



 **NANOVIC INSTITUTE**  
**FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS 2012-13



# A Letter from the Director

I am delighted to present this grant testimonial book, which demonstrates the extraordinarily wide ranging research, internship, service, and language-training initiatives undertaken by Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students during the past year. This volume also features testimonials from the recipients of named grants established through the generosity of our many donors.

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies takes pride in giving Notre Dame students special opportunities to immerse themselves deeply in their academic interests and professional aspirations. The process itself has pedagogical value. Before receiving an award, each student participates in a competitive process which requires them to draft a detailed proposal and budget to justify their request. A faculty committee then reviews and selects the best to receive these grants. These opportunities elevate the students' academic work and connect them with the history and culture of Europe in an intense, productive, and transformative way. Their educational experience becomes more sophisticated as they learn how original research is conducted. They are also forced to reflect upon what it will mean to live and work in other countries. After their return, they work on a one-to-one basis with faculty mentors on term papers, senior theses, articles for publication, and dissertations.

Our students' experiences enrich the Notre Dame community in countless ways. After they think through intellectual issues and complete their independent projects, they share their experiences with classmates and enter their careers with greater maturity and perspective.

It is a pleasure to make it possible for these talented young people to benefit from these unique opportunities.

## **A. James McAdams**

*Director, Nanovic Institute for European Studies  
William M. Scholl Professor of International Affairs*

If you would like to learn more about our programs, please visit our website at [nanovic.nd.edu](http://nanovic.nd.edu) or contact us at [nanovic@nd.edu](mailto:nanovic@nd.edu) or 574-631-5253.



# Named Grant Index

## **The R. Stephen & Ruth Barrett Family Grant**

- Thomas Graff, “Newman and Wittgenstein: Reflections on Certitude” . . . . . page 18  
Nicholas Schilling, Internship with the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See . . . . . page 40

## **The Katie Murphy McMahon Endowment for Excellence in Russian & East-Central European Studies**

- David Komline, German Script Course at the Moravian Archives . . . . . page 25  
Jacqueline Ruiz, Alexander Pushkin Grant for Advanced Language Training in Russian . . . . . page 39  
Timothy Siegler, DAAD RISE Internship at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich . . . . . page 42

## **The Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies**

- Matthew Cronin, “Butrint Documentary” . . . . . page 11  
Shannon Kenny, CLIC Summer Program in Galway . . . . . page 24  
Mary Kunesh, French Summer Language Study in Toulouse . . . . . page 25

## **The Dr. Charles C. Price Memorial Fund for East-Central European Studies**

- Caitlin Baransky, “The Transformation of Architectural Classicism” . . . . . page 6





Over spring break, I traveled to Besançon, France to study the personal papers of the French theologian Nicolas-Sylvestre Bergier. Of particular interest to me was a collection of Bergier's notebooks. Bergier took copious and methodical notes of what he read, often writing epitomes for his own reference. Most interesting were the notes he took while reading J.J. Rousseau's *Emile* and *Social Contract*. In the body of his notes, Bergier took impartial and accurate notes of Rousseau's ideas. In the margins, however, Bergier wrote his refutations of ideas he deemed objectionable. These marginal arguments most likely formed the backbone to Bergier's polemic *Deism Self-Refuted*, a series of open letters written to Rousseau, which largely uses Rousseau's own words against him.

Joseph Ahmad  
*Class of '13, Majors in History and Economics*



My reunion with Hassan Benghabrit had begun at 6:00 p.m. and was supposed to have lasted for one hour. It was nearly 9:00 p.m. and we were still talking. Presently, we spoke about spiritualism, in particular Muslim faith. Our conversation had earlier focused on politics, briefly on international politics, but much more lengthily on the politics that have surrounded, from its inception, the Paris Mosque, which acts on the one hand as a religious center for Parisian Muslims, and on the other as a channel of interaction between North African and French politics, between Christianity and Islam. As the nephew of its founder and son of its second rector, Hassan Benghabrit had a privileged, particular, and well-informed position on the mosque; he had something to say. I wanted to hear it.

Bruno Anaya Ortiz  
*Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and Mathematics*



The ability to meet and network with so many important people made my time in Cannes extremely helpful to my post-graduation plans. Whether it was waiting in line for a premiere, spending time talking with the mentors, or a meet and greet with the creators of a film at the Pavilion, this internship greatly facilitated my exposure to working professionals. I got to interact and learn from so many different facets of the industry—actors, directors, producers, professors, writers, marketers, critics, etc. The insight, knowledge, and personal advice I received from each person I met cannot be matched by any other internship. This experience has given me the expertise, confidence, and industrial network to begin constructing a strong path in the film industry.

Blake Avery  
*Class of '14, Major in Film, Television, & Theatre*



The primary aim of my project was to rapidly improve my German language skills. Given that my area of specialization is German philosophy, an advanced knowledge of the German language is essential both to my current study and research and to my future dissertation research and writing, as well as to my professional development. I thus spent this past June and July taking intensive German language classes at the Goethe-Institut in Berlin, during which time, in addition to receiving approximately twenty-five hours of in-class language instruction per week, I was also able to take advantage of the many guided, German-language cultural activities that the Institut offered so as to further immerse myself in the language, culture, and history of Germany. This combination of intensive in-class instruction by the excellent teachers at the Goethe-Institut and the attendant cultural immersion immensely facilitated my aim of rapidly improving my proficiency, and in fact far surpassed my initial expectations.

Babak Bakhtiarynia  
*Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy*



This past May I was very fortunate to travel to Vienna and Ljubljana to study my proposed research on the “Transformation of Architectural Classicism.” The experience of traveling through these cities, sketching and documenting incredible architecture, was invaluable. Through a series of sketches, watercolors, maps, and photos, I was able to understand how Jose Plečnik’s work departed from his mentor’s and how Plečnik’s work in a smaller capital city, Ljubljana, compared to Otto Wagner’s accomplishments in a much larger capital, Vienna. I produced various drawings and took many photos to analyze my findings on a broad scale and to study how these architects not only transformed these cities in a permanent way, but also developed a new architectural style, which later went on to influence modernist architecture.

Caitlin Baransky  
*Class of '14, Major in Architecture*  
*Recipient of The Dr. Charles C. Price Memorial*  
*Fund for East-Central European Studies*



For the majority of my trip, I was disappointed that I was not seeing buildings which were more similar to the buildings on campus. It was not until the second half of my trip that I suddenly connected the dots. I was looking at a building in Orleans which proudly boasted a rounded corner tower reminiscent of what is seen on Sorin Hall. It was the sort of place in which Napoleon might have spent a night. And then it struck me: if you’re going to build a great university in a new land, and you want it to be an honor to the name of your order and Our Lady, you are not going to copy the humble buildings in your towns and villages. You are going to copy the grand things. So in the end, I had to wrap my head around both what I did not see and what I had hoped to see in order to understand how the architectural culture of France in the mid-1800s influenced our oldest buildings on campus.

Margaret Barrett  
*Class of '14, Major in Architecture*



With my research I have been able to better document the relationship between construction methods and architectural design, and to discern the overall effect of this relationship on their respective contexts. The early Istituto per le Case Popolari interventions in the neighborhoods of San Saba, Testaccio, and Garbatella built upon a living tradition of Roman architecture, learning from the past while building for an enduring future. These historic buildings are not just old; they are mature buildings that have stood the test of time and proven successful formally, technically, and culturally. They are durable and lovable enough to remain as thriving communities. To build sustainably for the future, it is imperative to understand how these historic buildings were put together and revive that knowledge in modern building practices.

Sara Bega  
*Class of '14, Major in Architecture*



This summer I was fortunate enough to have been able to intern in the Irish Parliament (the House of the Oireachtas) with Senator Mark Daly, a member of the Irish Senate (the Seanad Eireann). Outside of my work with Senator Daly, I was introduced to the Secretary General of Ireland, Geraldine Byrne-Nason, who was responsible for Ireland's European Union involvement during its tenure at the head of the EU Presidency. The Secretary General was able to give me invaluable direction and knowledge about where she believes the European Union is headed over the next ten years, and was able to discuss how Ireland was able to bounce back from financial troubles a few years earlier in order to successfully implement different European Union-wide policies that benefited their own economy, such as the implementation of a youth employment initiative. Only through these incredible relationships and meetings would I have been able to truly gain this in-depth knowledge of Irish politics.

Brendan Bell  
*Class of '15, Majors in Political Science  
and International Economics*



I am deeply indebted and deeply grateful to the Nanovic Institute for awarding the grant that allowed me to travel to and experience the monks of the Abbaye de Saint-Pierre de Solesmes. I awoke each morning with just enough time to run to the abbey church for Matins, the monks' first office. I attended each office and Mass that they celebrated. Most days I met with Dom Bruno Lutz, Solesmes' choirmaster. We met for upwards of ten hours during my week there. Several months before the trip I had never even dreamt of such possibilities. During my week, I often paused and incredulously asked myself questions such as, "Am I really chanting with the choirmaster of Solesmes? Is he really talking with *me*?"

Samuel Bellafiore  
*Class of '15, Majors in Music and Philosophy*



Over winter break, I traveled to Thomas More's Chelsea home and to the place of his imprisonment and death in the Tower of London, and to the sites of John Henry Newman's life in Birmingham, Maryvale, Oxford, and Littlemore. My travels turned out to be a pilgrimage. I walked in the footsteps of Thomas More and John Henry Newman in order to know them better as human beings and as recognized saints with particular missions in the Church. Given their similar relationship to the British Establishment, brought about by a shared commitment to conscience that led More to his death and Newman to his own difficult renunciation, I hoped to investigate a potential theological connection between the two men, and what light this connection might shed upon their gift to the Church. I am very grateful to the Nanovic Institute for the opportunity to be not only a scholar, but also a pilgrim searching for a better understanding of Thomas More, John Henry Newman, and their theological place in the Church.

Margaret Blume  
*Master of Theological Studies Candidate, Theology*



The American Association of Italian Studies Conference was an extraordinary chance, on the one hand, to respond to the cultural commitment of the Ph.D. in Literature program at Notre Dame, which encourages advanced studies in overlapping disciplines and, on the other, to enrich my cultural background about the research at stake in my area of research. It was also a perfect opportunity to forge contacts for collaborative work, even across disciplines. I participated in stimulating and fruitful exchanges of ideas and expertise with peers and scholars from all over the world.

Pietro Bocchia  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



An important facet of my Herrly Internship experience was sharpening my interpersonal skills. From three-star army generals to embassy officials, from prominent policymakers to professors, I learned to communicate in a concise and effective manner. As I was often expected to provide quick and authoritative answers, Colonel Herrly pushed me to accept great responsibility and a great deal of autonomy. I learned the delicate balance between showing respect and having adequate confidence to not be intimidated in the presence of important officials. Regardless of where my future takes me, these skills will undoubtedly serve me well.

Natalie Boll  
*Class of '14, Major in International Economics*



The grant from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies allowed me to visit the archives and libraries that held sources most relevant to my research. In total, I was able to access more than two-hundred different sources for the completion of my thesis. These sources provide important insights into the political leadership of Welsh cultural nationalism, public opinion on the topic, and intellectual manifestations of these cultural trends. Thus, thanks to this generous grant, my senior thesis will be sustained by a wide variety and depth of evidence, without which it would have remained inconclusive and unsupported.

Ellen Brandenberger  
*Class of '13, Major in History*



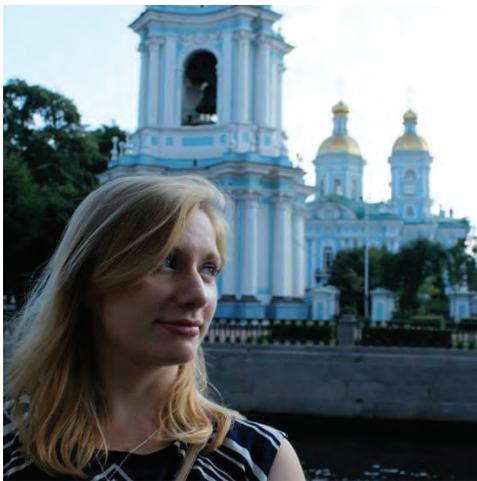
Belfast was once a city full of police checkpoints and barricades, bullets and bombs. Although the country is no longer facing a low-intensity war as it had for thirty years, its progression toward peace is still moving slowly. I set out in my research hoping to learn how this sectarian environment and the history of violence are affecting young people's lives in Belfast today, and through my interviews I have gotten a glimpse into the answer. In addition, as I worked with Queen's University Belfast, I learned of a new Master's program which will be starting in the 2014 school year which is in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. I had such a wonderful experience conducting research related to these topics and learned so much that I would like to pursue this field further and will be looking into this program as a possible graduate school program. I would like to thank the Nanovic Institute for providing me with the funds to explore my passions in a land I have come to love even more.

Kathleen Brennan  
*Class of '15, Major in Sociology*



I had the opportunity to spend almost two weeks in Dublin pursuing archival research on the role of the Catholic Church in the politics of the Irish Free State in the 1920s and 1930s. This support allowed me to delve deep into the archives to continue the research for my dissertation. Each morning, I traveled into Dublin city center and up to the Archbishop's grounds in Drumcondra, where the welcoming archivist set me up for the day's research. The records I examined included detailed information about the day-to-day operations of organizations such as the Legion of Mary, the Catholic Truth Society, the Catholic Girl Guides, and the Catholic Protection and Rescue Society, among others, which revealed the stated motives and activities of lay activists throughout Ireland. This research will comprise the central part of a chapter of my project.

Keelin Rosaleen Burke  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



This summer I had the opportunity to participate in the American Council's Russian Language and Area Studies Program, based in Moscow International University. The program encourages and facilitates students' interactions with native Russian speakers. These interactions allowed me to practice conversational skills and to activate my knowledge of the language that, until then, I had been acquiring through reading or in-class practice. This language practice, together with cultural excursions and in-class work, has greatly improved my Russian language skills and my understanding of the culture. Proficiency in both of these categories is fundamental to my current work as a graduate student specializing in Russian history, my future work in the archives, and my ultimate goal of becoming a historian of Russia.

Monica Bykowski  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



Last December, I found myself in a simple room, in Tui, Spain, surrounded by hundreds of Galician bagpipes. The Galician bagpipes there in the workshop of master craftsman Anton Corral ranged in degree of completion. Their maker sat comfortably at his desk as he recounted the history of the rebirth of Galician folk music that exploded in the 1970s and continues today. The history Mr. Corral told is not the kind of history that can be found in books or newspaper clippings; the history that pervaded that workshop in Tui was alive and still unfolding. It's the kind of history that can only be accessed by traveling to the place, talking with the people who made it and continue to live it through their actions every day. This was the history that the Nanovic Break Travel and Research Grant made possible to me.

Matthew Caponigro  
*Class of '15, Majors in Physics and the Program of Liberal Studies*



With my internship through the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival, I gained professional experience at the world's largest film market. I also had hands-on experience working with the Weinstein Company, a leading film distributor at the world's largest film festival, in addition to observing industry professionals to learn how deals are made. I learned new things about this industry that I simply could not have learned in a classroom. The Weinstein Company taught me a lot about international film distribution and what certain countries look for when buying big blockbuster films. Lastly, I gained an unparalleled opportunity to network with industry insiders and researched the business and economics of film distribution firsthand.

Sarah Connors  
*Class of '15, Majors in Marketing and Film, Television, & Theatre*



The goal of my research was to study and document the existing conditions on-site in Vernazza, a seaside Italian village that suffered major damage due to storms and flooding in October 2011. All architecture students complete a design thesis in their final semester at Notre Dame, and I thought that the damage wrought during Vernazza's storm presented a unique opportunity for me to get involved with a real project that necessitates immediate attention and care. While my intention was to focus primarily on the architecture of the town and of the area, I found that most of my time was spent learning about the extremely dysfunctional socio-economic dynamic in Vernazza today. I was startled to find that most of the town's problems are significantly older than the damage from the storm, and the project I had set out to complete for my thesis will have to be much broader in scope to accommodate issues like affordable housing and sustainable agricultural practices.

Matthew D. Cook  
*Class of '14, Major in Architecture*



My goal was to experience and film the great ancient sites of Italy so that I could create a comprehensive documentary worthy of the grandiose subject matter. My favorite museum was the Museo de Civiltà Romana. This museum contains a fully plasticized recreation of twentieth-century Rome. Standing above it, I really felt like I was witnessing the glory of the Roman Empire at the height of its power. The footage I captured there is second to none, and deceptively realistic. After my time in Rome, I traveled south to walk through the streets of Pompeii, an ancient city frozen in time. Having taken an entire course solely on the archaeology of Pompeii, I was able to fully appreciate every fresco painting, sculpture, and instance of graffiti that I came across. And the footage I shot was incredible, made even more ominous by the distant black clouds and impending storm.

Matthew M. Cronin  
*Class of '14, Majors in Management  
Entrepreneurship and Classics  
Recipient of The Snider Family Endowment  
for Excellence in European Studies*



While I was in England to do research on my project, entitled "John Henry Newman and G.K. Chesterton on the Imagination," I was able to visit every main Newman site in the country. All in all, the trip helped me understand how Newman's own imagination played a part in his famous conversion to Catholicism, and what role imagination played in his epistemology. I must also mention that being at the physical sites where Newman spent so much of his life has breathed a kind of life into his writings for me, and I have a new understanding—and even a kind of sympathy—for the great man.

Bianca Czaderna  
*Master of Theological Studies Candidate, Theology*



Romania is a country of deep faith and deep wounds. Although communism fell in 1989, the people still carry the scars day to day. The new generation of Romanians is heavily affected by the regime they never lived under, a culture that has produced a staggering number of orphaned and abandoned children. Traveling to an orphanage in Satu Mare, Romania has deepened my understanding of how much culture impacts health, and how critical an understanding of the history of a patient is in healthcare. I believe that, through my trip to Romania, I have gained a unique view of medical care for the commonly neglected of society.

Ellen Dahlby  
*Class of '16, Majors in the Program of Liberal Studies  
and Arts & Letters Pre-Health (Supplementary)*



My goal for this research project was to learn about the cultural differences between Italy and the United States and to examine how those differences impact the business environment. I learned that I have the capability of traveling to a foreign country and learning new things on my own—I networked to schedule the meetings, I used local transportation to find the locations of meetings, and I conducted interviews based on questions I had formulated. The research grant provided by the Nanovic Institute allowed me to shed light on the world of international business. It gave me an opportunity to explore a topic very relevant to my future career as an accountant with potential opportunities to work abroad.

Katherine Damo  
*Class of '13, Majors in Accountancy and Italian Studies*



By conducting research in Europe, I have been exposed to a more vibrant learning experience. My study of the French School of Spirituality was rendered more fruitful because while I discussed theological ideas with informed individuals, I was also able to participate in the spiritual practices which formed the basis of such conversations. Being a French major, I consider it to have been invaluable to have had the opportunity to enhance my language skills through interactions with native Francophones, occasions which encourage me to persevere in my religious vocation to missionary work or even to a possible secular career as an interpreter or teacher. The grant from the Nanovic Institute animated the French School into a living institution of dynamic ideas, bringing me closer to the likes of Bérulle and Fr. Moreau than any esoteric body of paragraphs preserved in a library book could ever do.

Prinz Jeremy Llanes Dela Cruz  
*Class of '15, Major in French & Francophone Studies*



The Beatson Institute of Cancer Research in Glasgow was by far the most advanced, high-tech institute in which I have worked. I was invited to join the staff at the Beatson for a little over a month to complete a project to improve the accuracy and calibration of PET/CT scanners, as well as consult for them about the prospects of acquiring a 3D printer. I was extremely impressed by both the facilities and the staff at the Beatson. They have amassed talented teams and strong financial support to achieve their goals of bringing a cure for many types of cancer closer in sight. I was immersed in an environment of fast-paced learning and experimentation that brought about quick turnaround time for tests and analysis. Not only did the Beatson facilitate the successful completion of my project, I learned valuable lessons about the pace and atmosphere in high-end research laboratories that I will apply as I continue to work after my graduation.

Evan L. Doney  
*Class of '15, Major in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*



At its geographic and topographical cores, my research is centered on early modern French cities. But until I undertook this research trip, my ability to interpret early modern siege narratives suffered from a major weakness—I had never actually visited any of the cities (with the exception of Paris and Geneva) that I was writing about! It is incredibly difficult to write about the nuances of the Huguenot defense of Sancerre without walking around the old city, seeing where the old city walls stood, climbing the remnants of the Fiefs tower, and seeing for oneself how difficult it would be to besiege a city situated at such a high elevation. I was also able to walk around the old city walls of Poitiers, meet with important professors in several cities, and tour the remains of the siege fortifications in La Rochelle.

Adam Asher Duker  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



My summer research culminated in what turned out to be a forty-five page policy proposal that I wrote for Senator Mark Daly and the Fianna Fáil political party. Already approved as a draft by the head of Fianna Fáil, Micheál Martin, weeks before I left, if approved again in its final version, the document will be published as official Fianna Fáil policy on human trafficking. Since I wrote the policy for Senator Daly, my name will be on the document as co-author. I am happy with the results of my research, as I truly feel that the implementation of some of the proposals in my policy could lead to the betterment of many people's lives. Additionally, I will be utilizing some of the research and interviews that I conducted this summer in the writing of my senior thesis. I hope to disseminate my research in undergraduate journals and in political science conferences in the future.

Hayley Evans  
*Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Anthropology*



Thanks to the support of a Nanovic Institute European Internship and Service grant, I was able to travel to the Yerevan Physics Institute (YerPhI) in the Republic of Armenia to assist with research on thunderstorm-generated radiation. I had the opportunity to work with a few dozen physicists from the Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of YerPhI. While I was able to contribute to the CRD physicists' research program, I feel that I learned even more from them about how physics actually gets done. It is amazing to see the type of work they can do and the results they can achieve with the limited resources they have. Armenia has a developing, post-Soviet economy. Even with limited funding for basic research and difficulty attracting and keeping well-qualified people, the scientists are able to run two world-class cosmic ray observatories with hundreds of particle detectors and a full-time staff. Perhaps the most important idea that I learned this summer is that science does not always require lots of money, but rather requires being clever with what you have.

Patrick Fasano  
*Class of '16, Major in Physics*



My research seeks to understand how Italian culture influences the country's approach at alleviating poverty via the private sector. How might everyday cultural differences affect voluntarism and service to the poor in Italy, compared to the United States? What services are offered and how are they implemented? Who are the workers and/or volunteers behind such services, and how are they motivated? By understanding a wide range of poverty alleviation efforts in particular cultural contexts, we can therefore learn which are most effective and fitting for a society and why.

Kalya Fetta  
*Class of '13, Major in Finance*



Last summer, I was in Bonn, Germany interacting with the students and professors in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bonn. During my time there, I participated in a number of official events. Particularly valuable was a graduate student run series of colloquia, in which a different student would present work in progress once every two weeks. I took part both as an observer and as a presenter. Seeing the way German students approached philosophical questions, both in their own work and in their evaluation of the work of others, was enlightening. The broadness and resultant richness of their work, in which historical authors and contemporary philosophers are often put into conversation with each other, is something that could be beneficial for researchers in the United States, myself included.

Naomi Fisher  
*Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy*



I used my grant from the Nanovic Institute to spend two weeks in London working in the National Archives at Kew. Overall, the experience was hugely important for my future professional development. It was my first archival research trip, so I learned not only about my topic itself but also about how research is done, how archives operate, and how to manage the scope of one's topic. Work in the archives is (much like history itself) a dry pleasure. It consists of long periods of monotony as one carefully flips through hundreds of pages of records, punctuated by tremendous excitement when something relevant turns up. By the time I left, I was very comfortable with the daily rhythm of coming to the archive, ordering materials, and mining for these moments of insight and inspiration; I was sad to leave the archive behind.

Samuel Fisher  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



During that week at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), as I fished for information through all the books and archives, a submerged idea ascended to the surface. It had nothing to do with European humanitarian policy or civil conflicts, but focused on the ambassadors, lawyers, non-governmental professionals, and academics that darted all over the campus of UNOG. I would see them and ask myself, "Am I meant to join them in the future?" The answer, though still in the process of discernment, no longer is the eager "yes" I would have said before my research trip. This was a step in coming closer to an understanding of my call. Therefore, a flight to Geneva not only served to develop my skills, abilities, and academic interests, but also nourished an understanding of my heart's desire as well as the circumstances of the careers I am considering, challenging me to further evaluate, expand, and deepen the plans for my life.

Steven Fisher  
*Class of '16, Majors in Political Science  
and Peace Studies (Supplementary)*



My internship and the research that I conducted in Ireland helped open my eyes to the fact that I wasn't just a tourist experiencing the world. I was a researcher in the middle of the day-to-day cycle of education in Ireland, in a position to help make a difference in education. I had finally made the transition from the receiving end of the interplay between poverty and education to a position from which I could influence it, something I had eagerly anticipated since I conceived of my research and for which I had strived since I first realized the impact of socio-economic disadvantage on my own life. It was an exhilarating realization of my own growth.

Brennan Fitzgerald  
*Class of '14, Major in Psychology*



I cannot express how much gratitude I have to the Nanovic Institute for making my summer research trip possible. Without your support I would not have been able to attend the two-day workshop at University College London in August, nor would I have been able to conduct research for two weeks at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Both activities were crucial not only for the publication of two separate chapters in two distinct volumes, but also for my formation as a doctoral student at Notre Dame and as a future scholar in the world.

Adam Foley  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



My dissertation, which deals with the development and continuity of Michel Foucault's thought through the 1970s and 1980s, will rely heavily on archival material in order to do the sort of historical scholarship that will undergird the more philosophical engagement with his work. The Graduate Travel and Research Grant from the Nanovic Institute allowed me to spend September and early October at the Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine (IMEC), an archive site in Normandy where the bulk of Foucault's unpublished material is housed. In particular, I needed to spend time with some of the lecture courses he delivered both at the Collège de France and also at the University of Toronto during the early 1980s. Also important were the interviews that Foucault recorded with his American interlocutors. I can state emphatically that my research with these sources has been an unqualified success. So the Nanovic Institute will have played an important role in recasting the terms of the scholarly debate over Foucault's work.

Patrick Gamez  
*Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy*



My paper, "Sacred Space and 'Prepared Environment': Jacques Copeau's Montessorian view of theatrical space and movement," was accepted for the Humanities Education and Research Association (HERA) Conference in Houston, Texas. Many papers presented by professors and scholars across the range of universities and colleges centered on European culture and art. The discussions were a fascinating study of interdisciplinarity and conversation across levels of educational institutions—small teaching colleges to larger research universities. I learned a tremendous amount from participants' educational experiences and commitment to the humanities and their confidence in Europe's cultural wealth and its vitality there and here in the United States as an instrument of transmitting humanistic knowledge.

Peggy (Margaret) Garvey  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



I was fortunate enough to receive a Nanovic Institute grant that placed me in Kosovo, in the powder keg of Europe, and it has irreversibly shaped the academic interests and goals I hold. As a new country, Kosovo is being forced to define its fundamental ideals on a wide array of issues; constructing a uniform history curriculum is only one of them. It also has no preexisting laws regarding gay rights, abortion, or the death penalty; these have yet to be constructed. In this way, the country holds so much potential, but simultaneously, it also holds residual ethnic tensions. Living in Kosovo for a summer exposed me to this tension on a daily basis, and inspired me to continue my work even when I found myself exhausted and discouraged after a week of fieldwork. I hope to continue contributing to the research and dialogue on interethnic relations in Kosovo, be it through further historiography studies or through a future study on identity and politics.

Brenna Gautam  
*Class of '15, Majors in History and  
Peace Studies (Supplementary)*



The Nanovic Institute grant I had been awarded over Christmas break enabled me to pursue some on-site research in the U.K. for the purpose of collecting archival material about the Gregorian mission for the evangelization of Anglo-Saxon England. The visit represented a great opportunity to get hold of archival material fundamental for the pre-dissertation data collection which I had never seen before and, furthermore, it helped me prepare for the comprehensive doctoral exam which I recently took and whose topic dealt precisely with the early missionary mode of proceeding in non-Mediterranean countries. The possibility of preliminary scouting over the material and contents of the dissertation's field I am interested in is an essential prelude for the elaboration of any substantial doctoral project.

Maria Giulia Genghini  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



I conducted supplementary dissertation research at archives and museums located in the Russian cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Tver'. While working in these institutions, I completed the research that I began last year. When writing about the topic of local officialdom, I have struggled to find sources that illuminate the lived experience of officials. Unfortunately, while Russian officials generated no shortage of documents as part of their jobs, the bureaucratic records created by local government provide a limited perspective on the lives of these officials. In contrast, Avgust Zhiznevskii's letters and memoirs provide a rich first-person account of the struggles of a young official coming to terms with living in Tver' and interacting with his colleagues. As a result, his letters and memoirs supply an invaluable counterpoint to the official records.

Nathan Gerth  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



The great number of manuscripts that carry Giovanni del Virgilio's commentary, and the lack of a critical edition of this text, compelled me to work on some of the manuscripts that constitute this large corpus, in order to reconstruct a reliable text on which to lead my critical analysis. The results of this first recognition on the Parisian manuscript have been already quite significant, since some portion of the texts present a different lesson from that of another manuscript I have been relying upon, so far, for my analysis. Therefore, my critical assessment on Giovanni's exegetical achievements has been drastically changed by the study of this manuscript, and it is now undergoing a process of substantial revision. The analysis of more manuscripts is now necessary in order to better reconstruct a most reliable text of the commentary.

Filippo Gianferrari  
*Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Studies*



I attended the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) International Convention at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois. I recently passed the United States Patent and Trademark Office registration examination and will soon be certified as a U.S. registered patent agent. My career goals include working in Europe for an international law firm or biotechnology company. There were many international law firms at the BIO International Convention and I was able to visit their exhibits and learn more about their European locations, enhancing my future career options. Attending the BIO International Convention also significantly impacted my thesis development by allowing me to network with domestic and international professionals in my field.

Sarah Goodman  
*Master of Science Candidate, Patent Law*



The time spent this summer at the University of Oxford doing independent research was for me one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my academic life. Not only did it invite me to confront and grow specific questions of philosophical and theological significance, it further introduced me to a culture of academic conversation and investigation that I hope will propel me into an exciting future. I would love to do Ph.D. work in theology from either a literary or a philosophical standpoint, as this is the way in which I've found theology and questions about God and the good life addressed most compellingly.

Thomas Graff  
*Class of '14, Majors in Philosophy & Theology and Italian Studies*  
*Winner of the R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Family Grant for Best Undergraduate Travel and Research Proposal*



What works when servicing and mentoring youth offenders? This was the question I sought to answer through my research in London. Motivated by the inefficiencies and inequalities of the American juvenile justice system, my goal was to research best practices in another country's juvenile justice system. I appreciated the chance to get out of my element and try to see youth justice through a new perspective. Actually speaking with people in the field who have daily contact with these young people was very inspirational and insightful. These organizations were very gracious and willing to share their information. Traveling to London was beneficial because I had the opportunity to think outside of the "American perspective" and think outside of the box in a new environment.

Leila Green  
*Class of '15, Major in English*



Being fascinated by the street art movement in London and artistically inclined, I have followed websites and blogs that posted images of graffiti and offered commentary on the movement. However, a picture on the Internet does not reveal the surrounding context of a piece of street art. Unlike art in a white-walled gallery, street art is done in interaction with its environment. In order to fully grasp a piece's message and impact, I sought to experience the art in person. Overall, traveling to London allowed me to visually assess geographic patterns in a way a Google search could not.

Madelynn Green  
*Class of '15, Major in Political Science*



Thanks to the generosity of the Nanovic Institute, I spent two weeks in Salamanca, Spain conducting research at the University of Salamanca. The value of this trip for me rests not only in the interesting materials I examined in Spain, but also in how it brought my research to life. I learned many things about the content and the methods of study in sixteenth-century Salamanca, and being in the setting where professors and students learned and lived has assisted me in beginning to understand their world in a way impossible without having traveled there. I will use what I learned in Salamanca for years ahead to guide my research and plan future visits. I am deeply grateful to the Nanovic Institute for its support.

Janice Gunther  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



My internship at the Charité Hospital in Germany greatly influenced my academic trajectory. After my internship, I became very confident in my decision to go to medical school, a very daunting task in and of itself. Moreover, my internship gave me valuable tools that will jump-start my future medical training. As an intern at the Charité, I performed tasks that many medical students are not allowed to perform until their second or even third year in medical school. Given this knowledge, I will be able to better hone the skills that I have already partly developed. Furthermore, I learned that one can and should not think of medicine as a field simply worked in hospitals or doctors' offices, but as a global enterprise that has the potential to unite people of different countries and cultural heritages.

Leo Hall  
*Class of '14, Majors in German and Arts & Letters Pre-Health (Supplementary)*



I spent three weeks in England, dividing my time among the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, the Salisbury Cathedral Library of the Dean and Chapter in Salisbury, and the British Library in London. These three weeks were filled with rewarding research and useful finds, and were rich with experiences in the archives where I worked. Perhaps the most exciting archive I worked in was the Salisbury Cathedral Library of the Dean and Chapter. Unlike many manuscripts these days, those of Salisbury Cathedral are still housed *in situ*, in the medieval stone Chapter House on the south side of this thirteenth-century cathedral. The experience was, to say the least, a bit like going back in time. In addition to conducting my research, I was also able to speak with the archivist in depth about her career and training. This was a fantastic and unanticipated opportunity because I would like to train as an archivist myself and have been looking for mentors and guidance.

Megan J. Hall  
*Doctoral Candidate, English*



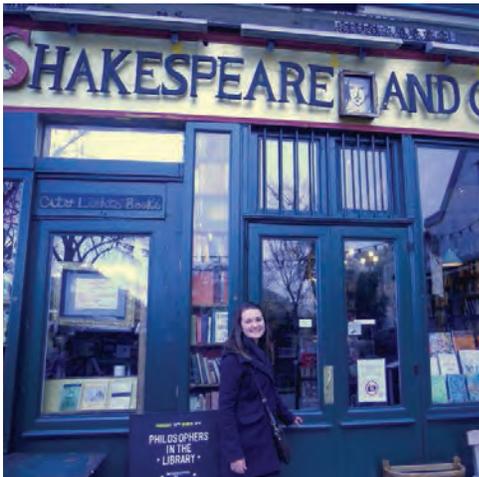
In many college classrooms, there is a tendency to act as if Latinity simply stops after the fall of the Roman Empire. The *Living Latin in Rome* program actively combats that tendency; although we read plenty of Ovid, Virgil, and Horace, we also explored the rich tradition of post-Classical Latin. As a medievalist, I particularly appreciated the inclusion of hagiographies, theological treatises, and pilgrimage narratives from the Middle Ages among our readings. One of our instructors specializes in the Renaissance reception of Classical literature, so she introduced us to the Italian humanists who, like us, once approached the ancient world in awe and wonder. Another instructor, a Vatican Latinist, gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of the papal city, sharing drafts of a soon-to-be released encyclical and introducing us to the people behind the pope's Latin Twitter account.

Marjorie Harrington  
*Doctoral Candidate, English*



While I was walking over a frozen Lake Toohlonlahti in Helsinki, I listened to the first opening of Sibelius' violin concerto through my headphones. The harsh winds whipped at my nose and the snow started to fall steadily. The atmospheres of the musical work and of my winter experience were nearly identical. And, as I made my way towards my hostel, I became aware of a feeling of uneasiness, of frigidity. The violin's nostalgic "old-country" melody emerged out of the distance as the snow softly fell and the sun cast its last low rays onto the frozen ground. My exploration of landscape and its connection to performance painted a visionary and inspirational canvas that I utilized in my performance of Sibelius' *Violin Concerto in D minor* in my senior violin recital.

Audrey Hayes  
*Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and Music*



Conducting research in France was both challenging and rewarding. I struggled, but my difficulties encouraged personal and academic growth as I conducted my research. I was challenged to be increasingly independent and self-reliant, both academically and in traveling. My project truly became my own as I directed my own progress, goal, and result. I hope that this growth will help me to continue to conduct independent research, and I would like to particularly develop further my study of Catholic literature.

Meredith Holland  
*Class of '14, Majors in Theology and Economics*



I received funding to attend the International Medieval Congress (IMC) at the University of Leeds. The IMC is the largest and most distinguished conference for Medieval Studies in Europe, drawing scholars from across the world. It is especially noted for its openness to many different disciplines and methodologies. I had the special honor of being invited to participate on a panel of international experts on textual criticism. The panel, called *The Pleasures of Editing*, is an excellent example of the sort of collaborative research and discussion that the IMC is meant to promote. I joined a group of distinguished scholars to discuss the problematics of textual criticism today. The roundtable led to some productive conversations, and even more than that, to some possibilities for future collaboration.

Albertus Horsting  
Doctoral Candidate, Theology



There is no learning quite like what occurs when you step out of your comfort zone and into another culture. The Cannes Film Festival certainly afforded me this opportunity. I was tossed into a place where no one was going to hold my hand; it was time to sink or swim. Not many other places have such a vibrant international community and a vivid display of culture. Along with this fabulous cultural experience, I gained an incredible amount of confidence in myself and a new sense of independence. I learned how to network and make those extremely important connections within the film and television industry. I would not trade this experience for anything.

Colby Hoyer  
*Class of '15, Majors in Film, Television,  
& Theatre and Anthropology*



Stories are essential to the fabric of human interaction. They are the principal methods of communication across generations, the expression of the collective experience of a culture. Thus, to understand how people relate to the literature of the past and present is to understand what people find to be of value within their own society. The tourist's goal is for an intimate experience of authentic realities of the places they are visiting. This search for authentic reality juxtaposed with the fictional landscapes of literature provides an interesting space through which to determine how people understand the place of stories within their own lives. Perhaps the tour that I took that was most definitive of the method I utilized was the "Harry Potter Film Locations in the City of London" tour. A walking tour that focused on the old legal center of the city, the Harry Potter tour provided an excellent event through which to explore the idea of authenticity.

Kenzell Huggins  
*Class of '16, Major in Anthropology*



The theme of this year's American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Conference was "Global Positioning Systems," that is, GPS as a metaphor that illustrates our sense of place in the world. In keeping with the now-dominant concern with globalization in the discipline, most of the conference papers resolutely blurred conventional boundary lines and put geographical regions under new investigations. Europe was not an exception to the rule. The shared interest and approach of most scholars, in sum, was to rethink Europe by putting it into various new surroundings, many of which proved to be illuminating to presenters and listeners alike.

Qingyuan Jiang  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



One of the main goals that the Nanovic Institute grant allowed me to achieve was the presentation of my work to an international community of D.H. Lawrence scholars in all different phases of their careers. The other was the ability to meet and learn from these other scholars. Nanterre University not only has two of the most distinguished scholars of the profession, but exposure to one of the journals, *Etudes lawrenciennes*, that publishes international scholarship on this intriguing early modernist.

Ana Maria Jimenez-Moreno  
*Doctoral Candidate, English*



I departed for my summer study abroad trip on a mission to ameliorate my French oral communication as well as to gain a more profound understanding of the nuances found in the French language. To reach my objective, I enrolled in an intensive French course at the Centre International d'Étude des Langues in the city of Brest, France. Aside from improving my French oral skills through formal instruction in the classroom, I also inadvertently accomplished this by being completely and constantly immersed in the French language and culture. I had to rely on my knowledge of French every day while running errands such as buying groceries at the supermarket or withdrawing cash at the bank.

Victoria Kasznica  
*Class of '15, Major in Romance Languages & Literatures*



The most important part of my trip was my language training at the Danish sprogscole *Studieskolen*. Every day for six weeks, I attended class and was relentlessly drilled in conversational Danish. Skill wise, I'm now somewhere between two of my pre-departure goals: ordering a danish in Danish and reading Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* without a dictionary. As for the latter (rather ambitious goal), I'm well on my way. While in Denmark I translated for at least an hour a day, learning the vocabulary as I progressed through the text. Though anyone can pick up a dictionary and try to slog through a foreign text, my Danish training gave me something that the mere slogger lacks: a grammar base. With this foundation in place, my Danish can now build on itself.

Ryan Kemp  
*Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy*



As an anthropology student on a dig, I needed to be strong, to put my all into the everyday instead of falling from one activity to the next. So when my back began to ache, and all I wanted to do was nap, I kept going. I learned how to dig out a trench to the right dimensions, make straight walls to see clearly into each context, find beauty in every artifact sprung from the ground to witness the light of a hundred years gone by. I listened and could make assumptions from the depth of a rock wall, or the floor of a once cow-inhabited barn, or the peat-encrusted surface of a hearth. And I began to love the laborious side of archaeology, where you can feel the work you've done in your very bones—just you and the sky and your trowel, unearthing the secrets of the past. I now know what I want to do as a career, and I have the tools to make it happen.

Shannon Kenny  
*Class of '15, Majors in English and Anthropology*  
*Recipient of the Snider Family Endowment*  
*for Excellence in European Studies*



I applied for a Nanovic Institute Break Travel and Research Grant to explore the integration of modern civil engineering and historical preservation involved in restoring the Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy after the earthquake in 1997. After several months of preliminary research, my project culminated in a week of firsthand exploration of the basilica during which I integrated my knowledge of civil engineering with my interests in Gothic architecture and art history. During this time, I was able to gain firsthand experience in civil engineering inspection of structures. Additionally, I gained knowledge regarding the process of architectural and art restoration. I better understand the typical architectural elements of Gothic cathedrals, as well as pre-Renaissance fresco artwork. After my week in Assisi, I have begun to consider exploring careers that integrate civil engineering and architectural preservation.

Kathleen King  
*Class of '15, Major in Civil Engineering*



Because of Nanovic Institute funding I have further evidence that the mandate of Confucius Institutes in the United States and in peripheral Europe are distinct. Moreover, while public sentiment on China is similar among laborers, Scotland has a larger incentive than the United States to work toward mutual understanding and closer trade relations because of their reliance on external market access. Scotland's unique nature as part of the United Kingdom restrains it from "hard" engagement; however, the efforts by Scottish Development International and local civil society groups are working towards strengthening Sino-Scottish relations. To further this research, I hope to look at the effects specifically of Chinese corporations abroad on home-country sentiment and policy subsequences of those business connections.

Deanna Kolberg  
*Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Chinese*



I had the privilege of participating in the German Script Course at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. During this two-week course I learned how to read German handwriting from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century, when Germans adopted the Latin script that English-speaking people use today. We encountered texts from different time periods, written by different people in different parts of the world, but all using a variation of the same general script. By daily practice in both writing in this script ourselves and reading historic documents, I was able to add an important tool to my scholarly toolbox. When I arrived at the course, the old German script was impossible for me to read; by the course's conclusion, I was capable of reading each document we encountered.

David Komline  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*  
*Recipient of the Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for Russian and East-Central European Studies*



Language learning, like spiritual perfection, is a gradual process. Yet certain events and opportunities can prove decisive in moving a person from one stage to the next. Augustine tells us in the *Confessions* of how everyday events, like hearing a young child's voice singing in a garden or even a trip to Milan, dramatically altered his life. For me, as for Augustine, living in an Italian city, for however brief a time, has established new cultural points of contact that will change how I do things going forward. As I use the tools I have gained this summer to engage Italian scholarship as a regular and comfortable habit, Italian will not be merely a language of whose importance for my field I am aware in the abstract, but one that becomes part of my scholarly identity, enriching the research I produce.

Han-luen Kantzer Komline  
*Doctoral Candidate, Theology*



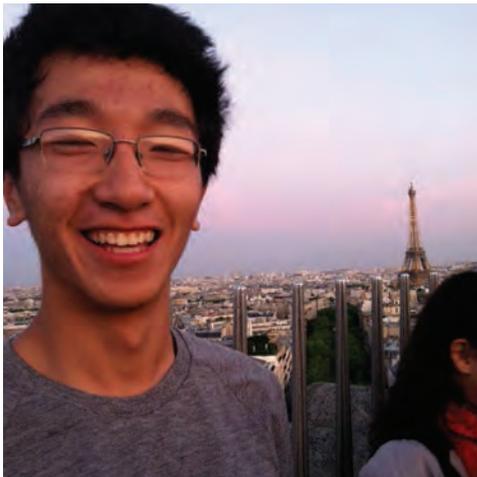
I was awarded the Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies from the Nanovic Institute for the summer of 2013. For six weeks, I lived and studied in Toulouse, France, attending a language-learning school named Alliance Française. My goal for this trip had been to further my French language competency, but I gained so much more than that. Not only was it a major lesson on independence and how to travel by myself, but also the trips I went on, the friends I made, and the experiences I had made this one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.

Mary Kunesh  
*Class of '14, Major in Science-Business*  
*Recipient of the Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies*



Thanks to the generous support of the Nanovic Institute, I was able to attend the prestigious International Medieval Congress (IMC), held in Leeds, U.K.. The Congress is an annually-held conference which draws scholars of the Middle Ages from all over the world, and it is known to be a vibrant hub for medievalists to meet and share their past work and ideas for future research. By allowing me to attend this dynamic European conference, the Nanovic Institute is helping to ensure the ongoing dialogue between European and North American scholars of medieval history and certainly giving Notre Dame graduate students an extra academic and professional advantage.

Hailey LaVoy  
*Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Studies*



Aside from the beauty of the language and the richness of the culture, France and French play a pivotal role in the world economy. This trip and my language acquisition have helped me gain an understanding of not only the American marketplace but of the world marketplace. As the recent recession demonstrated, our economics do not act independently of each other. That makes it essential to understand not only our picture, but the whole picture. This trip has opened doors into my academic pursuit of international economics and international finance, in both of which France is very involved.

James Li  
*Class of '16, Majors in Finance and Economics*



I was fortunate enough to spend the summer prior to my junior year studying abroad for six weeks in Toledo, Spain. As a Spanish major, I elected to participate in this language acquisition program in an effort to drastically improve my ability to comprehend and speak the language. The trip proved to be a rewarding experience that offered me ample opportunities to improve my Spanish proficiency. Studying literature and history in Spanish, traveling throughout Spain, and living with a local family were all opportunities for me to improve my ability to speak the language as well as broaden my perspective on various ways of life.

David Lowe  
*Class of '15, Major in Spanish*



This past summer I was blessed with the opportunity to expand my French language and cultural studies by spending six enriching weeks in the south of France. I spent the month of June attending and living at the *Institut de Français*, a private language-learning institute in Villefranche-sur-mer with an intensive, full-immersion, conversation-based program. During the course of my 170 hours (during which we were allowed to speak only French—fines for speaking a native tongue were two euros per word), my confidence in speaking the language and ability to do so increased significantly. What does that mean? Quantitatively speaking, my oral expression entrance exam showed that 35% of my sentences were spoken correctly; my exit exam showed that I completed 62% of my phrases correctly. Practically, it meant that I was able to have more interesting conversations with my peers during lunch, navigate my way through business transactions in nearby communities, and understand my aunt and uncle who live near the *Institut in Cagnes-sur-mer*.

Benton M. Lowerison  
*Class of '16, Major in Political Science*



Through the generosity of the Nanovic Institute, I had the privilege of visiting Helsinki, Finland over fall break in an attempt to learn more about the country's educational system. The majority of my time was spent at the University of Helsinki where I shadowed classes in the Subject Teacher Education Programme and conducted interviews with various students and professors. After a week in Helsinki, I left with just as many questions as answers, but the generosity of the Nanovic Institute provided a tremendous opportunity to conduct research on a topic I am deeply passionate about, and just as importantly, created an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. This grant will spur future scholarly endeavors, and I look forward to using this foundation to conduct impactful research in the field of systemic education policy.

Paul Luczak  
*Class of '15, Majors in Accountancy and Economics*



Traveling engages us with the world around us. It allows us to see and understand history, culture, and our own humanity in ways beyond simply looking at photographs or reading history books. It is only when you physically engage with something in the past through your senses that the power of great historical monuments can come alive for a student. By conducting research in England, I was able to engage with churches, monuments, memorials, and religious images in ways that would have been impossible by just listening to lectures or reading historical accounts. I was able to understand the power that these testaments to faith can have on those who engage with them.

Andrew Lynch  
*Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and Classics*



One of the most wonderful, albeit simple, aspects of my experience at the 16th Annual Art History Graduate Symposium was the opportunity to meet and engage with a small but diverse community of passionate, interesting, and warmhearted graduate students. Not only did this interaction help me to clarify some of my own ideas and plans for graduate school at the doctoral level, but it also gave me exposure to the scholarship being pursued by my peers in the broader field. More practically speaking, this experience demanded of me that I deliver a composed and comprehensible public presentation to both peers and established art historical scholars. Not only was this presentation a good entry point into the structure and practice of conferences and public lectures, two important aspects of academe which I anticipate encountering frequently as I engage in doctoral research in the future, but it also offered me a venue in which my ideas were challenged, stimulated, and ultimately expanded by a national community of scholars.

Caroline Maloney  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Art History*



The United States can learn a lot about special education from the systems implemented in Italy and Germany. I believe the ingrained attitude of full inclusion in Italy is beneficial to both students with disabilities, who have the opportunity to develop the necessary social skills to be successful in society, as well as their neurotypical peers, who have the opportunity to build relationships with these individuals and develop an attitude of acceptance in order to learn from each other and their unique perspective. Such an attitude in general is the foundation for a better society as people can be much more successful when they cooperate and work together toward a common goal.

Jennifer Markowski  
*Class of '14, Majors in Psychology and  
Science Preprofessional Studies*



Thanks to support from the Nanovic Institute, I was able to attend the American Historical Association annual meeting in New Orleans. I presented a paper entitled "Jesuits and the Passions in Seventeenth-Century France." The paper examined how the suspicions about the Jesuits' complicity in the assassination of Henry IV politicized the language of emotion in the aftermath of the event. Love and grief became politically divisive because of the ways the Jesuits deployed these freighted emotional words and gestures in their ceremonial reception and burial of Henry's heart and in defenses of themselves against charges of treason. The panel commentator said the paper was very interesting and well-written.

John W. McCormack  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



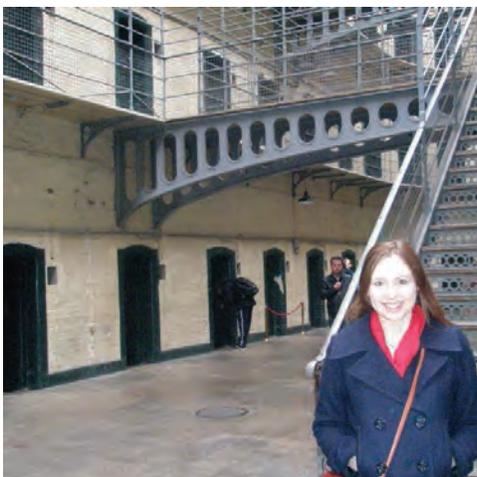
The chance to interview respondents in their native language in Berlin, Germany has allowed me to increase the depth and quality of my senior thesis, but most importantly, it gave me the experience of a lifetime—the opportunity to speak with a wide-range of people and exchange ideas on important issues facing them in the future. And, in this globalized, ever-changing world, the important issues facing my interview respondents are very likely to be important issues facing me in my own future.

Andrew McDonough  
*Class of '13, Majors in Political Science and German*



My experience in London at the Warburg Institute and the British Library not only sharpened the questions and arguments undergirding my dissertation, my work with their vast collections of early printed books opened up previously unforeseen avenues of research, challenging my original arguments and leading me towards clearer and more acute understandings of the modes and methods of information exchange in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. As such, my research at the Warburg Institute and the British Library both built upon and expanded my dissertation research, helping to lay the groundwork which will become my dissertation.

Joshua McIntire  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



The grant from the Nanovic Institute allowed me to explore a crucial event in recent history, which helped shape Irish and western European history since. It also taught me how to research an event in the most fundamental way—rather than simply using the Internet to find research already compiled and analyzed by someone else, this grant allowed me to travel a foreign city, searching archives and libraries for meaningful primary documents. I found my own research, and had to come to my own conclusions and synthesize what I had found in a meaningful way. The grant from the Nanovic Institute spurred my intellectual curiosity and got me thinking about things in a way that I had never thought of before.

Isla McKerrow  
*Class of '15, Major in Biological Sciences*



Undergraduate research has been an integral part of my learning experience at Notre Dame. My research trip to Spain was an incredible opportunity to delve into the policies of another country. I hope to continue this research on European counterterrorism policies throughout the rest of this year. Furthermore, I am applying to graduate school, and this project has further encouraged me to pursue a degree in international security studies.

Kelly McRaven  
*Class of '13, Major in Political Science*



Over spring break, I was given the incredible opportunity to go to Ireland and do a research project on the Irish university system. I did a research paper on this topic for one of my classes and found it to be incredibly interesting. Although I had a great time doing secondary research for my paper and reading about other people's opinions on the issue, I felt that there was something missing in my research. Specifically, I felt that I was missing a vital student perspective, and I knew that this perspective was the only way for my preliminary research to be truly compelling. By receiving a Nanovic Institute Break Travel and Research Grant, I was successfully able to go over to Ireland and do primary research on this topic and gain the insight that I had been itching for. While in Ireland, I organized several student focus groups, set up in-depth interviews with professors, and designed a survey for Irish students to fill out. The results from my research helped me to understand this issue on a much deeper level.

Kara McSweeney  
*Class of '14, Major in Marketing*



This summer's internship at Pavee Point challenged my tendency to accept some notions of what it means to be Irish. It forced me to look beyond mainstream popular culture and try to see and better understand the less visible Traveller and Roma communities. While my work consisted mostly of assessing and trying to address the issues facing these communities, I also learned a great deal about the contributions their cultures make to Irish society. One of the biggest takeaways of my experience is that minority cultures play an enormous role in influencing a broader Irish identity, as long as one is willing to recognize it. As a part of society, these communities possess inherent value and are deserving of respect.

Elizabeth Millea  
*Class of '15, Major in Psychology*



This summer, I was privileged to receive funding to spend seven weeks in Dublin to intern with the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference located in Maynooth. Throughout the first five weeks of my seven-week internship, I focused on drafting a report on behalf of the Irish Bishops' Conference that assessed the state of Irish Catholicism in Irish Society at large in areas such as politics, media, education, literature, healthcare, and science. The report will serve as the Irish Bishops' overview of Catholicism in Ireland which they will present to their fellow bishops at the Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (CCEE) in October at their meeting in Bratislava. In order to accurately gauge the various sectors of society addressed in the report, I interviewed various professors, government ministers, professionals, and priests who had experience within these areas to compliment research done online. The report was approved by both the Executive Secretary of the Bishops' Conference and Cardinal Brady.

David Murphy  
*Class of '14, Major in Political Science*



I am glad that I chose to research the treatment of Jews in Vichy, France. Researching and remembering only the positive moments of history does an injustice to those who experienced hatred and suffered from persecution. The commemorative plaques and the Shoah Museum stand today for a reason—it is only right to remember the people who had to keep silent and were silenced. Although my research was melancholic, it profoundly impacted my views on historical research. My time in Paris opened my eyes to the way that research not only contributes to one's knowledge base, but it can uphold the people of a historical moment.

Sarah Murphy  
*Class of '15, Major in History*



This summer, I had the opportunity to intern directly under a postdoc with the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford. Having contact with researchers outside of Notre Dame and outside of the United States has exposed me to different methodologies and perspectives on the field of psychology in general, which has given me a new perspective of the field overall, but it has also confirmed my deep-seated belief that I am destined for graduate studies in psychology and that I wish to remain in academia. To know that my disposition toward psychology is not merely a function of my Notre Dame education, but an inherent interest in the design and purpose of the science, is reassuring, and I would only have had that realization through this experience abroad.

Elise Murray  
*Class of '15, Majors in Psychology and German*



I had the privilege of visiting Prague and Vienna to conduct research to aid in my dissertation proposal preparation. Networking with Central European scholars turned out to be one of the most invaluable aspects of my trip. In Prague I had the privilege of becoming acquainted with the persons and resources at the Center for Medieval Studies (Centrum medievistických studií). Affiliated with Charles University, the CMS hosts an illustrious array of medievalists researching aspects of Czech history. I benefited from speaking with several scholars affiliated with the CMS. These meetings allowed me the opportunity to share my academic ideas directly with scholars working on Czech medieval religious history, a small subfield indeed, and to get critical advice from them. My experience in Vienna was equally as positive: I met separately with two professors of medieval religious history at the University of Vienna who were very friendly and immensely helpful.

Amy Nelson  
*Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Studies*



This summer I spent four weeks in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany, working to improve my German reading and speaking skills. Learning new languages and experiencing new cultures has always been a passion of mine, but with my graduate work in theology, German proficiency has become a necessity. Many of the most important books and articles in the field of biblical studies exist only in German, and an inability to quickly understand their contents can quickly stifle one's research. I cannot tell you how gratifying it was to return home, pick up the German novel that I had been reading before I left, and realize that my reading speed had doubled in the course of a month! This has already made a difference in my studies; just yesterday, I gave a class presentation on a topic, and one of the most important studies in the field was, of course, in German. While before I would have likely shied away from the task of digging through it, now I entered with some degree of confidence, and was able to integrate its results into my own work.

Joshua Noble  
*Doctoral Candidate, Theology*



My experience with the Fonds Guy Debord at the Bibliothèque Nationale in France was the best possible development for my Master's thesis research. I was able to read the majority of French filmmaker Guy Debord's personal process notes for all of his major works. Debord's works are often intentionally unrevealing, withholding, and broad, but backed by undisclosed research, reading, and conceptual planning. These discreet and implicit threads were revealed clearly with great detail in his unpublished notes.

Anna O'Meara  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Art History*



The primary use of my structured time in Tours revolved around my acquisition of French. To this end, I enrolled in classes for twenty hours per week at the Institut de Touraine, the largest and best-regarded school for French as a foreign language in the area. As part of a small class of about a dozen, I worked on reading and writing French in the mornings and speaking and listening skills during the afternoons, both sections with their own teachers and activities. That which made the Tours experience different from a standard class in the United States (other than the longer hours) was that one was expected to use French all day while away from the Institut.

Gabriel Orlet  
*Class of '14, Major in History*



I had the opportunity to study abroad in Sorrento, Italy this summer. The purpose of my schoolwork while there was to improve my speaking, listening, and writing skills in Italian. I chose L'Instituta di Sant'Anna Sorrento Lingue as the school I would attend because it offered comprehensive academic programs that focused on language acquisition and improvement. My one-on-one learning with a Sorrento Lingue professor was a great addition to the classroom instruction. I could choose what the lessons would focus on—any topic from additional grammar practice, to culture study, to open discussion—so I stayed constantly engaged. The afternoons were also an opportunity to become better acquainted with my teachers, who had many fascinating stories and life experiences to share.

Emma Partridge  
*Class of '15, Majors in Marketing and Romance Languages & Literatures*



In this internship, I worked for American War Memorials Overseas, Inc. This was much more than just a paid vacation to Paris. Yes, the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe were magnificent sites to behold, but in many ways, visiting these private war memorials scattered throughout France was a more enriching experience to me. Most of these memorials, located in prominent town squares, in the middle of large fields in the middle of nowhere, and anywhere in between, are nothing more than a small stone with a plaque on it. Nevertheless, these memorials hold so much significance behind their humble appearance. They honor the memory of American soldiers who died far from home for the greater good.

Cadet John Pearl  
*Class of '15, Major in Finance*



During spring break, I traveled to Paris, France in order to conduct research on the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Overall, I really enjoyed researching in Paris because everywhere I went, I was thinking about my topic and finding clues to answer my questions. It was a whole week of exploring a topic that I feel passionate about, and I ultimately ended up with even more questions and more ideas for other research projects or extensions of this project that I can do in the future, perhaps for a senior thesis or my senior capstone project as a Minor in European Studies.

Carolyn Perez  
*Class of '15, Major in French & Francophone Studies*



My week of independent research on the migration of health care service and facilities from Venice to Mestre and its possible connections to the emigration of Venetians out of Venice was truly incredible. I was able to successfully conduct sixty-six interviews in total. I was also able to successfully meet with both Dr. Marchetto and Dr. Lucia at Ospedale dell'Angelo and was able to have profound conversations with both of them, which was fantastic. I will forever be thankful to the Nanovic Institute for European Studies for funding such an amazing research experience in which I was able to beautifully connect my Science Preprofessional major and my Italian major, both of which I am equally passionate about.

Jennifer Perugini  
*Class of '14, Majors in Science Preprofessional Studies and Italian Studies*



Thanks to a generous grant from the Nanovic Institute, I was able to take part in the annual meeting for the American Society of Church History. This gave me the opportunity to share my dissertation research with important scholars studying the history of Christianity, and then continue our conversations over the duration of the long weekend. I have just been given a job offer by Concordia University in Irvine. Attending this conference gave me the opportunity to talk extensively with faculty members in the field of church history. In many small ways, through the questions these senior scholars asked, I am continuing to hone my “elevator speech” about my research, and transition from presenting myself not as a graduate student but as an academic colleague.

Eleanor Pettus  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



The research project that the generosity of the Nanovic Institute has made possible for me, namely ‘Exploring the Archives of Erich Przywara, S.J.’, has been fruitful in several respects. First, it has given me my first taste of archival research in the European context. Second, by staying at the Jesuit community of St. Alberto Hurtado in Munich and by working through Przywara’s correspondence, I was able to size up his personality a bit better. Third, I discovered documents that helped illuminate Przywara’s work and suggested areas for further research. Among the many motives for this project was to conduct a “feasibility study” for a dissertation project. On this score, the results are still inconclusive. It has, however, confirmed my desire to keep Przywara on my intellectual horizon and to continue research in his voluminous published writings.

Aaron Pidel, S.J.  
*Doctoral Candidate, Theology*



During the winter break, I traveled to France to conduct field research with the support of the Nanovic Institute. While in France, I expanded upon previously conducted field research in the United Kingdom and Spain and sought to shed light on how changes in French cultural dynamics and attitudes towards Muslim immigrants have interacted with counterterrorism strategies with the emergence of transnational Islamic terrorism in France. I focused especially on France’s established reputation as a leader in counterterrorism and distinct relationship with Islam as home to the largest Muslim population in Europe. During this trip, I engaged in observational cultural experiences along with interviews with a variety of individuals in Paris, France. This field research has played an invaluable role in my intellectual pursuits and will expand upon my capstone essay for the Minor in European Studies and contribute to my senior honors thesis.

Alison Podlaski  
*Class of ‘13, Major in Anthropology*



I believe that my experiences in Italy were excellent preparation for my projected career in academia. Although I could have found helpful books in libraries closer to home or online, I feel that independently exploring and researching in the libraries of Italy was an important step in my formation as an aspiring scholar and professor. During my graduate studies, I plan to focus on how religio-political thought in the Renaissance shaped both English translations and original works that borrow elements from earlier Italian texts. There is much still to be discovered about Anglo-Italian literary relations in the Renaissance. My English honors thesis will contribute to the available research in an area of literary studies that is only beginning to receive the scholarly attention it deserves.

Mary Prokop  
*Class of ‘14, Majors in English and Italian Studies*



The Nanovic Institute helped me to participate in the first conference of my academic life. Indeed, the Graduate Student Colloquium held at Portland State University was a great opportunity to see in person what presenting a paper to an academic audience means. I had to reply to a call for papers, apply for funding, and deal with all the practical details needed to set everything up in order to leave and take part in the conference. Everything was, in a sense, up to me, and that helped me to grow and develop since I was personally responsible for all the aspects that needed to be taken care of.

Martino Rabaioli  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures*



On a blazing hot day in June, I stumbled off a plane and into Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport. What ensued were the most adventure-filled, challenging, and educational six weeks of my young life so far. I left the United States with no more than five words of Russian in my vocabulary, and absolutely no knowledge of the Cyrillic alphabet. What prompted me to hop on a plane to Russia this summer? I was inspired to actually learn the language. Coming home as an advanced beginner was definitely a confidence boost. Struggling to speak and pushing myself was tiring, but absolutely worth the time and effort. Now, I am studying Russian language as a junior and on the road to fulfilling a supplementary major in Russian and East European studies. My dream is to use this and my political science major to concentrate in Russian and Eastern European politics, and perhaps work in the foreign service someday.

Carolina A. Ramirez  
*Class of '15, Majors in Political Science and Russian & East European Studies*



Traveling and working in Croatia illuminated certain aspects of my intellectual identity and motivation that will pose implications for my future academic career. As a student of psychology and anthropology, with interests in international peace and political psychology, I walk a fine methodological line between ethnographic and more systematic and quantitative approaches. Several of the hypotheses that I developed prior to travel in Croatia were disproved in meetings with professors in Zagreb and local contacts in Vukovar. This forces me to question the extent to which I can rely upon data from individuals extracted through surveys and focus groups without first building rapport and gaining a deep understanding, through first-hand experience, of the context in which participants' responses are formed.

Catherine Reidy  
*Class of '13, Major in Psychology*



My classes and cultural exposure in Avignon have prepared me to perform well during my last year at Notre Dame, and I am grateful for this opportunity to have studied in such an artistically rich environment. This year, I can work more efficiently in French, and I feel more confident giving class presentations. I can also incorporate observations I made in Avignon in classes I teach, and I am continuing to improve my French at Notre Dame through classes and conversations with native speakers. I hope that the Bryn Mawr program will also have a long-term effect on my academic career by making me a stronger candidate in a competitive applicant pool for Ph.D. programs and jobs.

Claire Reising  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures*



I know that I will never forget the time that I spent living, studying, and learning in Moscow. Fully immersing myself in Russian-only classes for five hours every day was just the tip of the iceberg. Every day after class would be complimented by an hour or so of homework, but what we would do for the rest of our days was completely up to us. One day we would take a guided tour of the Kremlin, while the next day we would explore the banks of the Moscow River. Another day would be filled by Saint Basil's Cathedral in the morning and the Church of Christ Our Savior in the afternoon. Sometimes we would complete these excursions by ourselves while other times we would be accompanied by the newly-found Russian friends that we had met at the university. Regardless of the activity that was being undertaken, we devoted all of our energy to discovering every aspect of Moscow that was available to us.

Tyler Richards  
*Class of '14, Majors in Political Science, Russian, and Spanish*



While in the U.K., I spoke with members of the media, professors in journalism, and politicians about the future of news, news revenue, and the news and government relationship in the U.K. Though I have conducted interviews before, the academic rigor of the assignment required more background reading and prior preparation for me to ask informed questions. The best interviews turn into conversations, and I found time with each expert to do just that. I built strong connections with my sources, and was able to become familiar with the research on journalism happening at the various prestigious universities in the London area. The experience was invaluable insight into an article I am now working on about the future of news revenue.

Clara Ritger  
*Class of '13, Majors in Film, Television & Theatre and Political Science*



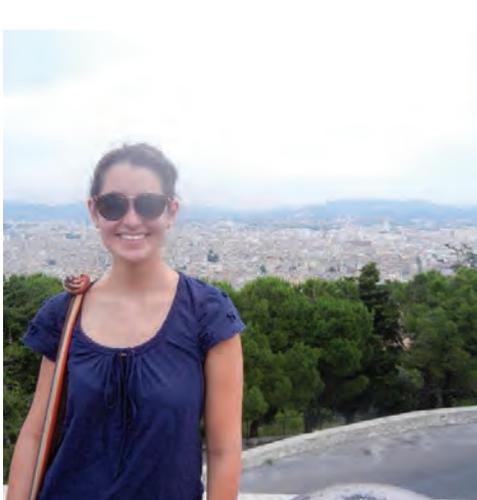
I feel as though Spanish departments should try to be inclusive of more Iberian material. Traditionally, Spanish departments have focused on material that was written in Castilian. While this is logical given that Spanish has become synonymous with Castilian, the term also has a wider meaning. Before the unification of the Castile and the Crown of Aragon in the fifteenth century, the term *Spanish* was often used to refer to anything coming from the Iberian Peninsula. In other words, Spanish was anything that came from the area that had once been the Roman province of Hispania. As a medievalist, I think that Spanish departments can and should be more inclusive, as material from throughout the Iberian Peninsula is what made Spain—and Spanish literature and history—what it is today. Therefore, I feel it is especially important to be able to work in as many Iberian languages as possible. Beginning to study Catalan at the University of Barcelona has been a significant part of this process.

Bretton Rodriguez  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



I went to Europe to better understand the current immigration and visa policies toward Chinese nationals in both London and Paris. My goal was to then use this newfound understanding to make predictions about the implications of these policies on the relations between foreign countries and China. Next year, as a result of the opportunity afforded to me by the Nanovic Institute, I will be able to complete this comparative study in the form of an academic paper and likely a senior thesis.

Dominic Romeo  
*Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Chinese*



I traveled to Marseille, France this past summer to study at the French Alliance language school there. This summer abroad has solidified my interest in the French language and piqued my interest in French art. This semester I am giving tours in French at the Snite Museum of Art to intermediate French classes, a position much enhanced by my exposure to French art during the summer. I am now at ease initiating conversations with native speakers. Whereas before my limited vocabulary inhibited me, I now have the confidence to speak freely about most topics. I am strongly considering graduate school and/or searching for postgraduate work in a francophone country, as well as a career with the State Department. This grant has influenced the trajectory of my professional life, and for that I am very grateful.

Sheridan Rosner  
*Class of '16, Majors in the Program of Liberal Studies and French & Francophone Studies*



Language development is tricky because you often don't realize your progression until the end. On my last day in Moscow, I was once again standing on Leningradsky Prospekt outside the currency exchange office waiting for a friend. I had not been there since my first week in Moscow and the difference I experienced simply amazed me. I was completely at peace standing on this busy street watching people and traffic go by. I understood the signs on the buildings and could comprehend the excerpts of conversations that passed me. At this moment, I realized how much my Russian language skills had improved in the short two months that I had been there. This development could never have occurred in the United States; I needed to be surrounded by Russian culture, to struggle with my insecurities and overcome them, in order to progress.

Jacqueline Ruiz  
*Class of '14, Majors in Film, Television,  
& Theatre and Russian  
Recipient of the Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for  
Russian and East-Central European Studies*



My major, architecture, has been heavily influenced by French design. I constantly seek out French architects and designers, such as Pierre Charles l'Enfant and Le Corbusier. By having the ability to travel back to Paris this summer through the generous grant provided by the Nanovic Institute, I was able to further pursue that passion and develop a thesis for architecture centered on the French culture and the city of Paris. I was able to view the city as an architect with a goal of attaining and absorbing information to be applied to a design. This experience gave me the opportunity to take the time to completely analyze certain beaux-art buildings within the city.

Michelle Russoniello  
*Class of '14, Major in Architecture  
Winner of the Palladio Prize for Best  
Internship Proposal in Architecture*



I worked for the Global Policy Institute in London this past summer, conducting research on the U.K.'s relationship with the E.U. in terms of trade. I was able to consult with top business leaders, academics, and even members of Parliament on where there exists future opportunities to improve the U.K. trade landscape through more enhanced E.U. membership. This research broadened my academic bounds and allowed me to experience government policy in a foreign country, an experience I consider vital to my future professional development.

James Schappler  
*Class of '14, Majors in Economics and Political Science*



During the summer of 2013, I spent several weeks as an intern in the Political and Economic Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. In this capacity, I was provided an opportunity to complete substantive work relating to American interests in issues relevant to the Holy See. The Embassy provided a unique insight into the Department of State's internal functioning on a number of levels: first, the character of the Vatican as a sovereign entity and moral authority differs from that of any other state; second, the Embassy itself addresses topics unusual to typical bilateral relations; and third, the Embassy presents a distinctive internal dynamic along with a chance for individual autonomy and significant personal contribution.

Nicholas Schilling  
*Class of '14, Major in Political Science*  
*Recipient of the R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Family Grant*



With the help of the Nanovic Institute, I was able to spend a week of this past winter break conducting research in Paris, France. This was my first experience doing research as an undergraduate, and it was a very enlightening one. I am a sophomore studying French and history. My vocational plan is to become a professor in one of these fields, and a few professors last semester counseled me that this year would be a good time to start working with professors on their research projects as well as looking in to some of my own. Having had this experience, I feel as though I am a lot better prepared to engage in research in these fields.

Anne Seul  
*Class of '15, Majors in French &*  
*Francophone Studies and History*



The most thrilling part of my time at CBS News London was walking into the newsroom each morning, not knowing what to expect. Which story would break? Would we go on-air? Where was the next crisis? Whether it was the hospitalization of Nelson Mandela, the Snowden Saga, conflict in Syria, protests in Turkey, violence in Egypt, elections in Iran, refugees in Sudan, or another royal engagement, there was never a dull moment. My experience working as an intern at the CBS Bureau in London—reporting stories spanning all of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa—has opened my eyes to the collaborative world of international reporting. The Nanovic Institute has enabled my full immersion into a truly global workplace, allowing for cross-cultural comparison of the ways in which American and British media work.

Nicole Sganga  
*Class of '15, Majors in Political Science*  
*and Film, Television, & Theatre*



The Nanovic Institute gave me the opportunity to present my papers, “Voices of Power: Women in the Yemeni Revolution” and “War-Affected Women as Agents of Change: Using Storytelling to Promote Justice,” at the European Conference on Politics and Gender in Barcelona, Spain. The purpose of the conference was to bring together scholars from all over the world to explore gender, politics, best practices for post-conflict reconstruction, and social movements as it relates to women’s empowerment. In addition to gaining insights into my own papers, my knowledge was expanded by engaging with other academics and hearing about their research. Thanks to the gracious support of the Nanovic Institute, I believe I have grown professionally and personally in a variety of ways and plan to use the skills and knowledge learned to contribute to scholarly research and my future goals of working with people as it relates to gender justice and peace.

Tamara Shaya  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Peace Studies*



I took French classes for five weeks at Alliance Francaise in Paris, France, and it was a very helpful experience. First of all, the coursework strengthened my language skills significantly. Although grammar is not hard for me, this level of intensive French requires very high aural and oral skills and the activities in class were focused in those areas. As I became more familiar with the French environment, I also became much more involved in class and I felt I was getting so much out of the Intensive French course in Alliance Francaise.

Ningzhou Shen  
*Class of '15, Majors in Mathematics and International Economics*



This summer I was a recipient of the Summer Language Abroad Grant, which allowed me to have the opportunity to better enhance my French skills in a native environment. This was my first visit to Europe, and it left me with a deep impression, not only because of the grand, elegant buildings and bridges everywhere in the streets, but also because of the kindness of people and the rich culture and history. I would like to express the most sincere thanks to those who sponsored me through the program, since this stay brought me farther than I had expected. I come back not merely with enhanced French skills, but with a new perspective and a broadened horizon as well.

Yiren Shen  
*Class of '15, Majors in Mathematics and Medieval Studies*



Having the opportunity to research in Paris, I was forced to reevaluate my research question, which offered me such a valuable education, whether it was about mothers in Vichy, France, the feminist movement of the 1940s, or the representation of women in art, all of which I was able to apply to my research question. This research experience not only reinforced research skills taught to me at Notre Dame, but it also taught me how to reevaluate a research question and make necessary changes driven by new resources. This ability to think critically and solve problems will be an asset in whatever career path I choose to follow.

Natalie Shovlin-Bankole  
*Class of '15, Majors in Psychology and Arts  
& Letters Pre-Health (Supplementary)*



I presented my paper, "Hybrid pleasures: reading images and texts in Bodleian Library MS Selden supra 38," at the International Medieval Congress, which took place in Kalamazoo, Michigan. As my background is primarily in literature, yet my interests have become increasingly art historical, the opportunity to present this paper at the International Medieval Congress was particularly valuable. The International Center of Medieval Art sponsored the session in which I participated, and as the other panel participants and the majority of the audience were art historians, I received valuable feedback about my own methodology and arguments. The other participants also raised valuable questions and proffered insights into the images themselves and their relationship to larger iconographic traditions. I was able to make some excellent professional contacts, and came away with ideas for how to expand and refine my larger project, as well as this particular paper. This was a superb experience both intellectually and professionally.

Anna Siebach Larsen  
*Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Studies*



The generous support of the Nanovic Institute allowed me to perform solar cell research in Munich, Germany at the Ludwig Maximilian Institute München. Through this summer experience, I was able to augment the research background that I had already developed as an undergraduate researcher with an international experience in the same field. This allowed me to develop a deep, rich understanding of the field, as well as gain an international perspective on scientific collaboration and outlook. I have seen the value of both American and German methodologies, and going forward, I will be able to merge my experiences to obtain a much more international scientific perspective and methodology.

Timothy Siegler  
*Class of '14, Major in Chemical Engineering  
Recipient of the Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for  
Russian and East-Central European Studies*



As someone discerning a call to the religious life in Holy Cross, this experience of conducting research in Monte Senario, Italy was invaluable. I had the entire week to think about why the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows would be important for a priest. Just like Mary, priests are called to stand at the foot of the cross of those who are suffering. Furthermore, priests must remain faithful to Christ despite all suffering, and encourage others to do the same. Although I have just begun to understand the devotion, I can appreciate how Our Lady of Sorrows is so closely related to the priesthood.

Charles Skinner  
*Class of '15, Major in Political Science*



The Nanovic Institute gave me the chance to present at my first conference. The conference, entitled “Between the Lines: Adaptation, Space, and Creation,” took place at the University of Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Though I was quite nervous since this was my first conference, the questions I received after my presentation were thoughtful and interesting. The most helpful element of the questioning was learning new directions I could take with my current research. Sitting in on other presentations gave me the chance to speak with fellow graduate students and to discuss their ideas on topics that interested me as well.

Susanna C. Stamile  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures*



I spent three weeks traveling throughout Europe in order to investigate the constructive nature of the international community centered around Minecraft, a computer game that has grown to become one of the most influential computer games in history. I then traveled to Stockholm and visited the headquarters of Mojang, the company that created and owns Minecraft. I interviewed the current head developer of the game, as well as their “Director of Fun,” who leads presentations about the game all around the world. The interviews and experiences I had were in preparation of the senior thesis I will be writing this fall, an ethnography which describes how this virtual culture is bringing together people of multiple “real-world” cultures into one community, and has the potential to serve as a unifying force throughout the world.

Mark Stechschulte  
*Class of '14, Majors in Anthropology and Science Preprofessional Studies*



This summer I had the opportunity to spend four weeks studying in Berlin, Germany. I attended classes at the did-Institut in the heart of Berlin-Mitte five days a week. Being in the heart of the city, I got to experience everything Berlin has to offer. I believe that I improved my German skills as well as learned so much more about German culture.

Kelsey Sullivan  
*Class of '16, Undeclared Major in the  
Mendoza College of Business*



My participation in the “Crossing Boundaries” conference, made possible by the Nanovic Institute, has given my senior thesis work a vitality and depth I never imagined I would experience as an undergraduate. Speaking with world-renowned scholars and artists has transformed my project from a theoretical study into a vibrant conversation. Engaging with the modern masters of a tradition stretching from the time of Cervantes to the present has given both historical depth and contemporary relevance to my senior thesis.

Rebecca Sullivan  
*Class of '13, Majors in English and Philosophy*



Being able to undertake intensive campanological research in France has left an immensurable impact on my scholastic development as a practicing artist, historian, and growing campanologist. My primary research interest focused on the local history of Cornille-Havard and the bell founders of Basse Normandie. By gaining access to the foundry, I was able to document every step of the local craft and decode the long history of the region’s copper and brass metalworking practices. The director of the foundry allowed me to participate in all aspects of the artisanal-based industry, acquiring endless materials for further research and study of French bell-making practices.

Benjamin Alton Sunderlin  
*Master of Fine Arts Candidate, Studio & Design*



My purpose for wanting a research grant to go to England was to enrich the senior comprehensive I will be writing and presenting in art history. I wanted to have access to documents that would not be within reach at Saint Mary's, I wanted to be thorough in my art historical methodology by observing the art institution, and I wanted to see works that I could not see in the United States. What I gained from this trip, however, was much more than I could have ever imagined. I saw the two worlds of art and dance come together in a way that supported the subject of my thesis paper, but I also saw a world inside myself I never knew was there, an attitude of self-confidence and self-assurance.

Bethany Tabor  
*Saint Mary's College Class of '14, Majors  
 in Art History and Philosophy*



I am very grateful to have been granted the opportunity to travel to Europe for my research. I came back with extensive notes and finds from the Bodleian Library, many ideas about where to go next with my research, and numerous valuable contacts with whom to stay in touch. I was also able to steep myself in the university where Ronald Syme lived and worked. And I was able to steep myself in Oxford's importance to my field. It was home to Richard Bentley, the founder of philology; Edward Gibbon, who wrote *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*; Benjamin Jowett, the great translator of Plato; and, in the modern age, luminaries like Simon Hornblower, Martin West, and P.A. Brunt, amongst many others. One of the many things I love about classics is its extremely proud intellectual history, and simply being in Oxford, which has contributed so much to that history, made me push myself to be a better scholar.

Kelly Taylor  
*Master of Arts Candidate, Classics*



The Nanovic Institute was generous enough to award me a grant enabling me to travel to Dublin, Ireland to investigate some of my questions about the Irish public reaction to British rule and the Battle of Gallipoli. This initial grant succeeded in igniting my curiosity in a topic that was previously unknown to me. I feel more engaged with this material and discuss it with another friend also doing research in this area. I have learned a lot from this experience that one could not learn solely from a class. Figuring out a new city, or how to use a microfilm machine or any of the many other little things you come across in a European country are extremely valuable skills that will assist me in any career I end up in. In the short term, I plan on using this research and any other future research projects in developing my senior thesis.

Barbara Tyznik  
*Class of '15, Major in History*



Spending my spring break in England was incredibly fruitful, both academically and personally. In the Arundel Castle Archives and the Lambeth Palace Archives, I began to unearth for the first time the rich academic potential of Europe. England became more than just a country to tour and a culture to enjoy—it became a wealth of historical and religious information of which I could only brush the surface. Nevertheless, this exposure has given depth and insight to my research that would otherwise have been completely lacking.

Catherine Underwood  
*Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and French  
& Francophone Studies (Supplementary)*



Thanks to the Nanovic Institute, I had the opportunity to conduct research related to my dissertation at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The purpose of my research trip was to examine and produce a technical description of the manuscript that is at the heart of my dissertation (MS. Ludwig XIV 6). This manuscript is called the *Vidal Mayor* and there only exists one exemplar—housed in the J. Paul Getty Museum. Not only was I able to examine the structure and organization of the codex but also the running title, binding, edges, measurements, trimming around the edges, cut fragments, and emendations to both wormholes and cut fragments. In sum, the technical description that I conducted during this research trip has allowed me to advance significantly my investigation of the circumstances surrounding the production and use of the *Vidal Mayor*.

Belén Vicéns-Sáiz  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*



The experience of studying in a national library in France made my research even more important to me. Being surrounded by members of the French academy and other students like myself, some of whom were studying the same era in French history, helped me to understand how the French see the world today. The French are still achingly aware of their losses in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The way they conduct politics today, the way they talk, the way the Parisians embrace the history surrounding them but still criticize their country with almost a fervent enthusiasm—all of these tendencies hark back to the trauma of the past two centuries in French history. Paris will still always attract visitors for its beauty and artistic appeal. However, the brightness of the city hides the history that haunts it.

Clare Welch  
*Class of '16, Majors in Political Science and Peace Studies  
(Supplementary)*



Overall, my trip to Cambridge over fall break formed an important baseline for my subsequent analysis of medieval Willingham. By utilizing the local research facilities at Cambridge, it was possible to access a broad range of material that would have been unavailable had I conducted my research solely from the United States. As a result, my senior thesis research has been greatly impacted by the ability to directly access the relevant sources on site. The support of the Nanovic Institute has expanded the available information as well as provided a clearer picture of the archaeology of medieval Willingham.

Allison Whitlock  
*Class of '13, Majors in Anthropology and  
French & Francophone Studies*



Thanks to the Nanovic Institute, I traveled to the British Library in London, England, researching works that could contribute to my capstone essay for the Minor in European Studies. My capstone essay is an interdisciplinary project. I am researching aspects of Lewis Carroll's work *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland* and the Royal Ballet's production of *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland* in order to write about the interpretation of the literature through dance and in the ballet's scenario and modern visual techniques. It could be fascinating to discuss how literature is made into something wordless. Finding sources that fit so well with the "words to wordless" aspect of my capstone was very exciting, and this was only made possible thanks to funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame. I look forward to incorporating this research into my capstone essay this semester.

Amanda Williams  
*Class of '13, Major in Physics in Medicine*



Researching in the United Kingdom and attending the Actelion conference enabled me to identify the societal, psychological, and economic impact of rare diseases in a cross-cultural setting. Traveling to Europe and pursuing this research project has expanded my ideas of clinical approaches to rare diseases and has allowed me to explore the concept of cultural competency in medicine. As a Minor in European Studies, this research has been essential for my capstone essay, in which I plan to compare the healthcare systems and clinical outcomes for people suffering from NP-C between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Michelle Yanik  
*Class of '13, Major in Biological Sciences*



During my internship at the Pasteur Institute of France, I studied the secretion mechanism of the adenylate cyclase (CyaA) toxin of *Bordetella pertussis*, the causative agent of whooping cough. The mere experience of being at an institute that serves as the workplace for accomplished scientists from all over the world and one that carries such historical significance alongside continual effort for future discoveries was humbling and further facilitated my interest in the field. As we continue to progress and search for things yet unknown, it is also worthwhile to reflect on and appreciate the work done by the scientists who came before us and developed methods and established concepts that we now use daily. Being in the environment where many important studies were done—such as the development of the rabies vaccine and the establishment of the concept of allostery—and where there are mentors that have years of experience and knowledge to share allowed for me to appreciate the domain from different dimensions.

Sylvia Seokhee Yong  
*Class of '14, Majors in Biochemistry and  
French & Francophone Studies*



Thanks to the assistance of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, I was able to afford to spend the majority of summer 2013 working in various libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Having now been able to work with my primary materials, I am in the process of sorting through the vast amount of notes (over one-hundred pages) I hurriedly took over the course of approximately two months and incorporating my findings into the secondary research already conducted. While much work remains to be done as I continue to write my dissertation, the progress I have made thus far would not have been possible without the Nanovic Institute's generous support.

Hannah Zdansky  
*Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature*



This past summer I studied French linguistics and literature on the Summer Language Abroad Grant in Tours, France. During my seven-week stay in France, my French became much more fluent. By helping out at a phonology lab, I also gained hands-on experience of how second language learners gradually develop their language skills. In addition, as soon as I settled down and got used to the all-French environment, I started to reach out and further immerse myself in French culture and society. Apart from my language study, I have done a research/documentary project during my stay in France on the different definitions and concepts of marriage in the “marriage for all” debates in France, which exploded in the spring of 2013.

Nuohan Zhang  
*Class of '15, Major in International Economics*



My research focuses on one particular instance of Arab-Jew cooperation, the story of Si Kaddour Benghabrit, a Muslim leader and former rector of the Great Mosque of Paris who helped to save anywhere between fifty and one thousand Jews during the Nazi occupation of France. This research is important because it provides historical evidence of Arab-Jewish cooperation against a common oppressor and explores the history of Jews in North Africa that led up to this event, evidence that Jews and Muslims can co-exist. The Nanovic Institute for European Studies generously provided me with the opportunity to travel to France and further study this little-known part of history, enabling me to add one more dimension to my study of French and Francophone cultures.

Patrice Zigrossi  
*Class of '13, Majors in French & Francophone Studies  
and Arts & Letters Pre-Health (Supplementary)*