A CELEBRATION OF THE SCHOLARLY AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2014
FRIDAY, APRIL 25 | SCIENCE CENTER
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 Lumsdaine
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, A254

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 McRitch
Calcium Signaling and Neuropeptide Secretion in the Expulsion Step of the Caenorhabditis Elegans Defecation Motor Program
Anne Nigra
Tree Core Analysis for Heavy Metal Carcinogens in a Childhood Cancer Cluster
Helen Rich
Interactions Among Myosin, Twitchin, and Troponin I in Caenorhabditis elegans Muscle Contraction
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
Merie 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 Biruk, 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 Germanness and Jewishness, and between Jewishness and Arabness, respectively. Here I explore the works of German Jewish authors on Jewishness, and Mizrahi- and Palestinian-Israeli artists on Israeliness. The authors’ 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.

NOTE: Room K209 in the Science Center is located above the entryway into the Science Center off Lorain Street. To get to K209 from the first floor, head south down the main corridor and take the staircase adjacent to the Lorain Street entrance to the second floor. To get to K209 from A25A, exit the room and turn right, then left down the hallway, and left again at the end of the hallway.

RECEPTION • 5:00-6:00 PM
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Location: Academic Commons, Science Center

Panel 15: Sovereignty and Civility: Reflections on Conflict and Identity in Ireland, Jordan, and Chile
Moderator: Kristina M ani, Associate Professor of Politics
Connor Jerzak
The Fragile Sovereign? Sovereignty, Citizenship, and Conscription in Northern Ireland, 1938-1946
Sarah Cole
Black September and Jordanian Nationhood
Lily Bryant
Between Force and Law: The Early Years of the Pinochet Regime
Location: Science Center, A255

Panel 16: "A city set on a hill cannot be hid": Studies of Religious Authority
Moderator: Steven Wojtal, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Geology
Matthew Kendrick
“God Knows What I Know”: Trans-Eurasian Influence on the Sacred-Secular Conflict in 13th-century Europe
Porter James
“I some hear words”: Authors and Authority in Representations of Mormon Prophecy
Timothy Woods
Sin in Hiding: Re-Envisioning Contemporary Christian Theology Through Shame-Talk
Location: Science Center, K209
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
POLI TICS

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 interns for the Immigrant Worker 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 impassioned discussions about the U.S. Constitution. Truman is exploring the possibility of a career in law or in public education and looks forward to continuing his studies.

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 its 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 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.

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 professor 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 causes the increase in risk for Alzheimer's disease observed in post-menopausal 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.

SIENA CASTÁREAS
MUSICAL STUDIES AND PSYCHOLOGY

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

Composing 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.
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 McGarry. 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 “present” 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—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 Abul-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 studying abroad in Jordan and interning as a research assistant at the University of Jordan, where she became interested in the complexities of Jordanian identities. After college, she hopes to continue to conduct research on the Middle East and international affairs and eventually work with non-governmental organizations on foreign policy.

**JULIA CONNOR**

**VIOLIN PERFORMANCE and HISPANIC STUDIES**

Advisor: Milan Vitek, Violin

Advisor and Mentor: Patrick O’Connor, Hispanic Studies

Don Quijote in Western Classical Music

Since its early 17th-century publication, El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha has captivated composers of music throughout the West. In this project, I explore why the novel has for so long served as a source of inspiration to composers. I look at the way in which Don Quijote was interpreted in various European countries and how this influenced music composed there. Finally, I look at the broad impact that Don Quijote had on Western concert music.

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**

Advisor: 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 gentrification organizing in New York City as a way of connecting the ideas with 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**

Advisor: Sylvia Watanabe, Creative Writing, and David Walker, English

Mentor: Harrod 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.
Professor Maureen Peters, Biology

Anna Feuer
ART HISTORY

Reynard the Fox in Medieval Marginal Illustrations

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

Anna grew up in San Francisco and is an active member of the creative writing community on campus. She serves as coeditor-in-chief of the Plum Creek Review, Oberlin’s longest running literary magazine. She also works for the admissions office as a campus tour guide and assists fellow students as a writing associate and teaching assistant in creative writing. She studied abroad her sophomore year with the Oberlin-in-London program, where she studied British modernism and theater. After graduation, she intends to pursue a career in writing.

Advisors and Mentors: Erik Inglis, Art History

Ben Garfinkel
BIOLOGY

Diego this month to present a poster describing his honors research. After graduation, he hopes to work as a biomedical member of Professor Peters’ lab. He plans to travel with the Peters lab to the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, where he will present his research.

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

Ben’s love of the outdoors and biology was cultivated in his watery home of Seattle. He is a cofounder of The Synapse, 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.

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Ben’s love of the outdoors and biology was cultivated in his watery home of Seattle. He is a cofounder of The Synapse, 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.

Anna grew up in San Francisco and is an active member of the creative writing community on campus. She serves as coeditor-in-chief of the Plum Creek Review, Oberlin’s longest running literary magazine. She also works for the admissions office as a campus tour guide and assists fellow students as a writing associate and teaching assistant in creative writing. She studied abroad her sophomore year with the Oberlin-in-London program, where she studied British modernism and theater. After graduation, she intends to pursue a career in writing.

Advisors and Mentors: Erik Inglis, Art History

Ben Garfinkel
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I some hear words: Authors and Authority in Representations of Mormon Prophecy

Since the writings of Mormon prophet Joseph Smith first appeared in the 1820s, a bitter controversy has arisen over the question of Smith's authority to speak for God. Reframing this controversy as a question of authorship, I ask: Who or what is the subject in Smith's creative process of vision-production, and to what extent can this subject be considered an author? I explore different approaches to this problem that representations of Smith have taken in popular culture, church-sponsored media, and an opera I composed, prophecy machine. The latter reflects my own secular Mormon perspective on Smith's authorship.

Porter is a composer, poet, and sound artist from Mesa, Arizona. At Oberlin he has served as an officer with the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association and a trip leader for Oberlin in Solidarity with El Salvador. During the past three years, Porter has presented musical works in various recuses of the college—at a gallery show sponsored by Exhibition Initiative, at a junior guitar style, and guerrilla-style in the Sky Bar at 8 a.m. In spring 2013, he presented a sound installation at the International Supercollider Conference in Boulder, Colorado. His opera prophecy machine was staged from April 10-12 in Wilder Main.

CONNOR IERZAK
Adviser and Mentor: Annetonie Sammartino, History

The Fragile Sovereign? Sovereignty, Citizenship, and Conscription in Northern Ireland, 1938-1946
This thesis examines conflicts that emerged during WW II over the introduction of military conscription to Northern Ireland. Through my review of primary documents written between 1938 and 1946 by leaders in Northern Ireland, the Irish Free State, and Great Britain, I argue that debate over conscription provided a venue for elites in and around Northern Ireland to define the nature of citizenship existing within this space. The conscription issue compelled actors in Northern Ireland to articulate their views on citizenship, perhaps in the most elaborate form since the territory's creation as a political entity.

Connor hails from Omrode, a small town in northeast Wisconsin. He has served as a mediator for the Oberlin College Dialogue Center, worked for the Brennan Center for Democracy, and interned for the Office of the Mayor of Green Bay. Connor also traveled to Northern Ireland through the US-UK Fulbright Commission and received advanced computational modeling training from the National Science Foundation. Come fall, Connor will be pursing a PhD in the Department of Government at Harvard University.

GABRIEL KANENGISER
Adviser: Barbara Craig, Economics

Individual Major: Practice and Economics 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
Adviser: David Kelley, East Asian Studies and 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 in 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.

GABRIEL, from Los Angeles, participated in the Rubin Institute for Music Criticism in 2012 and, in 2014, was selected to participate in the LaGuardia 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 bosa nova and samba ensemble on campus. After college, Gabe will continue to pursue a career in the music industry with his record label, Streescare. Gabe much prefers the snowy Ohio winters to the year-round sun in Los Angeles.

SAMSUN KNIGHT
Adviser: Ed McKeeley, 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 issuers that they address.

Samsun is from Brookline, Massachusetts, and started his acting career in the role of Louis Stevens in Disney’s Even Stevens. 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.

Porter, James
MUSICAL STUDIES

Advisor: Jan Miyake, Music Theory

Montor: Lynn Gueingger, TIMMGA

“i some hear words”: Authors and Authority in Representations of Mormon Prophecy

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CONOR IERZAK
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BRENNALARSON
ART HISTORY
Advisor and Mentor: Erik Ingles, 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 Velsois 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 decent program at the Allen Memorial Art Museum. While abroad in Florence in fall 2012, she interned at the Cooperaativa Archeologia, and in spring 2013 was awarded the Laurens Mack Bongiorno 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 and Mentor: Razia 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, Jorie Graham, 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 experiences with pots-and-pass 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 ELIZALINGAT
COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES and ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
Advisor: Janet Fako, 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—as “alternative textbooks”—can inspire direct action. This project contextualizes the increased presence of zines original and appropriated texts and images. They are often committed to distributing radical information to readers

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MICHÈLALVALLALO
ANTHROPOLOGY and MUSICAL STUDIES
Advisor: Erik 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 interactivity. 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 rereading 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, floundered 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 Tavia Nyong’o. He is currently the Curatorial Coordinator at The Rosenbach. He hopes to one day be a curator and see 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.

EMILY LUMESDAINE
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 pullus) 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 MCCRIBRIGHT
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 message that tells neurons to signal the last muscle 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 Psychological 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

Advisors: Pam Brooks, Africana Studies, and Natasha Tensone, 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 statuses of respectability politics: a tool for self-definition, or a barrier that destabilizes it.

Nicole hails from Flausmoor, 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 at the Diversity Pipeline Initiative at the New York City Bar Association. After college, she plans to take a year off before attending law school.

ANNE NIGRA

Advisors and Mentors: 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 Columbus University Mailman School of Public Health to pursue an MPH in Environmental Health Sciences (Toxicology).

CUYLER OTSUKA

Advisors: Afia Ofori-Mensa, Comparative American Studies
Advisors and Mentor: Harry Hirsch, 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

Advisors: Ellis Tallman, Economics, and Len Smith, History

Advisor and 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.
CHRISTOPHER PICKENS  
**Biology and Geology**

Advisors: Mary Gavin, Biology, and Dennis Hubbard, 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 macroalgal-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**

Advisor: Kirk Ormand, Classics  
Mentor: Drew Willburn, 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 Hermenos "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**

Advisor: Roger Laushman, 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 calling 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**

Advisor: Roger Laushman, 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.
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 Wind Art Library. Last year, she was awarded the Laurine 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.
**Mentor:** Rebecca Whelan, Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Advisor:** 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.

Tim, 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 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:** David Kamitsuka, Religion

**Mentor:** Rebecca Whelan, Chemistry and Biochemistry

**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.

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**Elias Wright**

**ART HISTORY and RELIGION**

**Advisor:** David Kamitsuka, Religion

**Mentor:** James Swan Tuite, Religion

**Art as Communication Objects in a Practice-Centered Account of Albrecht Durer**

I suggest that interpreting Durer’s art objects using a practice-centered interpretation in conjunction with a belief-centered account demonstrates how art objects can communicate and shape social values and structure. I use Erwin Panofsky’s interpretation of Durer’s “St. Jerome in His Study” to articulate the narrative features in a work of art and to examine how Durer’s art objects are placed in a larger artistic practice. From this, I argue that religious art as “representational” can only be understood in conjunction with its status as a shared social form. I investigate the implications and abilities of an “art-object” to serve as a communication object, structuring relationships and changing beliefs and organization in practicing communities.

Elias grew up under the light polluted skies of northern New Jersey. In his time at Oberlin, he has served as the student representative for the art history and religion departments. He has organized and served as head editor for the Senior Studio Catalogue, an interdisciplinary publication that attempts to reshape how we write about art. Elias is interested in the relationship between art, technology, and communication, and how various media forms affect our everyday lives. Upon graduating, he intends to pursue opportunities in digital media outlets.

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**Karin Yoshida**

**BIOLOGY**

**Advisor:** Jane Bennett, Biology

**Mentor:** Yolanda Cruz, Biology

**Histological Changes in Monodelphis domestica Uteri During Pregnancy**

Pregnancy is possible because biochemical adjustments prevent immunological rejection of the embryo, which the maternal body recognizes as an alien tissue. A protein called early pregnancy factor (EPF) suppresses the maternal immune system just enough to prevent expulsion of the embryo without harming the mother. Additionally, progesterone modifies the reproductive system to become a more suitable environment for fetal development. I examine prepared and stained slices of uteri from pregnant and non-pregnant opossums (Monodelphis domestica) to determine if the known changes in progesterone and EPF levels in these animals correspond to microanatomical changes in uterine tissues and cells.

Karin is originally from Himeji, Japan. For two summers, she conducted research on campus as an Oberlin College Research Fellow. She has served as a Japanese tutor since arriving at Oberlin, and as a teaching assistant during her final year in the East Asian Studies Program. She also enjoys cooking and baking in her spare time. After Oberlin, Karin plans to work in a research laboratory while developing her interests in culinary arts.
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>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Joseph Trumbo, voice</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Cory Todd, bass</td>
<td>Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Jinhua Li, piano</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Kevin Grasel, horn</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Francesca Shipsey, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Michelle Ellison, voice</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Emily Peragine, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Yi Qiao Li, piano</td>
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SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Eric Fischer, voice</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Danielle Cheiken, voice</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Ethan Updike, trumpet</td>
<td>Warner Concert Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Hunter Gordon, bassoon</td>
<td>Kulas Recital Hall</td>
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<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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</table>
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 and Undoing 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 Nepantla: 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