religious Significance of the Marian Image in Siena, Italy

Siena, Italy, is often referred to as the "City of the Virgin," a special devotion that began in the 13th century. My thesis analyzes two Renaissance Marian images, as well as the modern Palio festival, to explore how civil religion sustains Sieneese history and identity through symbols and ceremonies.

I received the Ravarino Grant from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures to travel to Siena for language immersion. I was able to experience the Palio in person and soon realized that it is hard to think of Siena without its devotion to Mary, which manifests in this modern festival.

There is a point at which the city and the Virgin become inseparable, and I wanted explore this topic through my love of art history.

Traveled to Siena, Italy to conduct research at the Archivio di Stato di Siena with funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

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Benjamin Testani

- Major: International Economics (Arabic)
- Supplementary Major: Spanish
- Advisers: Forrest Spence and Chloe Gibbs

The Relationship Between Domestic Hate Crimes Against Muslims and Combat Deaths of American Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan

My research explored whether there is a correlation between the deaths of American armed forces in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and hate crimes committed domestically against Muslims. I used data from the FBI to track hate crimes and casualty logs to track combat deaths.

I decided on this topic because I thought it would be interesting to see if anger about military deaths leads to an increase in hate crimes against Muslims, similar to what happened after the terror attacks of September 11.

**Georgia Twersky**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Minor: Peace Studies
- Adviser: Forrest Spence

The Effect of Air Pollution on Santiago's Housing Market

PM_{10} is a measure of breathable particles of air pollution. Santiago, Chile, a city surrounded by mountainous regions and in the Santiago Basin, experiences high levels of PM_{10} . Using housing price data from the Central Bank of Chile and PM_{10} levels from another source, I found the economic cost of pollution, and how air quality affects where people choose to live in Santiago.

I chose this topic after my semester abroad in Santiago. The air pollution there was visible. Climate change and major weather events cause great mass movements, and I think my research can help policy makers see how much people value air quality and how low air quality causes higher levels of domestic migration (i.e., across neighborhoods).

Traveled to Santiago, Chile.

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**Luis Urrea**

- Major: International Economics (Spanish)
- Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar
- Advisers: Chris Cronin and Forrest Spence

Soccer Club Performance's Impact on Re-election Rates

I investigated the relationship between the performance of soccer clubs in a region and provincial governor reelection rates, giving governors an incentive to invest in local sports organizations in anticipation of their upcoming re-election.

Soccer has been an integral component of Argentine culture and remains a priority for many people in the country. I was interested in looking into the way it might have permeated into politics and its impact on provincial elections.



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Theses Romance Languages & Literatures Programs

International Economics Romance Languages (no picture available)

Abby Berthiaume ~ Youth Unemployment In Spain: An Analysis Of The Impact Of A 2012 Spanish Labor Reform

Haley Coleman ~ Climate Change and Wine Production In France

Amber Grimmer ~ Characteristics Of Female Entrepreneurs In Ecuador and Chile

Moira Hillsman ~ Italy As A Stepping Stone: Migration Flows In Italy

Lane Isabel ~ Economic Transitions Post-Fascism and Communism

Abby Korn ~ Impacts Of Climate Change On Central American Agriculture

Jack Meloro ~ Autarky To Liberalization: Capturing The Real Wage Effect In Spain Under Francisco Franco

Emily Pohl ~ Women's Empowerment With Gender Parity In Senegal

Laura Schoonmaker ~ Pediatric Healthcare, Economic Investment And Education: How Could It Impact Labor Force Opportunity?

Kyersten Siebenaler ~ Women's Empowerment With Gender Parity In Senegal

Colin Vaughan ~ Forecasting A New NHL Team In Quebec City

Joe Witt ~ Tourism Responses To Guidebook Rankings In Chile

Graduating Class of 2020

French and Francophone Studies

Maria Gomez Payan

Sheila Gregory

Sarah Harper

Maria Herrera Medina

Anna Kluender

Mark Kowalik

Mary Kriscovich

Rebecca Lam

Kata Lamb

Samantha Mariani

Erin Merrigan

Thomas Mologne

Naana Ocran

Kathleen Quinn

Kenna Scannell

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Iberian and Latin American Studies

Kaisha Age
Patricia Alquiza
Maria Anthony
Emily Astarita
Geneva Baumberger
Emily Besler
Andrew Blake
Hugh Burke
Michaela Butler
Trevor Canty
Luke Chval
Julia Cogan
Mary Coleman
Matthew Cyrs

Abigail Dolan
Patrick Donovan
Matthew Driscoll
Andrew Frear
Michael Gossel
Ava Gruener
Jessica Hannon
Holly Harris
Owen Harte
Linde Hoffman
Xinhui Hong
Kassadee Ifft
James Kennedy
Hanna Kennedy

Luke Krajewski
Tamima Levinsohn Mourad
Samantha Loper
David Lund
Megan McLaughlin
Thomas Naatz
Mary O'Leary
Estelle Park
Morgan Peck
Victor Pologruto
John Posluszny
Angela Rogers
Ryan Rogers
Peter Sabini

McKenzie Samson
Ana Sarmousakis
Margarite Schwarz
Ryan Sheehy
Nicole Shumaker
Matthew Smith
Matthew Smith
Conor Somers
Claire Stanecki
Benjamin Testani
DeAndre Tomlinson
Katherine Wallace
Jane Warshaw
Erin Whitney

Graduating Class of 2020

International Economics Romance Languages and Literatures

Anthony Bell

Abigail Berthiaume

Haley Coleman

Alexander Engel

Amber Grimmer

Moira Hillsman

Abby Korn

John Meloro

Maggie Miltko

Jade Panlener

Emily Pohl

Sydney Schlager

Laura Schoonmaker

Kyersten Siebenaler

Georgia Twersky

Luis Urrea

Colin Vaughan

Joseph Witt

Graduating Class of 2020

Italian

Antonia Ambrose

Mary Grace Babbo

Yunyi Bai

Carissa Baldwin

Catherine Barra

Moataz Montaser Mostafa Bashir

Caterina Breuer

Alessia Bryant

Clare Cahir

Matthew Canonico

Victoria Cardozo

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Parker Imlay

Benjamin Kling

Abigail Kovar

John Landon

Charlotte Langbo

Madeline Link

Katherine Mayo

Margaret McGurn

Justin McLellan

Veronica Perez

Connor Polk

Laura Ribas

Hibram Sanchez

Abigail Schlehuber

Kathleen Shea

Anthony Skikos

Ashley Sullivan

Zhuofei Tang

Michael Terranova

Dion Thompson-Davoli

Alessandra Turi

Lucia West

Graduating Class of 2020

Portuguese

Jazmin Flete

Holly Harris

Peter Molyneaux

Zuramy Vazquez

Graduating Class of 2020

Romance Languages and Literatures

Jazmin Flete

Katherine Meyer

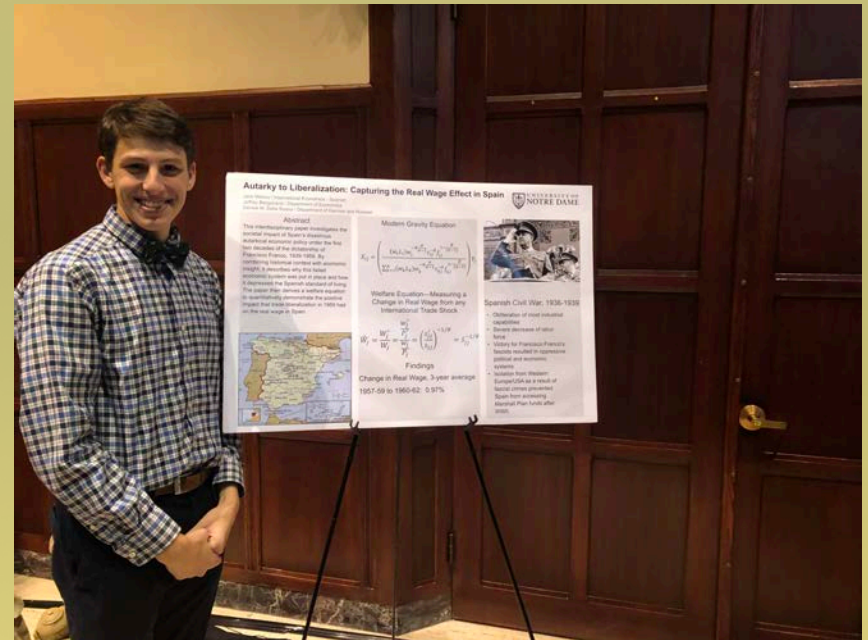
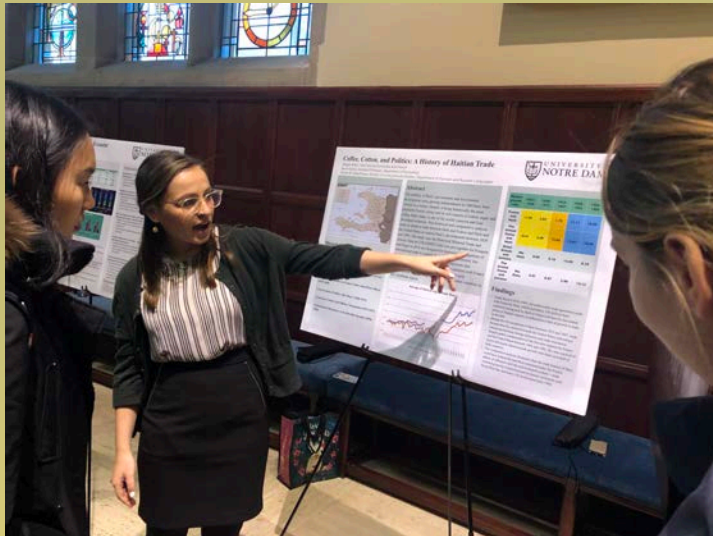
Hannah Oikawa

Madelyn Steurer

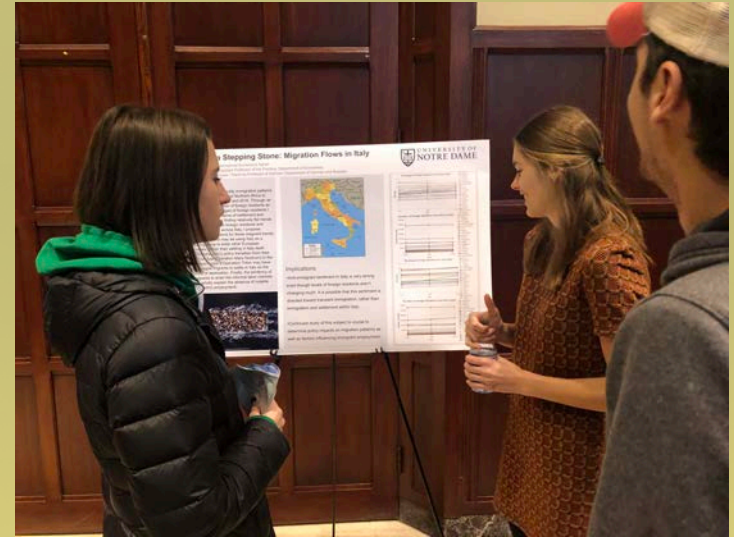
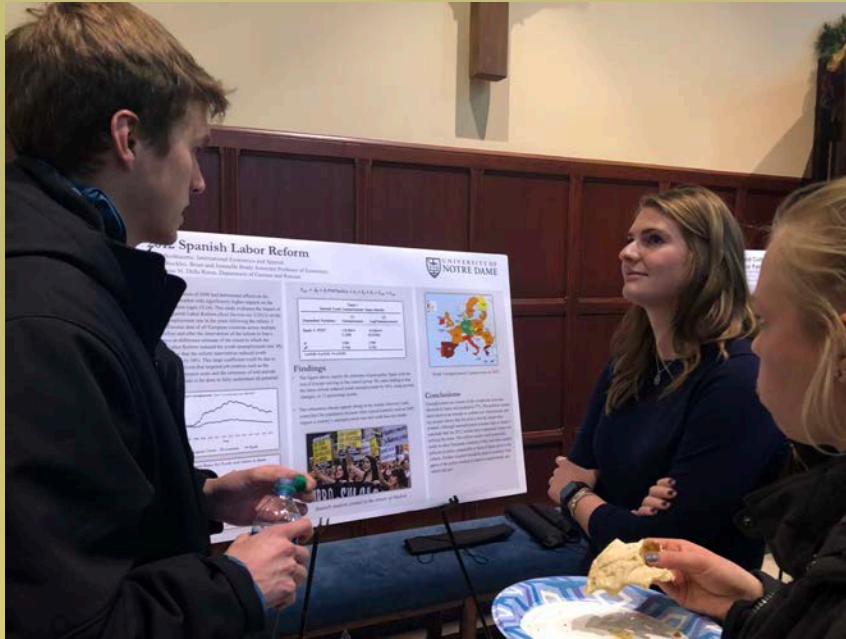
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Fall 2019 International Economics Romance Languages Poster Session



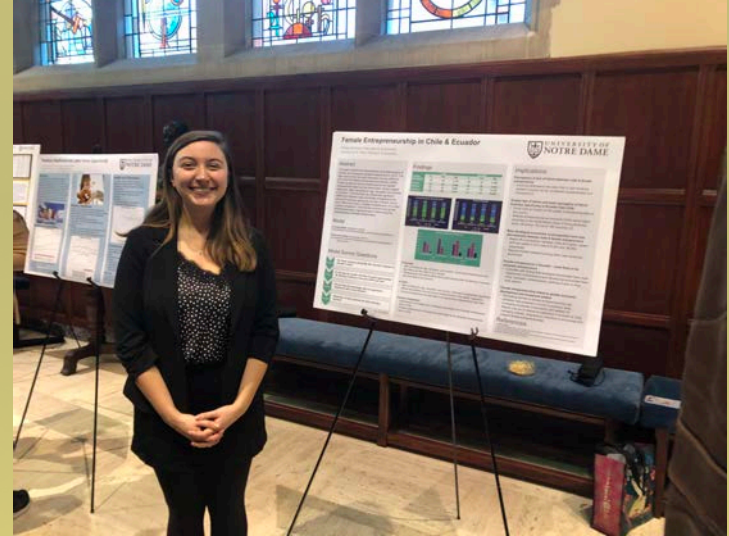
Fall 2019 International Economics Romance Languages Poster Session



Fall 2019 International Economics Romance Languages Poster Session



Fall 2019 International Economics Romance Languages Poster Session



Spring 2020 International Economics Romance Languages Poster Session



Seniors Working on Theses

Patricia Alquiza

"Patricia Alquiza working from home, making the final touches to her senior thesis titled "La cultura de la vaca argentina", under the direction of Prof. Vanesa Miseres.



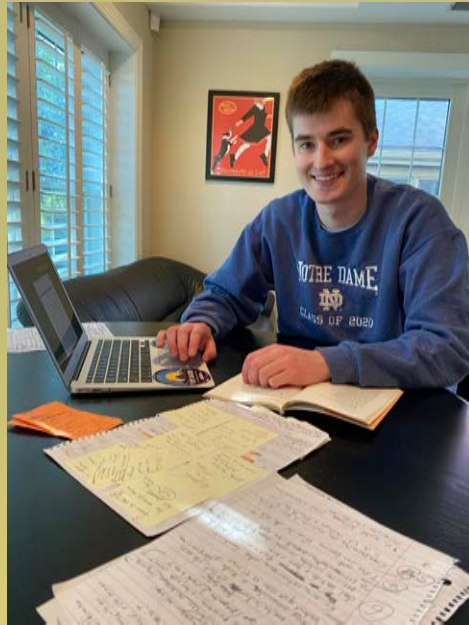
Trevor Canty



Hanna Kennedy



Peter Sabini



Matthew Cyrs



Katherine Meyer



Kaneb Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Awards

Amelia Lindstrom ~ Spanish

Leonor Taiano Campoverde ~ Spanish

Anderson Davis Richardson ~ Italian

Graduate Degrees

French

Elijah Andrews ~ MA

Jennifer Grace Van Antwerp ~ MA

Italian

Lorenzo Dell'Oso ~ PhD

Magda Ivette Collazo Simonet ~ MA

Anderson Davis Richardson ~ MA

Matías Daniel Sur ~ MA

Spanish

Amelia Lindstrom ~ MA

Graduate Photo

French Graduate students/TA graduating this year, Elijah Andrews, Jennifer Van Antwerp and H el ene Delabuis (a non-degree exchange student).



Graduate Students



Graduate Students

