



# THE SPOUTER

## Message from the Honors Director

Professor Robert Darst

It has been another exciting and eventful year for the UMass Dartmouth Honors Program. Here are some of the most noteworthy developments:

**2010 Commonwealth Scholars.** I am thrilled to announce that a record-breaking 25 students will graduate as Commonwealth Scholars this spring. By the end of the semester, these students will have completed all of the requirements of the Commonwealth Honors Program, including completion of a significant independent thesis or project. The Commonwealth Scholars will be recognized at Honors Convocation on May 5, and they will wear their gold stoles at Commencement on May 23. Congratulations to all of you!

**Presentation of student research.** UMD student participation in the statewide Undergraduate Research Conference continues to rise. This year, 42 of our students participated in the annual event, held at UMass Amherst on April 23. Honors students have also been busy presenting their work in other venues this spring, including the on-campus Sigma Xi Research Exhibition. Last but not least, this year's Commonwealth Scholars will present posters of their work at Honors Convocation.

**Honors Housing moves to Maple Ridge.** Beginning in Fall 2010, Honors Housing will move from Chestnut to the Maple Ridge dormitory. The third floor of Maple Ridge will be home to both Honors and Nursing Housing, thus ensuring that at least one floor of one dorm on the freshman quad will be (relatively) "quiet." Maple Ridge will also offer better access to food services, exercise and recreational facilities, and air conditioning.

**Honors Student Director.** I am delighted to announce the creation of a new position within the Honors Program, that of Student Director. Our first Student Director is Matthew Litchfield, a double major in English and Philosophy. The Student Director's responsibilities include representing the students on the Honors Program staff and Honors Program Committee, serving as a conduit for student suggestions and concerns, and organizing student participation in Honors Program events. Matthew will continue as Student Director next year, joined by an Associate Student Director who will take over the post of Student Director in Fall 2011.

**Honors Spring Social.** The "Winter Beach Party" organized by the Honors students in February was a great success. Although playing croquet on linoleum proved to be incompatible with the fundamental laws of physics, a great time was had by all. I was particularly happy to have an opportunity to wear my "Perestroika" jammies—and, yes, I really did buy them "back in the USSR," and longer ago than I care to remember.

Many thanks to everyone—students, faculty, staff, and administrators—who helped to make this another successful year for the Honors Program. I look forward to seeing most of you again in the fall. For those of you who are moving on to bigger and better things, take with you our best wishes, and don't forget to write!

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## Spouter is

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*We welcome articles from students and faculty.*

## Honors Student Interview with Matthew Litchfield

By Elise DePlanche, English



**Matthew Litchfield**, a twenty-year old junior from Holden, Massachusetts, is much more than a recently appointed Honors Student Director. He is a well-spoken English and Philosophy double major who works diligently on his class work, Honors Thesis, and the smooth operation of Christian Fellowship, of which he is a co-president.

Matt is passionate about both subjects of his double major. "I've wanted to be a novelist most of my life, and in high school I fell in love with literature," he explained. While enrolled at UMass Dartmouth, he was introduced to philosophy for the first time and became equally smitten. "I loved it, and decided I could handle a double major" Matt recalled. "Double majoring is difficult because you're trying to meet a lot more requirements and go in depth in two subjects instead of one, but the English and Philosophy majors complement each other so fantastically, it's almost made it easier."

As time has passed, however, Matt has set his dreams of authorship to the side, planning instead to enter seminary or divinity school after graduation and eventually become a pastor. "My faith has always been really important to me," Matt remarked. "God created us as intellectual beings, so the divide between the academic and religious world seems absurd. I want to change that." Matt noted, however, that despite this new career choice, he has not entirely given up his previous aspirations. "I still plan on being a novelist on the side, but I realized a long time ago that few people have the skill to be a novelist and have it

support them fully," he said. Matt has already begun work in the field of combining religious and secular academic views through his Honors Thesis. "One of Plato's dialogues is about piety, and its implications have haunted religion for centuries," he explained. "I am attempting to prove that Christianity is not beholden to those implications."

Matt said his experience with the UMD Honors Program has been extremely positive. "I love the Honors Program, and have been getting increasingly more involved," he remarked. Although he started out as "nothing but your regular honors student," Matt was asked to join the Honors Committee in fall 2008, and was appointed as the Honors Student Director this February. Matt described the newly-created position as being "a liaison between honors students and honors staff to help develop an honors community through social events, community service, and whatever else".

Along with his coursework and responsibilities to the Honors Program, Matt is part of a team that runs Christian Fellowship and also works at the Writing and Reading Center as an English tutor. "I love tutoring because it's a rewarding experience helping students learn how to write better," he commented. Matt also spends his summers working for a non-profit organization called The Friendly House, where he makes lunches for low-income children attending summer camps.

In the midst of his busy lifestyle, however, Matt still makes room for fun. When asked about his leisure activities, Matt responded "I watch *Lost*, as all good human beings should. I occasionally try to sneak in a book of pleasure reading. I love playing board games. When no one's around, I write crazily. Oh, and of course, I hang out with my friends and my girlfriend." Matt and his girlfriend Rebecca have known one another since the sixth grade. They have been dating now for a little over a year, and Matt describes the relationship as "*really* happy."

Matt also engages in somewhat academic pursuits outside the classroom, including an independent study of New Testament Greek. "I have a deep love for languages,

and intend to learn as many as I can before I die," he proclaimed. Already fluent in Spanish, Matt notes that Gaelic is also "high on the list" of languages he would like to learn, due in part to his Irish heritage, as well as to his longing to read the Book of Kells, an Irish document that is "one of the oldest written documents we have." Matt recalls that "it was one of my deepest dreams when I first came here to study abroad in Ireland at Trinity College, for no other reason than they have the Book of Kells. It's beautiful Gaelic script and it's just wonderful. I geek about old things." Matt explains that things got in the way over the years as he became increasingly involved in student organizations and the Honors Program. However, his desire remains unchanged. "I will get to Ireland one way or another," he said, "but not during undergrad."

In addition to leisure interests, Matt also makes time for his family, driving the hour and a half to his hometown about once a month. He shares an extremely tight bond with his two younger sisters, for whom he expresses overflowing affection and admiration. He described his 14-year-old sister Hannah as "the most honest, gentle, loving person I think I'll ever meet", and his 11-year-old sister Carly as "very smart and witty. When I was younger I taught her everything I know about sarcasm, and now she uses it better than me."

Despite his distance from home, Matt is thoroughly enjoying the college experience. His favorite thing about college "is that you're finally in charge of and responsible for what you think and what you learn, so you get to make your education your own." He says that college has been challenging, especially when it came to holding true to his faith. However, his experience in both religious and academic areas has been rewarding. "Going into depth with the academic fields I've come to be interested in has been so amazing. I think it's important to remember that the only way to make college worth it is if you get out of your dorm room and get involved," he said.

Matt admits that "things are not working out the way I'd planned, but I think I've figured out that's the best way to live life. If we try too hard to stick to a plan, we'll miss the opportunities that catch us by surprise."



## My Study Abroad in Cairo, Egypt

By Caitlin Fischer, History



*Qaitbay Citadel in Alexandria, Egypt*

Cairo is incredible! The American University in Cairo sponsored several trips during orientation, so I've been able to see some of the sites. I've been to Khan El Khalili, Coptic Cairo, the Pyramids, and Alexandria. The first time I saw the pyramids I was on horseback in the desert at night several miles away, but I went back during the day, and I even went inside one of the pyramids. I watched the Africa Cup semi-final and final games. Egypt won! I watched the semi-final game in the desert in a large Bedouin tent equipped with a projector and screen. The semi-final victory over Algeria turned into a dance party complete with a horse and a couple of camels. Elation isn't a strong enough word to describe how the Egyptians responded.

Cairo is massive, loud, crowded, polluted, alive, chaotic, and absolutely wonderful. I feel like I've adjusted to the craziness that is Cairo, so now I'm able to start appreciating it. I'm living in Zamalek, an island in the middle of the Nile; it's a ritzy area. You can get anything delivered: cakes, meals, medicine, groceries, cell phone minutes etc.

I just finished my second week of classes. I'm taking Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, the Art and Architecture of Cairo, and Middle Eastern History in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The Modern Standard Arabic class is my favorite because there are only three students in it, and we have class in the professor's office while we enjoy tea and snacks. The university is very isolated—it's in the middle of the desert—but it's beautiful.

Truthfully, studying abroad in Cairo is frustrating because I'm out of my comfort zone, but I know that this will benefit me in the long run. Every day I am confronted with the juxtapositions of poverty and wealth, historic grandeur and present-day circumstances, and traditional Egyptian culture and encroaching American culture. This exposure has given me a window into the developing world that I otherwise wouldn't have. Even though living in Cairo isn't at all what I expected, my experience is ultimately forcing me to ask myself challenging questions about my culture, my country, and my beliefs.

## Honors Student Poetry:

### “The Perpetual Journey to Satisfaction and Access to the Inside”

by Stephanie Mireku, English

He looks for acceptance in all the wrong places

Days in the gym become nights in emotional gridlock  
She gives a piece of her heart to everyone she knows hoping for appreciation in return

Hours of patience become days of agony  
You want the official seal of approval from so-called friends  
You laugh at society's scapegoat for lack of better motives

All the while knowing you've been there before

We all fall short

The world begs our attention to every distraction that arise out of infatuation

Tempted and tried like He once was

But still we know of the greater hope that lies within

The flesh craves assimilation

But the spirit is one with humility

Which one will prevail?

Though I know not what the end will bring

To know that He loves me is all the compliment I'll ever need

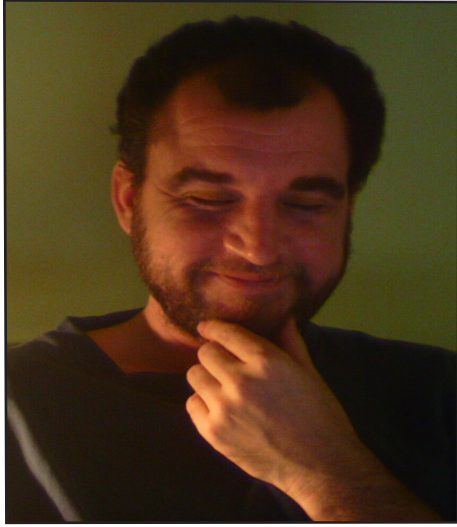
## Honors Program Spring Social Beach Party



This spring's Honors Program social event was a Winter-themed “Beach Party,” complete with palm trees, Hawaiian leis, beach balls, and a sand pail cake. Honors students played indoor croquet, horseshoes, and competed in a fierce limbo contest! A great time was had by all!

## Honors Faculty Interview with Dr. Avery Plaw

By Matthew Fricker, History



On rainy day, not so long ago, a young student stood shivering in the foyer of Northrop Frye Hall at the University of Toronto, staring out through sheets of rain, waiting for Professor Alan Brudner to arrive and lead his class through the impenetrable intricacies of the political philosophy of G.W.F Hegel (a subject that wholly baffled the student). Next to him stood the class's Tutorial Assistant. To pass the time the student asked his T.A. why he'd agreed to tutor such an impossible class. The T.A. explained that he had to do this sort of thing because he wanted to be a professor himself. "Why?" the student asked. "Because," explained the T.A., "it's the best job there is. Think about it. A Prof only has around six to eight hours a week of scheduled class and office hours. The only other thing he has to do is think about problems that interest him. They pay him enough to live well, send him to conferences around the world, and the job is just prestigious enough that nobody says he's wasting his life." "Oh," said the student, and thought about it. It was only many years later, however, when they met at a conference in Washington, that the T.A. discovered that that brief exchange had determined the career path of that young student, now Professor Avery Plaw.

As an undergraduate Dr. Plaw enjoyed every aspect of the college experience. He spent most of his time participant in athletics, debates, theatre and the social life of Trinity College. After completing a three year BA program, Plaw entered the workforce. He worked for two years on Bay Street at a management consulting firm as an Editor and Language Specialist. "It was fun for the

first few weeks, you get to wear a suit, and they pay you money – that was kind of cool. After that, it was just so uninspiring, I was desperate to get back to school." It was this depressing experience in the real world that brought Plaw back to the University and ultimately into Professor Brudner's famous class on Hegel. But now Plaw was a student transformed. Rather than focusing mainly on extracurricular activities, he got down to scholarly work, declaring "if they'll let me stay at school, I promise to never leave."

Plaw's doctoral dissertation at McGill University was on different forms of liberalism and their relation to the meta-ethical theory of value pluralism, on which he is now writing a book. Later, while teaching at Concordia University, Plaw also became interested in counter-terrorism and more specifically in targeted killings. After reading a book by Michael Ignatieff treating the subject, and a night of heated debate with his friends, Plaw began investigating the morality of such attacks. Surprisingly, Plaw found that no book had yet been written on the subject. At the same time, he happened to meet the Acquisitions Editor at Ashgate Publishing who offered him a contract in exchange for a topical prospectus. "I would have been foolish not to pursue it," he remarked. His proposal was accepted and the contract signed within a week. In 2008, his book, *Targeting Terrorists: A License to Kill?*, was published and quickly became an essential read for anyone intent on understanding the moral and legal dilemmas that these attacks present. In conjunction with writing his dissertation and recent book, Plaw has also edited a volume entitled *Frontiers of Diversity: Explorations in Contemporary Pluralism* and has written numerous articles on Isaiah Berlin's political theory and other subjects from Shakespeare to slavery to the history of Quebec.

During this past February, I was given the opportunity to travel to New Orleans to present at the International Studies Association's Annual Meeting with Dr. Plaw, where I presented our article in progress, "Sudden Justice? Evaluating the US Drone Campaign in Pakistan." Out of over 7,000 people, I was the only undergraduate given the opportunity to present. Our university offers a number of scholarships and grants

to students, one of which is the Office of Faculty Development's Undergraduate Research Grant, which I used to pay for my trip to New Orleans. After our ISA presentation, Dr. Plaw and I are in the final stages of submitting two co-authored publications for review to separate prestigious academic journals. Professors the likes of Plaw, who are student-oriented both inside and outside the classroom, are scant today. Over the past year, he has made it explicitly clear that if an individual has the ability, drive, and commitment to do exceptional work, he will work with you as a peer even if you are an undergraduate. As students in the Honors Program, this is something that is possible for all of you throughout your career here, assuming that you are willing to accept the discomfort of sleep deprivation and squander a considerable amount of money on coffee. If you are interested in pursuing such an opportunity, there are three things to keep in mind: first, you need to find a professor both with a willingness to work with students and who has available funds; second, you must keep your research interests broad; third, and most importantly, it is necessary to be **bold**, the professor will not think you are capable of professional research if you are meek.

All in all, Plaw declares himself quite happy with the career choice he made. Indeed, he added during our interview (grinning) that it's not only allowed him to realize some potential, but also to live with some disability: "I have to admit that I have always been unbelievably absent minded. This is actually the only profession in the world where that's forgivable, in fact, it's considered par for the course. If you weren't kind of absent minded, it might be odd. So, it allows me to overcome what is my overwhelming flaw." In fact, Plaw is a brilliant man who has immense respect for everyone he meets. Not only is he an expert in his field, but he also can interact with the students as someone who is at their level of understanding on the given subject. When something is submitted to him, he will not accept anything but the student's best. He would rather work on improving your work to its full potential than accept the mediocre. Plaw is not the average university professor depicted in the movies as wearing a tweed jacket. He prefers his jackets made out of leather. Very classy.



## 2010 Commonwealth Scholars Thesis Projects

**Colleen Allen, Physics. Identification of Pions from  $[\gamma + \rho \rightarrow \pi = \eta]$  Reactions.** Supervisor: Professor Grant O'Rielly.

One of the important questions in nuclear science today is to be able to describe the properties of the proton and neutron in terms of the theory of quarks—Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). One place where both theoretical calculations are possible and experimental measurements can be made is the process of pion photoproduction. This involves a direct rearrangement of quarks in the nucleon, consequently comparison between theoretical predictions and experimental data serves as a stringent test of the theory. The newly upgraded facility at MAX-lab in Lund, Sweden is capable of tagging photons with energies up to 200 MeV and is ideally suited for investigating these pion photoproduction reactions. As part of the National Science Foundation funded International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program, undergraduate participants were selected to assist during the experiment NP014 that ran through the summer of 2009 at MAX-lab collecting data for the reaction. An analysis project describing pion identification in the data is the result of this experience.

**Kasey Burrows, Computer & Information Science. Using Evolutionary Computation to Solve Optimization Tasks.** Supervisor: Professor Iren Valova.

This project focuses on genetic algorithms to solve optimization tasks in a computer program. For example, a common optimization task is the travelling salesman problem, where a salesman must visit a set number of locations, must not visit the location twice and must do it as efficiently as possible. To solve these problems genetic algorithms use the idea of natural selection to reach their goal. The algorithm works by taking the best two solutions output by the program and combining them to create a new set of solutions. This process will continue for a designated amount of time and then the results are compared to find the best answer possible. The goal of this project is to select an optimization problem, program a genetic algorithm and to test its applicability and performance under varying conditions.

**Aaron Cardoso, Political Science. Integration, Hegemony, and Post-Neoliberalism in Latin America.** Supervisor: Professor Michael Baum.

This project will attempt to analyze the impact of regional integration projects in Latin America and how such projects influence the relationship between the region and the United States. I use theories of hegemony and power, by scholars such as Antonio Gramsci and Youssef Cohen, to construct a narrative to reconcile real-world po-

litical developments in Latin America with theory. I argue that recent American difficulties in the region are not mere setbacks but represent a rejection of American-led neoliberalism. Furthermore I argue that Brazilian efforts at integration are best explained as the attempted rise of a regional hegemon whilst the Venezuelan-led ALBA regional integration project represents a systemic challenge to hegemony and offers an alternative to the status quo.

**Ngo Sze Chan, Accounting. Environmental Disclosure for S&P 100 Firms.** Supervisor: Professor Jia Wu.

The General Accepted Accounting Principal (GAAP), our nationwide accounting standard, has not yet established mandatory disclosure requirement about environmental costs. Nowadays, with the peak oil and global warming crisis, I believe accountants can help resolving this issue. My thesis wants to find out if our top ranking corporations are actually disclosing some of their environmental management information in their 10-k annual report. By establishing several keywords related to this topic, such as global warming, environmental management, I utilize a self-developed software to search the frequency of these keywords in each annual report of the S&P 100 company from 2005-2008. As a result, my project will draw interesting conclusion based on the regression and statistical analysis of the data I have collected. My goal is to get the attentions from accounting professional organizations and related governmental departments to consider adding at least a minimal level of mandatory environmental disclosure for public companies. As some of the trusted professions in this world, accountants should advocate for the wellbeing of our planet.

**Matthew Costa, Political Science. Moving Beyond Race: Why Ethnicity and Civilization are More Significant to Political and Social Discourse.** Supervisor: Professor Avery Plaw.

Nobody would claim that race is inconsequential in today's society. However, most people cannot define race because its full meaning is unclear. The idea of race is not a new one, but the idea of replacing race is. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the historical and contemporary damage caused by race and to propose a new system to understand the variation between different peoples. The research consists of analyzing literature on race from a scientific, political and social standpoint. Literature dealing with other methods of dividing human groups was also utilized, in particular Samuel P. Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. The results of the study are that a new system of ethnicity and civilization can replace race. This is a far more useful framework for understanding the differences between unique groups of people and how they fit into society

and politics. The findings of the study are important because they could put an end to hundreds of years of ignorance and racism based on false assumptions. If society were able to rethink its understanding of race it could possibly move beyond the discrimination that has marked humanity for over four-hundred years.

**Matthew Fricker, History. Dawn of the Drone: The US Targeted Killing Campaign in Pakistan.** Supervisor: Professor Brian Williams.

In the War on Terror, nothing is more significant than the stability of Pakistan, a fragile nuclear state which shares Afghanistan's eastern border. With the post-9/11 incursion in Afghanistan, the majority of key al-Qaida and Taliban commanders received sanctuary in the semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. In 2002 and 2003, the enemy commanders residing in Pakistan frequently eluded the United States, using the Af-Pak Border for protection. In 2004, the terrorists recognized their total sanctuary was temporary, when Nek Mohammed, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban was killed in a mysterious missile strike. This would mark the first of more than 125 United States cross-border targeted killing operations in Pakistan, killing more than 1200 people - all while never being officially recognized by the United States. While the current operations have shown profound tactical success, the United States must make a series of changes for this policy to be in concord with their principal goal of bringing stability to the region.

**Elise Gilbert, English. The Roles of Mothers and Daughters in Literature.** Supervisor: Professor Anupama Arora

My project consists of two short stories, roughly twenty pages in length each, centered on the topic of mothers and daughters. The stories seek to examine the traditional expectations of the mother (nurturing, caring, servile) and the daughter (hostile, rebellious) and how they can be manipulated. The first story, titled "Hurricane," is about a mother who turns a blind eye to the abuse her daughter suffers regularly in their home. Although she portrays the image of an affectionate and attentive mother, she perpetuates the abuse by refusing to acknowledge it. At the same time, her daughter takes on the role of caregiver, sheltering her mother from any knowledge that might upset her. The second story, untitled as of yet, is about a teenage girl neglected by her mother and forced to stay with her pious yet hardened grandmother. They eventually bond over their mutual loss- one suffering the loss of a mother and one the loss of a daughter.

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**Adelaide Hopkins, Mathematics. Graph Theory, Social Network Analysis, and Counter Terrorism.** Supervisor: Professor Dana Fine.

A comprehensive history and summary of applications of Social Network Analysis to terrorist networks is given. The implications in this context of network measures such as degree centrality, betweenness centrality, network centralization, and network reach are explored. Al Qaeda is presented as an example. Data for the structure of this network were mined from recent news articles, history books, and government publications. Techniques from graph theory, combinatorics, dynamic network analysis, and meta-analysis, including the above network measures, are applied to the Al Qaeda network. The results are interpreted in human, political, and counter-terrorism terms.

**Elizabeth Janson, English. Cheerios.** Supervisor: Professor James Marlow.

Cheerios consists of an academic introduction and novella that explores the American idealization of independence and fear of dependence. Many times, stories are the best way to evaluate society and the cultural conceptions of the time. As a culture, many Americans are strong believers in the necessity for autonomy. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are three of the most famous beliefs in America. How are these beliefs prevalent not just in life but in literature? The answer is not simple. Within the introduction, classic American novels were examined to discuss the different sides of the American dream. In the novella, the romantic vision of independence is questioned through the characters internal and external struggles. While interdependence may be what's best, Cheerios shows the dance that happens between independence and dependence, as well as all the missteps along the way.

**Jacqueline Lamontagne, English. European Influence on Thomas Cole's "Voyage of Life" Series.** Supervisor: Professor Colin Root.

Many pieces of nineteenth-century American art seek a definition of American Art. Romantic painter Thomas Cole, like many other American painters of the nineteenth century, does not completely break from technique, styles, themes and allegories of the European tradition, but he begins to define American art. While the subject matter seems traditional and draws heavily on British Romantic literature- a person going through his journey of life and while he sometimes questions his faith during the voyage from innocence to experience, he has guidance. Regardless of traditional Christian message and European ideals, Cole creates a fantastical story, easy for a middle class audience to understand and easier for Americans to see their unique homeland in his canvases. He is highlighting the pureness, sim-

licity and sensibility of the America. By drawing on European ideas and putting them into a truly American context, Cole has moved to define the genre of American Romantic landscape paintings.

**Patrick Dennis Mayhew, Accounting. Integrating International Financial Reporting Standards in Business Education.** Supervisor: Professor Akinloye Akindayome.

The purpose of this research project is to analyze the convergence of United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and its effects on collegiate education in accounting. More specifically, this research explores the need for colleges and universities to integrate IFRS relevant material into their business curriculums. It is predicted that the United States will be adopting IFRS as the newest set of standards for accounting and financial reporting. For this reason, schools must change their curriculums to be able to prepare current and future students to enter careers in accounting and finance.

**Dylan MacAlpine, English & History. Prophet: An exploration into William Blake's religion based on imagination and nature.** Supervisor: Professor Shari Evans.

My thesis explores William Blake's relationship to the Church of England and other organized religions of his time. Using pieces of his life experience and his early poems, "All Religions are One," "There is no Natural Religion," and poems from Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience, I attempt to prove that Blake, while rejecting organized religion, created his own form of Christianity, making him a prophet. I use this multifaceted word to mean, a person who possesses an extra-ordinary spiritual and moral insight. Additionally, as defined in The Sociology of Religion by Max Weber, "a prophet claims definite revelations." The important aspects of Blake's religion, which becomes apparent through a close reading of the aforementioned poems, are an independent spirituality and a close connection with nature. Both of these cultivated ideas are central to the English Romantics.

**Heather Mellish, Digital Media. Traveler's Realm: A Visual Novel.** Supervisor: Professor Shawn Towne.

My project involves the fluid blending of storytelling elements with game programming and design. This project makes use of characters, story elements, and other ideas that I have been creating and improving upon for many years. It blends these story elements of my own personal design with those of an interactive story. You, the player, have been apprenticed to my character Ookami. As you begin your training as a Traveler (explained in-game), you are drawn into an in-

creasingly complex mission that requires you to find clues and solve puzzles to reach the end. In addition, throughout many parts of the game, the player will be given different choices, which can cause different events to occur in the game. This visual novel style game also depicts my understanding of character and background design, programming, animation, and typography, blending a number of important skills from my chosen major together into one.

**Hope Middleton, English. The Moon, the Earth, and Their Sun.** Supervisor: Professor Susan Hagan.

Lyle Sunderland lost his mother when he was seven years old. A single parent, she was the center of his universe, and he never quite got over this loss. Nineteen years later, the loss of a family friend brings him back to Chicago, the city of his youth, and sends him on a chase after the ghost of his mother. What do you do, though, when you're forced to see your mother as a person after years of seeing her as an ideal? The Moon, the Earth, and Their Sun is a novella length tale of parent/child relationships, the formulation of identity, the revelation of secrets, the fluid power of memory, and the growth from innocence to experience in an indifferent world.

**Lauryn Nosek, English. Nightmares, Day Dreams, and Imagined Conversations.** Supervisor: Professor Shari Evans.

Nightmares, Day Dreams, and Imagined Conversations is a collection of original, independent short stories connected by their examinations of the ways people interact with one another and the impact an individual's personal perspective, their wants and desires, has on their interpretations and memories of those interactions. Some of the stories take the form of first-person reflective narratives while others utilize a distanced third person narrator. In all cases, one must keep the characters' motivations in mind as the reader adds another layer of perspective with his or her interpretation. Book ending the short stories are explorations of the literary field of study as it pertains to perspective, memory, and depictions of interpersonal interactions as well as where these short stories fit within that existing conversation.

**Elizabeth Pounds, English. Is That All There Is?** Supervisor: Professor Robert Waxler.

Is That All There Is? is a small collection of short stories exploring the inevitable journey we all must take, a journey that leads us from the simple innocence of childhood to the complex experiences of adulthood. As children, we see the world as a pure and uncomplicated place, but as we

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grow up, we become aware of life's less attractive side, full of corruption, sadness, and death. Often, it is difficult for us to reconcile this harsh new view of life with the carefree view we held as children. In these darkly humorous stories, characters from a variety of age groups struggle to make sense of this loss of innocence and to accept the responsibility and maturity the adult world demands.

**Elizabeth Reilly, History. The African American Community's Response to the Vietnam War As Illustrated in The Chicago Defender.** Supervisor: Professor Mark Santow.

For my Honors project, I have conducted research reviewing all articles within the black publication *The Chicago Defender* from 1964 to 1966 that referred to the Vietnam War in any way. In this way, I gained a greater understanding of how the African American community responded to the Vietnam War. As the Vietnam War began to escalate, African Americans were fully immersed in their battle for civil rights. Therefore, their response to the war was not only different from the community at large, but also more complicated, for African Americans were fighting a war for freedom abroad, without enjoying democracy at home. The contemporary narrative on the subject insists that African Americans initially supported the war, but grew to oppose to war more intensely than any other demographic. Through my review of the *Defender*, I have found that this narrative only lends a superficial view. My research indicates that reactions to the war were more complicated and multifaceted. The dissent among the African American community, which would soon become widespread, was evident long before U.S. involvement escalated in Vietnam. Furthermore, I found that the seemingly supportive reactions to the war were really the result of support for Johnson and disinterest in the Vietnam War initially. Many African Americans were too focused on the Civil Rights Movement, than on the war during its early years. Therefore, while open dissent was evident early on, it was mild in nature due to the African American community's unrelenting concentration and promotion of civil rights.

**Audra Riding, Political Science. Health Planning in a Democratic Society: The Brazilian versus American Experience.** Supervisor: Professor Michael Baum.

Health planning is a difficult and volatile political issue in many modern democratic states. This study examines what effect participatory governance has on health outcomes in Brazil and the United States. Using data from the World Bank and World Health Organization, this study argues that increased levels of political participation, or governance, have a positive impact on

basic health indicators such as life expectancies. By engaging the public in health policies Brazil has transformed its health system from one of the worst in the world to one that has obtained universal coverage for all of its citizens. The United States, however, has failed in its attempts to engage participatory venues and continues to invest increasing levels of its GDP in health with diminishing returns. These results indicate that the United States must place a heavier emphasis on political participation in health policy instead of solely focusing on monetary and technological investments.

**Aimee Ross, Mathematics. Detecting Randomness in Undersea Sonar Signals.** Supervisor: Professor Gary Davis.

Tests for randomness can be useful in determining whether incoming sonar data is classified as a signal or noise. This can prove extremely useful in undersea warfare analysis. When receiving sonar data, it is important to classify this data to make predictions for the future. If data can be quickly classified as either a signal (non-random) or noise (random), the analyst can rank the importance and threat of each set of data. Mathematical statistics provides the means for using this sonar data as input to tests for randomness. These tests will conclude whether or not the inputted data set can be classified as a signal or noise.

**Marcus Smolic, Accounting & Finance. Forecasting Market Movements: Further Evidence against the Efficient Market Hypothesis.** Supervisor: Professor Duong Nguyen.

The project is essentially to use historical market data to forecast future stock movements. Using all historical points will allow me to test my hypothesis against actual data. This will also allow me to potentially generate evidence against the Efficient Market Hypothesis. This famous theory supposes that all data that is available has been reflected in the price of a stock. While there is significant evidence to support this theory, there are numerous counter examples. Evidence of a pattern between historical prices and future ones jeopardized the EMH's validity. Statistical regressions will be used to show any connection between the historical data and the future stock movements.

**Brittney Stedman, Psychology & French. The Relationship between daily stress, substance use, and depression among a first-year collegiate population.** Supervisor: Professor Elizabeth Richardson.

The purpose of this project is to assess the degree to which general stresses, substance use, and depression are related among first-year college students. As all three variables have been associated with college students, it is important to determine the effect one variable may have on

another, particularly in first-year students who may be adjusting to a new lifestyle. This study uses forty participants and incorporates two quantitative and one qualitative measure. The same measures were given to participants during two different points during the academic semester and qualitative interviews were then conducted with small sample of participants to learn information about how these individuals perceive themselves to be affected by stress, substance use, and depression. This study seeks to provide information on the intensity and frequency of these variables and the relationship between them, as well as add to available research so that eventually intervention strategies may be implemented.

**Kristen Tordella-Williams, Sculpture Structured Gender.** Supervisor: Professor Richard Creighton.

My project is composed of four sculptures. Three will be on display from April 24th through the middle of May at the BFA Fine Arts Thesis Show at Artworks! in New Bedford, MA. The fourth piece will be shown in the 23rd Annual Outdoor Sculpture Show at UMASS Dartmouth on view starting April 20th. The four pieces are structures inspired by man and nature that are lit from within and are made out of steel rod and fabric. The fabric varies from used men's clothing to curtain material and gives the sculptures a human history because of its previous existence. Some of the structures are inspired from natural events such as nests, beehives, or anthills and some are inspired from humanity's creations (cities). These sculptures suggest gender and crossing over the thin line that separates masculinity and femininity.

**Lane Wilson, Biology. Analysis of a Wnt Clade Associated with Orofacial Clefing.** Supervisor: Professor Tracie Ferreira

Craniofacial defects strike 1/500 live births. One of the most common defects is cleft lip and/or palate. Wnt 1 and Wnt 9 a/b are members of a gene clade associated with oral facial clefing. Our objective in research is to determine the role of these Wnt signals in craniofacial development. We currently know that these Wnt genes are involved in craniofacial development, so we are analyzing their expression in model zebrafish. Our goal is to observe and analyze Wnt 1 and Wnt 9 a/b function during embryonic development using Molecular Biology techniques including PCR, RT-PCR, RNA Isolation and Whole mount In Situ Hybridization. We used gene knockdown techniques in order to determine the effects of Wnts on development. We showed Wnt 1 has 2 transcripts and Wnt 9 a/b influence craniofacial formation.

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## 2010 Commonwealth Scholars Thesis Projects

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**Cassandra Walsh, Human Resource Management. A Greener Company Makes For Happier Employees More so than Does a More Valuable One: A Regression Analysis of Employee Satisfaction, Perceived Environmental Performance and Firm Financial Value.** Supervisor: Professor Adam Sulkowski.

This project tests two hypotheses. The first hypothesis is that employee satisfaction is positively impacted when a company is perceived as performing well environmentally. The second hypothesis is that employee satisfaction is positively impacted by firm financial performance. To test these hypotheses, the relationships between perceived environmental performance, financial performance and employee satisfaction were tested using regression analysis. The results indicate a significant positive relationship between employee satisfaction and level of perceived environmental performance. This study does not find a significant relationship between employee satisfaction and firm financial value. The practical implication for managers is that investments in environmental performance and related communications are important for reasons beyond those that are more commonly discussed, such as external stakeholder relations. This study suggests that environmental performance and related communications should be an integral part of human resources management strategies to recruit, motivate and retain the best talent.

**Paul Weston, English. Reconnection with Community: The Rox Foundation.** Supervisor: Professor Catherine Houser and Christopher Eisenhart.

From 2002 until 2007, the Brockton Rox independent baseball team had an unquestionable buzz that continued several years into their existence—the organization was able to thrive off of its “new factor.” With each passing year, the “new factor” wore off and the community’s general interest deflated. The Rox continued to use their same marketing tactics and experienced a decline in ticket sales (from 2007-2009), and alongside ticket sales—revenues. At the heart of the Rox’ problems were a lack of marketing insight and a loss of connection with their immediate community. How can the Brockton Rox motivate casual fans and families to attend more ball-games? My Honors project investigates communications-based initiatives that will engage the public and re-energize the Rox franchise back atop league attendance and revenue standings. In particular, I have explored the utilization of sports philanthropy and in-kind contributions as useful public relations tools to raise the team’s visibility (especially among casual fans or non-fans) and play an indirect role in the marketing. To apply this knowledge to the baseball team I have developed a free-standing non-profit entity called “The Rox Foundation” designed to reconnect the team with their community via these socially responsible and cause related principles.