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INTRODUCTION

The students featured on the following pages are to be congratulated for their outstanding academic achievements. These students have responded exceptionally well to the challenges and opportunities afforded them through their participation in the University Honors Program, with their efforts culminating in the production of an original work of scholarship. Their respective accomplishments reflect well on the University, the academic departments of their respective majors, and the Honors Program. The quality of the theses summarized on the following pages continues a growing tradition of quality undergraduate scholarship produced by Honors students and sets a high standard for future Honors graduates.
GRACE E. BURCHARD  
Major: English/Spanish  
Will pursue Master of Library Science Degree  
from Southern Connecticut State University  

Thesis Title: “The Wall,”  
A Creative Work of Fiction  
My thesis project was an original work of fiction that explores, through a young girl's experiences, the issues of alienation, societal taboos, and cross-cultural barriers. This story develops the disadvantages and benefits of being different from everyone else, by showing how a person's unique background gives them a chance to see problems in a different light. She sees with unbiased eyes the society's quirks, and her friendliness causes her to reach out in friendship even to those who are perceived as dangerous and unlovable. As she learns and grows, she recognizes her own unique talents that set her apart and identify her as a valued individual. The story is set in an agrarian society with a European culture, although its themes could be those of any culture or country. More than anything else, it is story of learning to appreciate oneself and finding a place in the world that fits, regardless of the opinions of others.

KRISTAL M. DAINS  
Major: English  
Minor: Women Studies  
Will attend New York University  
Summer Publishing Institute  

Thesis Title: A Fellowship in the Making  
My thesis research examined the friendship of two well-known 20th Century British writers, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Their friendship lasted many decades during which each author published his most famous work: Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia and Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings. Since the authors were such intimate friends, they often shared their work with each other. As a result, the two had a profound influence on one another, which can be seen in their works. Tolkien had many influences on Lewis, most importantly aiding Lewis in his conversion to Christianity. Lewis's influence was the encouragement he gave to Tolkien, urging his friend to finish his mythology. Yet, the two men often had disagreements as well. Tolkien, for instance, disapproved of the use of allegory by Lewis. Likewise, Lewis did not approve of the immense amount of history Tolkien included in his work. Over time, these disagreements elevated and the friendship between Lewis and Tolkien ended. Now, 80 years after the two men met for the first time, their friendship lives on in their stories.

SARAH A. SCHNEIDER  
Major: History  
Pursue a career in Journalism  

Thesis Title: A Jack of all Trades: The Historical Truth and Literary Treatment of Pirates, from Eutache the Monk to Captain Sparrow  
My thesis topic was developed after reading excerpts from Terry Jones’s Chaucer’s Knight, which revealed the character of the Knight in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales as a man who was the product of his times: a mercenary and cutthroat. Indeed, many of the villains of history have been repackaged and appropriated into benevolent characters, and even featured in children's books. In my paper, I am actually looking at pirates, perhaps the most famous of these villains, and tracing the transformation from vile men like Stede Bonnet and Blackbeard into the well-known and harmless characters of Captain Hook and Jack Sparrow.

CARL A. SEGURA  
Major: Psychology  
Minor: Business Administration  
Pursue Masters Degree in Educational Leadership Studies at Oklahoma State University  

Thesis Title: Anxiety in Collegiate Student Athletes as Compared with Non-Athletes  
My study evaluated the differences between sport anxiety and test anxiety in collegiate student-athletes. The hypotheses were that athletes would have lower sport anxiety than test anxiety, and would have lower test anxiety than non-athletes because of habituation to sport anxiety situations. Thirty-four student-athletes were surveyed using the Revised Competitive State Anxiety Inventory-2 and the Test Anxiety Inventory, and 34 non-athletes were surveyed using just the Test Anxiety Inventory. Test anxiety scores were not significantly different than sport anxiety scores within the athletes and also were not significantly different between athletes and non-athletes. These findings do not support the hypothesis; however more research is needed in order to investigate further the differences in levels of sport and test anxiety.
KATHERINE M. KLINE
Double Major: History & Social Sciences and Political Science
Will pursue Graduate Studies in International Affairs

Thesis Title: Britain’s Movement Towards Europe: An Examination of the Role of the Commonwealth, 1956-1961

My thesis project began with my study abroad program in London during the summer of 2004. I arrived in London shortly after an election in which the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) had gained momentum. A party whose main platform was to withdraw Britain from Europe had won ten seats in the European Parliament. This grabbed my attention and formed the basis for my thesis research. My thesis focused specifically on the role of the Commonwealth in the late 1950s and early 1960s as a force in Britain’s movement towards joining the European common market.

JENNIFER L. MCPHEE
Major: History and Social Science
Pursue Masters Degree in Elementary Education at ECSU

Thesis Title: Women Workers During World War I

My thesis was a study of mostly primary and some secondary sources that dealt with the history of female factory workers in Bridgeport, Connecticut during WWI. I focused on the factory workers of Bridgeport because Bridgeport was one of the largest suppliers of military equipment and supplies during WWI and was the center of munitions factories in the Northeast. This was a pivotal time in the history of working women because as more women entered the workforce, they began replacing men in the workplace and demanding better treatment and equal treatment. This thesis looks specifically at how women’s occupational structure changed and the consequences of these changes.

AMY V. SARFATI
Major: Performing Arts with Concentration in Theatre
Minor: English

Thesis Title: A Gay Man in Wonderland

My honors thesis project consisted of writing a three-act, full-length play. This play showcases the falsehoods and common homophobia that is typically portrayed in shows about homosexuals or that involve homosexual characters. In a farcical way, the play points out mistakes and flaws in normal television portrayal.

MEGAN E. FEARON
Major: Mathematics
Minors: Computer Science & Management Information Systems

Will attend the Information Technology Leadership Development Program St. Paul Travelers, Hartford, CT

Thesis Title: Enzyme Kinetics: Modeling the Reaction Rate of Acetylcholinesterase

Biochemical reactions are constantly taking place inside living organisms, and many of these reactions are catalyzed by enzymes. An important enzymatic reaction occurs at the neuromuscular junction between acetylcholinesterase, and the substrate Acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter. A mathematical model is proposed to analyze the hydrolysis of acetylcholine by acetylcholinesterase. Using a system of partial differential equations, the mathematical model is used to explain the interaction that occurs between the enzyme and the substrate and predict some of the consequences.

MATTHEW T. FITZGERALD
Major: English

Hopes to become a Sports Writer

Thesis Title: Adolescents and Relationships: A Collection of Short Stories

My thesis is a compilation of original stories that deal with the routine situations that adolescents must endure. It is a difficult time period, both to live through and to write about. Whereas the genre of Adolescent Literature is dominated by female authors, I feel that the male perspective is also important to the field. I focused on the strain that young men and women experience both with their parents, as well as with their love lives. I feel that I have provided unique voices to my characters, and have created situations that teenagers can read about and relate to.
KATIE M. HARDY
Major: Mathematics and Elementary Education
Anticipates being an Elementary Education teacher
Thesis Title: Some Exponential Sums Associated to the Graph of Modular Inversions

My thesis addressed the following problem. Let $N_{\mathbb{A}}(I \times J) = \{ (x, y) \in I \times J : xy = 1 \mod n \}$ where $I, J$ are closed subintervals of $[1, n]$. The main goal of my thesis was to find an expression for $N_{\mathbb{A}}(I \times J)$ in terms of exponential sums and to determine the size of the constant term.

MARY P. HOTKOWSKI
Major: English
Pursue Masters Degree in Elementary Education at ECSU
Thesis Title: The Life of Purpose: Alcott’s Ideology of the Individual in Little Women and Work

Much critical attention has been given to Louisa May Alcott’s 1868-1869 adolescent classic, Little Women. However, Alcott’s 1873 novel, Work: A Story of Experience, has only recently received critical acclaim. Alcott has configured each novel differently for its respective audience, bearing in mind the environment in which the compassionate values she departs as vital to human growth and connection would be fostered in both her characters and in her readership. Little Women, her adolescent novel, depicts a home environment where these ideals are built and encouraged at an early age, and through which her characters are empowered as they become adults. Work, however, is a novel in which its adult protagonist, Christie Devon, must seek these values out on her own, by undergoing multiple experiences and hardships. Ultimately, the values she seeks are fostered through the community she finds. Both novels result in their protagonists being rendered capable of employing those things they have learned to the good of their respective communities. The qualities of selflessness, compassion, love, humor, faith, contentment and community that Alcott presents to her reading public are ideals which enable her protagonists to rise above their circumstances, and which encourage her readership to do so as well. Alcott’s own life reflects active concern for what she sees as the intrinsic worth of each individual. The passing of these traits from individual to individual constitutes Alcott’s compelling vision for a better world.

KAITLIN M. IMPELLUSO
Major: Psychology
Thesis Title: The Influence of Media on Different-Aged Adolescents

My Honors research dealt with the effects of media on college students. The students I used were divided into groups dependent upon their age. Then each of the groups were divided into experimental and control conditions. The control condition viewed inanimate objects that were found in magazines geared at adolescents and young adults. The experimental condition also viewed these objects, however, they also viewed images that contained models with the ideal body type. The results of my experiment revealed that younger college students were more influenced by the media than older college students.

MEAGHAN E. KEHOEGREEN
Double Major: History and Mathematics
Plans to teach High School Mathematics
Thesis Title: A New England Industrial Town versus Rural Community: The Irish Laborer 1840-1900

My thesis research investigates the relationship between 19th Century Irish immigrants and the smaller towns of Connecticut. Most research dealing with Irish immigration to America has been confined to the examination of large or medium sized cities such as Boston, New York, and even Hartford. While the majority of Irish immigrants did settle in cities, a tremendous number settled in the smaller cities and more rural communities of New England. The Connecticut towns of Colchester and Willimantic are excellent examples of this. These small Connecticut communities and emerging industrial towns had substantial Irish born populations in the 1800s. The immigrants’ lives and the effect they had on these towns are important pieces of New England’s history.