



 **NANOVIC INSTITUTE
FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS 2011-12



A Letter from the Director

This grant testimonial book demonstrates the range of the research, internship, service, and language training initiatives undertaken by Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students during the past academic year. This volume includes testimonials from the recipients of grants established through the generosity of R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett, Katie Murphy-McMahon, Michael Snider, and Charles C. Price.

As Interim Director of the Nanovic Institute, I have been impressed to witness the extent and value of the Institute's student grant programs. Even the process itself has pedagogical value: before receiving an award, each student participates in the increasingly competitive application process, which requires the students to draft a detailed proposal with a budget to articulate a need, as well as the necessary preparation to undertake research or an internship. 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 much more sophisticated as they learn how to conduct original research or serve others in different cultures. Afterwards, they return to campus to work one-on-one with faculty members on term papers, senior theses, and articles for publication.

After they think through intellectual issues and complete their independent projects, the students are able to share their experiences with classmates, enrich the campus culture, and enter their careers and further scholarship with greater maturity and perspective. Given their sincere quest to engage in travel, research, and service, and their desire to enrich their educational experience at Notre Dame, we are pleased to send these students forth as ambassadors of Notre Dame and the Nanovic Institute.

Donald Crafton

Interim Director and the Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre

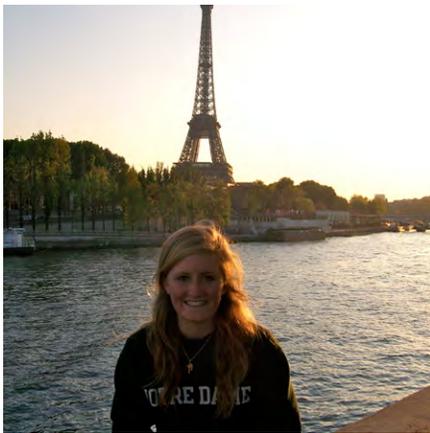
If you would like to learn more about our programs, please visit our website at nanovic.nd.edu or contact us at nanovic@nd.edu or 574-631-5253.

Student Testimonials, 2011/12



“I studied England’s early role in nation-state building in my Political Science classes and learned about sports television at Notre Dame, but I never expected to experience both come together in London at the Olympics. I gained professional experience through access to international press conferences and sporting events, interviews in the Olympic Village and Wembley Stadium, and daily interactions with producers, reporters, and photographers from different countries. My London Olympic experience gave me a first-hand understanding of the politics involved in international sports.”

Christian S. Aguilera
*Class of '13, Majors in Political Science and Film,
Television & Theatre*



“The trip to Paris was truly unlike any other experience. I learned a lot about myself, and my fluency in the French language certainly improved over the course of the week. My visits to the Historical Library were essential to my research and the tour of *Musée de Cluny* offered me many insights into my own work and gave me artistic sources to cite in my paper.”

Elizabeth Argue
*Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and French &
Francophone Studies*



“In September and October, I traveled to England to complete archival research on my dissertation, ‘Vernacular Reading, Continental Models, and the Composition of Chaucerian Marginalia’ in the collections of Oxford and Cambridge Universities and of the British Library in London. My focus was two-fold: first to study certain earlier manuscripts of William Langland’s *Piers Plowman* and John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*, and second, to look for uncatalogued and unedited marginalia in the manuscripts of the French poetry from the Middle Ages, which remain in England.”

Sarah Baechle
Doctoral candidate, English



“I could not have anticipated a better and more productive outcome from my research this past term, and I can sincerely say that much of it would not have been possible without the generous support of the Institute. It has allowed me to pursue my research, which, as noted, has proven to be quite fertile, but, perhaps even more importantly, it has allowed me to cultivate a close and fruitful relationship with one of the foremost philosophers and scholars working in my area of specialization. I now know that this professor and I are able to work productively together, and that there is no conceivable barrier to his future involvement in my dissertation research and writing.”

Babak Bakhtiarynia
Doctoral candidate, Philosophy



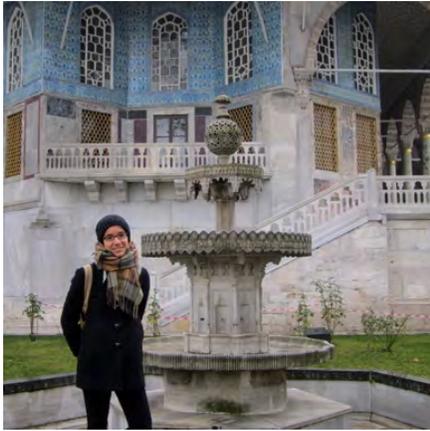
“The Institute gave me the opportunity to travel to the Northeastern Political Science Association meeting in Philadelphia to present my paper titled ‘Arendt’s Machiavellian Moment.’ This was my first conference presentation on a panel, and I found the experience enriching. I received valuable feedback on my paper during both the question and answer session and in meeting with members of the audience after the panel. Traveling to the conference also gave me the opportunity to meet other graduate students and faculty engaged in research similar to mine. During these discussions I made a number of contacts that will help me as I enter the field. The paper is currently under review at the *Journal of Politics*.”

Faisal Baluch
Doctoral candidate, Political Science



“Over fall break, I traveled to Paris, France, to do research with respect to Pierre de Ronsard and his use of spatial and architectural metaphors and symbols. It required me to get used to using French on a regular basis as well as getting accustomed to living according to different customs. For me, it wasn’t too difficult to interact with vendors, but it was more challenging to talk to other Parisians, especially other Parisian youth. This trip was both beneficial and enjoyable. I was able to conduct research while fully immersing myself in a foreign culture to improve my use of French.”

Brett Beattie
Class of ‘14, Major in Mechanical Engineering



"I had the opportunity to travel to Turkey to study the *hamam* of Istanbul first-hand. I looked upon my studies in Turkey as those of a translator, for the incorporation of architectural forms from a different culture is not likely to be successful when directly transplanted. Not only will I use the technical details and physical forms of the buildings that I studied, but I will also pull from the less scientific aspects of the architecture which inspire and produce wonder so that this new piece of architecture will enhance the city of Charleston and instill a similar sense of awe in those who visit."

Jenniver Bevan
Master's candidate, Architecture



"For a week in October 2011, I traveled with five other fellow students to conduct research and film a documentary in Geneva, Switzerland. Our project focused on the continuing legacies of Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* and its relevance in today's world. Traveling to Europe and conducting our research there truly gave us an opportunity to see our work in a whole new light."

Courtney Biscan
Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Peace Studies (Supplementary)



“Because I was able to complete my seven weeks under budget in Spain, I used the remainder of my funds to take a short trip to the Royal Library of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden, where I found eighty pamphlets in Latin and Dutch printed in the Low Countries that are related to my research. Online repositories such as *Early English Books Online* revealed some 120 comet tracts in English or printed in England for the same period (1550-1750). Based on my discovery, I propose to undertake a comparative analysis of these tracts in Spain, the Netherlands, and England. Such a trans-regional, multi-religious analysis will help to answer questions about the role of religion in the scientific development of Europe.”

Laura Bland
Doctoral candidate, History & Philosophy of Science



“The Graduate Initiative Grant provided by the Nanovic Institute allowed me to travel to the United Kingdom over the 2011 Fall Break to examine medieval manuscripts that contain the texts of romances that I considered in my M.A. thesis. Receiving this grant allowed me the opportunity not only to take my research on women in romance a step further but also to gain valuable archival research experience that will surely benefit me as I continue my academic and professional development.”

Amanda Bohne
Doctoral candidate, English



“For four days in Ireland, I taught three students different aspects of photography, audio recording, video recording, and creating graphics. We made short videos, documented the project, and created a graphic text for the website using Photoshop. Prior to my arrival, the students had never been given the opportunity to engage in these creative activities. The positive effects of the Digital Education Project all seem to circle back to giving people the opportunity to learn. We gave them the opportunity for starting a dialogue, learning about digital tools, mixing with kids from other schools and backgrounds, and collaborating amongst the division.”

Kathleen Bracke
Class of '13, Major in Film, Television, & Theatre



“Spiritually, one of the main things I took away from my time in Rome was a greater sense of the practical nature of our call to holiness. By that I mean that the call to follow Christ comes to us in the midst of our everyday tasks. By walking in the footsteps and praying before the remains of Church heroes like Peter and Paul, I was reminded that the saints were real men and women who attained sanctity by serving God and neighbor in their everyday lives. Thus, traveling thousands of miles to sacred sites in Italy helped me to grow in appreciation for my “regular” life back home, challenging me to view my normal duties as a series of opportunities to grow in holiness by serving God in small ways.”

Peter Bratton
Class of '13, Major in Philosophy



“While volunteering in Romania, I had the opportunity to see firsthand the effects of becoming an orphan or losing a parent on the psychological development of children and adults. As a Psychology major, I am extremely interested in how important these formative years are in an individual’s lifelong psychosocial skills. The difficult emotional experiences many of these children have gone through play a major role in their later development. Additionally, because the Orthodox Church plays such a massive role in the community and in Romanian culture, this experience was relevant to my Theology studies. As a result of the four weeks I spent in Valea Screezii, I have a new interest in how religion can serve as a coping mechanism for those who experience great loss early in life.”

Catherine Braunlich
Class of '14, Majors in Psychology and Theology



“I was able to spend two-and-a-half months in England this summer conducting primary manuscript research for my dissertation. My project seeks to re-narrate the dominant historiography of the liturgical roles and pastoral ministries of medieval women religious in England by demonstrating that they could and did exercise authority, agency, and creativity in these activities quite independently of male clerical control. The research that I was able to conduct in England this summer was vital to the success of my dissertation project. The discoveries that I made will undoubtedly ensure that my project makes a real contribution to the study of medieval women religious.”

Katie Ann-Marie Bugyis
Doctoral candidate, Medieval Institute



“For my thesis project I chose to design a preservation school on an underutilized site situated on the border of Nafplion, Greece. Nafplion has always been a place where cultures have collided in a graceful manner. My project will seek to unify the old town. In order to do this, it was imperative to visit it. I took every advantage to document my site and its normative conditions, and I spoke with a wide array of professional contacts there. When you visit a place, certain things are forever grafted into your memories. My project in Nafplion also gave me more confidence in my ability to work independently, which will influence me for the rest of my life.”

Jack R. Callahan
Class of '12, Major in Architecture



“I traveled over spring break to Florence in order to complete my research and present my senior thesis at New York University’s Italian campus, Villa La Pietra. I am proud and happy to say that thanks to the Nanovic’s generosity I have been able to foster working scholarly relationships with these great scholars and key players in the preservation of Florence’s art historical heritage. I know I will utilize and continue to learn from these scholars for many years to come as I continue my higher education.”

Felicia Caponigri
Class of '12, Major in Art History



“My winter research trip to Spain provided me with the invaluable opportunity to analyze and document architecture typical to Andalusia, a region in southern Spain. Thanks to the grant I received from Nanovic, I was able to spend two weeks in Spain, visiting several different cities such as Sevilla, Granada, and Cordova, all of which contain rich cultural and historical backgrounds that produced a unique architectural tradition. I was able to explore many different types of buildings as I attempted to compile a booklet of details, structures, and forms that will aid me as I work on a thesis proposal.”

Marcia Carranco
Class of '12, Major in Architecture



“I spent six weeks of this summer taking Russian language classes at NovaMova in Kiev, Ukraine. The experiences I had in Kiev allowed me to return to South Bend with an even greater passion for Russian. I want to be able to hold my own in conversation in Russian always. It is an incredible feeling when I am able to convey exactly what I want to say with confidence and correctness in Russian. I have come a long way since my first year as a freshman in beginning Russian and have a long way to go, but I will always be able to look back on my summer in Kiev as my first immersion experience and remember that the Nanovic Institute enabled me to be there.”

Isabela Cigarroa
Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Russian



"Due to the generous donations of the Nanovic Institute I was able to travel to London, England, where I researched the posters of the St. Joseph and St. Dominic's Press that are held in the Notre Dame Department of Special Collections. These posters were made by the Guild of Ditchling, where they were meant to advertise different festivals and then torn down for new posters. The many expert scholars I was able to meet and the research I was able to perform has provided valuable information on a collection of beautiful posters that have long been overlooked."

Sara Cloon
Class of '14, Majors in English and Studio Art



"The grant I received allowed me to travel to Krakow over Christmas break to experience Polish culture first-hand. I focused specifically on studying architecture related to the life of Pope John Paul II. While I was in Krakow, I used photography and sketching to document and analyze Polish church architecture. I learned about more than just the buildings, however. I also experienced the faith and devotions of the people of the Church. I will use my observations to inform the design of my senior architecture thesis project, a Blessed John Paul II Shrine and Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. I will be able to emphasize the importance of John Paul's Polish identity through visual expression in the character of the buildings I design."

Caroline Cole
Class of '12, Major in Architecture



“With the aid of my Senior Travel and Research Grant, I was able to spend a week in Spain over spring break to conduct my own original research to gather the data that I had been unable to find. I spent half the week in Barcelona and the remainder in Valencia. In each city, I was able to engage local youth in their own environments, discussing the role that language plays in their daily lives, and speaking exclusively in Spanish. In one thrilling week, my research came alive: data from a dissertation became the faces of my respondents, and their social environment became my own.”

Kyle Collins
Class of '12, Major in Mechanical Engineering



“This grant proved invaluable for my research on the reception and influence of antique sculpture in the Middle Ages from Sicily. This is the foundation of my projected dissertation that will explore a long-standing issue in scholarship on medieval architectural sculpture: the cause of the sudden shift toward naturalism in the sculptural programs of the major cathedrals in northern France and Germany after the year 1200. I have not only been able to take the initial steps towards an under-researched topic in the field of medieval art but was also able to secure valuable professional relationships for future doctoral research and employment opportunities after graduation.”

Brandon Cook
Doctoral candidate, English



“The CUNY Latin/Greek Institute is a summer-long program of intensive instruction in Latin and Greek, in its fortieth year this summer. It is a grueling ten-week course, six weeks of which are spent covering the entire grammar and a substantial vocabulary of the student’s chosen language, and the remaining four of which are spent studying various classical prose and verse texts. It was easily the most intensive task of any kind, academic or otherwise, that I have ever undertaken. More extraordinary still is the payoff. With no prior background, I can now read confidently and competently (if more slowly and deliberately than one with years of experience) any Attic Greek text.”

Jordan Corwin
Doctoral candidate, Philosophy



“My research was vital for several reasons. I was able to perform preliminary historical research through reading French texts to lay the groundwork for my studies. Also, I was able to refine my topic of study, as I could discover which part of an eighteenth-century woman’s life interested me. Lastly, I was able to experience both artwork and furniture from the 18th century to which I would not have had access in the United States.”

Annie Cragg
Class of '13, Majors in English and French & Francophone Studies



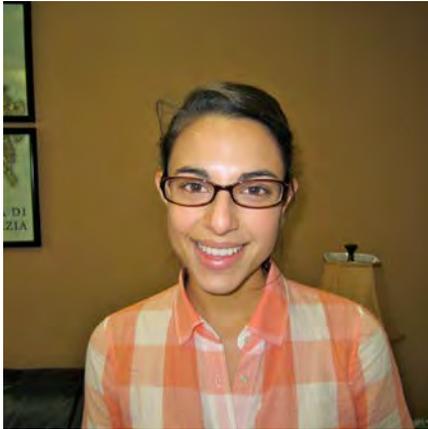
“Interviewees gave us dozens of different interpretations of the *Frankenstein* story. More remarkably, we also heard common themes throughout all of the testimonies. Artists and scientists, academics and students, all had something to say. All recognized the importance of both science and art in our conception of what it means to be human. This mixture of diversity and similarity in perspectives widened my own worldview, making it global in scope. It was not just enough to rehearse American or English perspectives on *Frankenstein*. We wanted to capture the universality of the story, how deeply it has become rooted in our collective consciousness, and how its themes interact between various disciplines and fields.”

Patrick Cruitt
Class of '14, Major in Psychology



“I got the opportunity to live in Paris for six weeks and study the French language. I enrolled myself in L’Alliance Française and took French classes every day of the week. My French has been completely revolutionized and I am so proud that I was able to accomplish so much. Since I study French literature, I know that this experience will take me to a new level of comprehension that will be essential in my future courses at Notre Dame. Understanding the language will no longer be an issue; on the other hand, I will have more time to enjoy the beauty of French literature and its context.”

Luisa De Los Santos
Class of '14, Major in Romance Languages & Literatures



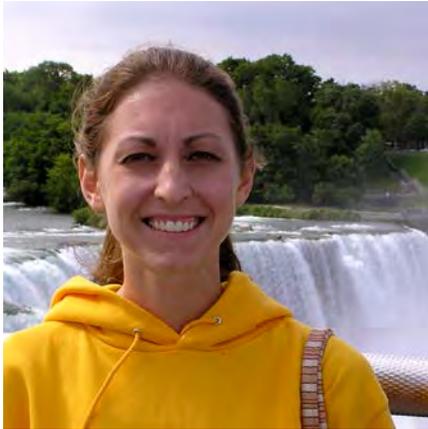
“At Notre Dame, I began a study of the future of tourism growth in Barcelona by focusing on the increasing interest in sustainability measures, the changing tourist profile, and coexistence concerns among its permanent residents. After researching current trends, I developed a certain assessment of tourism in Barcelona. Then, my grant enabled me to travel to the site of my research, where I could test my model. Fieldwork and first-hand observations are remarkable experiences compared to research performed in a classroom. Not only does research abroad allow for a deep understanding of the topic, but it also promotes cultural awareness and personal growth.”

Anna del Castillo
*Class of '12, Majors in Accounting and Spanish
(Supplementary)*



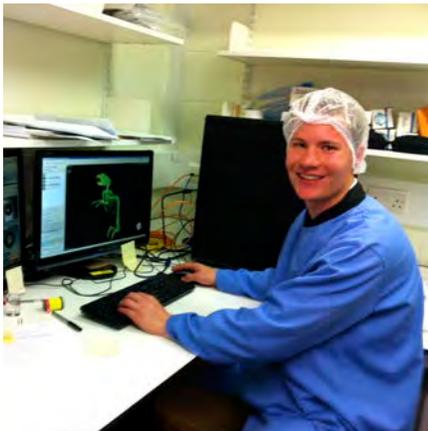
“As a Political Science major with a minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, I was interested in the implications of art and science on humanity, and the responsibility of artists and scientists who push the boundaries of their work. Their answers to my questions led me to ponder who must ultimately be held responsible for shaping and presenting such discoveries in society in a responsible manner. Further, I was delighted to be able to explore human nature in such depth with people from a variety of disciplines and locations. These discussions and hands-on explorations will greatly help me as I pursue a concentration in Political Theory.”

Ciara Dineen
Class of '14, Major in Political Science



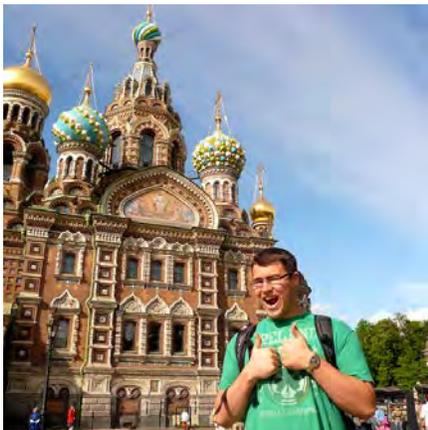
"I attended the MSA 13 conference put forth by the Modernist Studies Association. I participated in a seminar entitled "Broadcast Traces, Tracing Broadcasting." This seminar had nine participants and was led by two of the foremost radio scholars in the discipline today: Debra Rae Cohen and Michael Coyle. Each of the participants wrote a position paper, which were distributed and read before our seminar meeting. This was the most productive experience I have had at a conference yet."

Melissa Dinsman
Doctoral candidate, Ph.D. in Literature



"I accomplished a lot on this trip, professionally, academically and personally. Never before have I authored a paper that involved so much in-depth and high-level physics. Furthermore, the Institute for Cancer Research in London is a well-respected scientific facility, and I will benefit greatly from my interactions with my co-workers there. I now feel that I have a firm grasp of the hard science that goes into medical imaging. Finally, I have grown into a mature traveler, ready for longer and more important trips to conferences and other collaborations."

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



"My time in Russia was nothing short of life-changing. I entered Notre Dame with no intention of studying Russian language. Due to AP credit however, I found my schedule open and decided to pursue a topic most of my peers would never get the chance to study. Though I grew to love the language, I still was committed to double majoring in Finance and Economics, so my schedule in the future could not support Russian without summer study. Thanks to the Nanovic, that was possible."

Vincent Dour
Class of '15, Majors in Finance and Economics



“The Leuven Explorations in Systematic Theology (LEST) is an ongoing series of biennial conferences hosted by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Besides the experience of presenting a paper at an academic conference, perhaps the most valuable outcome of my attending the LEST conference was meeting another doctoral student researching nineteenth century Catholic theology—a period that tends to be ignored by scholarship and so is something of a lonely field of study. It is quite possible that we are the only two graduate students in the world writing on one particular figure, so it goes without saying that this meeting was a boon for both of us.”

Andrew Downing, S.J.
Doctoral candidate, Theology



“I am an Italian native speaker and a first year doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Literature program at the University of Notre Dame. Thanks to the funding I received, I was able to attend language classes at the Alliance Française in Paris and to enroll in an intensive course, which allowed me to improve my reading, listening, and speaking skills substantially. As a result, I am now able to read secondary literature in French with great confidence and to approach French literary production with a satisfactory degree of cognition. I want to start working on French literature and on its interaction with the Latin/Greek classical tradition, so this experience marked an important step in my academic development, and has set good premises for the advancement of my career.”

Elisabetta Drudi
Doctoral candidate, Ph.D. in Literature



"I was able to travel to Fort Worth to receive the Carl S. Meyer Prize at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference (SCSC). The Meyer Prize is awarded, and not necessarily every year, for the best research paper by a graduate student or assistant professor from any discipline that works on the early modern period (ca. 1450-1660). I had presented my paper, entitled 'The Hermeneutics of Emotional Restraint: Calvin's Pastoral Theology of Imprecation in Comparative Context' at the previous meeting of the SCSC in Montreal, Quebec. The Institute was also instrumental in helping me to travel to Montreal to deliver that paper. Thus, because of the Nanovic Institute's assistance, I was able to deliver an award-winning paper in Canada *and* receive the award for that paper in Texas."

Adam Asher Duker
Doctoral candidate, History



"My thesis work is forever changed by my experience in Italy, and I am thoroughly grateful for the chance to experience a world that I previously had not known existed. Not only was my worldview expanded, my way of thinking about the world and communicating with others is fundamentally changed. In my final thesis project, I plan to share the stories that many different women told me and to advance their goal of understanding what it means to be a woman. By reclaiming an identity that we make ourselves, instead of accepting the identity that is projected on to us, women can truly become equal members of a diverse global society."

Lindsay Dun
Class of '14, Majors in Political Science and Gender Studies (Supplementary)



"I spent the month of June in the city archive in Augsburg, Germany. Although German begging is most often studied during the Reformation era, Germany was one of the first Western European countries to pass laws against beggars and to classify them in city records. Augsburg, the site of the oldest social settlement in existence, was also the first city in Germany known to have recorded cant terms describing categories of beggars. As I plan to write my dissertation on the practice and perception of begging in late medieval Germany, these four weeks allowed me to conduct important exploratory research for my dissertation."

Allison Edgren
Doctoral candidate, History



"I had the good fortune to travel to Belfast to continue my thesis research over fall break. My goal was to gain a better understanding of the nature of policing in Northern Ireland in the early period of the Troubles. To accomplish this, I needed to collect police reports documenting the actions of units in certain areas of Belfast during 1968-1971. Gathering this data will allow me to map police actions over a certain period across time and space. I sought the police records in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). Overall, I was able to gather necessary documents for my research, and I look forward to distilling the information for use within my senior thesis. With this data set, I will be able to test this hypothesis and find out if there are any striking results."

Peter Elliott
Class of '12, Majors in Political Science and Economics



“The reason I applied for the Nanovic Senior Travel and Research Grant was to be able to personally experience the aura of the stained glass windows in the east end of the Abbey Church of Saint Denis. I had previously studied these windows in my Gothic Art and Architecture class and was planning on writing my capstone essay for my Minor in European studies on the holistic program of the windows. The result of my trip, however, was much more than I could have imagined. Not only was I able to explore the iconography and design of the stained glass windows at Saint Denis, but I was also able to compare them to several other sets of contemporary stained glass windows throughout Paris.”

Kelly Fallon
Class of '12, Major in Art History



“While working in Belgium, I gained valuable skills, such as the ability to use computer programs common to biologists for analyzing DNA sequences and other data. In my project on the microflora found in barley malt, I evaluated genus-specific primers that enabled us to determine the presence or absence of *Streptococcus* species in samples of barley from various points in the malting process. In another project I worked on, we used rep-PCR fingerprinting (a method of distinguishing species using repeatable DNA elements) to characterize the species communities in barley malt. If everything goes according to plan, my data should be published in a paper authored by my mentor.”

Benjamin Foster
Class of '13, Major in Biological Sciences



“June of 2012 brought for me a rigorous and productive three-week research trip in England. Because I specialize in medieval manuscript studies, obtaining access to my primary sources requires extensive travel, and this trip provided me an opportunity to perform archival research fundamental to the early stages of my project. I spent two weeks working in the manuscript reading rooms at the University of London’s Senate House Library and the British Library, and another week studying at the Cambridge University Library. The work I completed there will allow me to begin drafting three out of the five chapters currently planned for my dissertation.”

Karrie Fuller
Doctoral candidate, English



“This past summer, I lived and worked in Paris as an architecture intern. During the day, I went to work at a small, yet very busy, international architecture firm. Having worked with Notre Dame students in the past, the office knew of the kind of work ethic and quality of work that Notre Dame interns are capable of; there was even a Notre Dame graduate working there full-time! This respectable reputation allowed me to have the freedom to do more tasks than the usual intern. Later in the evening, I came home to a charming and very hospitable Tunisian host family. Both my job experience and my cultural experience in Paris combined to form an unforgettable summer that has contributed to my growth professionally and personally.”

Veronica Galvez
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



“I was able to travel to London for research in the British Library archives, to Paris to explore further the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, to Saint Etienne to attend a performance at an important theater and theater school, and to a small town in Belgium to study the educational philosophy, theater aesthetics and methodology of a theater institute for children. It is hard to express all that these journeys to Europe have done for me as a graduate student, a scholar, and a person. I have literally been able to bring dreams to life.”

Margaret Garvey
Doctoral candidate, Ph.D. in Literature



“I was able to travel to Milan and Venice to study the relationship between social and political life during the Renaissance. Without this research trip, I never could have applied what I learned at Notre Dame to real life and history. This undoubtedly will help me in my Italian Studies major, providing a context to the Renaissance and everything I have studied and will study. I learned more about history and the culture in one week in Italy than one could ever learn from a class or a textbook.”

Andrew Gastelum
Class of '14, Major in Italian Studies



“As a Marketing major, I never would have dreamed I would be traveling to Poland to do research on Catholic religious icons. I had the chance to experience the kindness, generosity, and faith of the Sisters of St. Queen Hedwig and the other Poles with whom I interacted in a way which will undoubtedly affect not only my research, but all of the future experiences I will have with Poland and its culture. Through the generosity of the Nanovic Institute, I had the chance to build an international network of scholars who are experts in the field in which I am doing research, all of whom I can now call on for further insight. I am extremely grateful to Notre Dame and the Nanovic Institute for giving me such a great opportunity.”

Katarina Gelke
Class of '12, Major in Marketing



“Writing about the popular memory of Guy Fawkes and Benedict Arnold as transatlantic celebrities has required me not only to conduct archival research in England, but also to visit public markers that memorialize these figures. Through the generous support of the Institute, I was able to do both of these on a three-week research trip to London in September. In the evenings I attended several seminars and talks held at the British Library, the British Museum, and various events hosted by the Institute for Historical Research at the University of London, where I was able to make several professional connections with faculty and other graduate students.”

Nichole George
Doctoral candidate, History



“I was able to spend five weeks in Paris, France, to study language and to immerse myself in everyday and traditional aspects of French culture. Moreover, to increase my exposure to everyday French, I also acted as a volunteer at ITER, a Catholic cultural center based in the parish of Saint Germain-l’Auxerrois. Now I am planning to attend graduate-level classes in French during my second year of Ph.D. studies. This grant made possible a crucial advancement in the formative pattern that is preparing me for my final dissertation.”

Filippo Gianferrari
Doctoral candidate, Medieval Institute



“The trip to Geneva was incredible, more successful and educational that I could have hoped for. I learned more about *Frankenstein* and its impact than I thought I would, giving me more respect for the novel and for Mary Shelley. Our project was very successful overall. We got a lot of great footage that will be crucial for our film. Each day we had a planned activity that was related to our task, and we shot these and other events throughout the week. I greatly appreciate the Nanovic Institute’s aid in our project, as I was able to build upon my own definitions of human nature from the experiences we had.”

John Gibbons
Class of '14, Major in Political Science



“The international aspect of the Border Crossing Seminar in Milan, Italy greatly benefited my academic development here at the University of Notre Dame. It allowed me for the first time to directly connect two areas of my undergraduate studies: Italian and Political Science. The research that I was able to conduct as a result of this seminar was also significant. I am currently writing my senior thesis on the intersection of Italian political thought and opera. My research for the seminar allowed me to continue to explore the traditions of Italian political thought, including its interaction with states outside of Italy. This increased and focused research, and its resulting paper, would not have been viable without my participation at the Border Crossing Seminar.”

Caitlin Glimco
Class of '13, Majors in Political Science and Music



“Through the generous senior travel grant program, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Paris, France during my fall break to pursue a fascinating project. I went to Paris to study at the unique *Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris*, where I had access to collections of eighteenth-century French revolutionary propaganda. This was truly an unforgettable and educational experience. I want to personally extend my deepest gratitude to everyone at the Nanovic Institute for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I am so grateful!”

Danny Harper
Class of '12, Majors in Psychology and Romance Languages & Literatures



“My time at the Archabbey of Pannonhalma in Hungary was a valuable experience of both Hungarian and monastic culture. By living among the monks throughout the week, I was able to join with them in all their hours of public prayer, dine with them in their private refectory, and observe the balance between the silence of the cloister and the busyness of the school. Furthermore, I witnessed both the continuity and differences between life in this modern European monastery and the life described in the rule given by St. Benedict to monks in the sixth century. As I finish my final semester of studies, the opportunity to visit the Archabbey was a fitting synthesis of my academic and personal interests.”

Braydn Harsha
Class of '12, Majors in Philosophy and Medieval Studies



“I had an amazing time in France this summer and I am so glad I had the opportunity to experience the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. I learned a lot about the industry, international travel, and most importantly, myself. I dispelled many myths about the industry that I previously held and I have created a plan on how to continue to pursue my dreams. I would like to express my appreciation to Nanovic for funding my trip and providing the much-needed support that I needed.”

Joseph L. Haskins III
Class of '14, Majors in Information Technology Management and Film, Television, & Theatre



"My dissertation asks: why are some militaries more effective in combat than others? I needed to look at several types of materials: war diaries describing specific units' battle experiences, censorship reports based on censorship of troop letters, regimental histories, and government propaganda. My archival research trip to London was crucial. The material I acquired provides necessary details for measuring variables of interest and allows me to put cases into their proper context. Your support was invaluable in this progress."

Kirstin Hasler

Doctoral candidate, Political Science, R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Family Grant



"I went to Salamanca, Spain, for four weeks this summer. The purpose of the trip was to immerse myself in the Spanish culture and attain a higher level of fluency in Spanish. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hang out with Spanish people so often, as most of the other foreigners here in Salamanca seemed to spend most of their time with other foreigners. It was a great experience. I gained an appreciation for different cultural values and greatly improved my spoken Spanish."

Stephen Hawn

Class of '15, Major in Biochemistry



"I will forever be indebted to the Nanovic Institute for giving me the opportunity to explore my philosophical inquiry through a European lens. What started as a seemingly direct research objective led to an exploration of the philosophy of performance, transcending my own cultural constrictions and prompting a higher degree of intellectualism than I ever could have imagined."

Audrey Hayes

Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and Music



"This grant allowed me to travel to Amsterdam for the Third Annual Dutch Conference on Practical Philosophy and stay for two nights. During my stay I had the opportunity to attend many talks, as well as present a paper on which I've been working for the last year. I was able to hear talks by two of today's most prominent philosophers, receive feedback on my own work by excellent scholars, and meet several people who are at the same career stage as I am. This was a wonderful professional opportunity, and I'm very grateful to have been given it."

Amelia Hicks
Doctoral candidate, Philosophy



"Geneva, though far away now, was every bit the perfect amalgam of art and science that my fellow recipients and I expected it to be, in itself one of the Frankensteins we traveled there to document. It is in Geneva that one can see science manifested in a \$4.4 billion particle accelerator and in the mist rising over the Villa Diodati, and where a student can attempt to piece together this human creation, whether in the chambers of the U.N. or over fondue on the pier, into the vibrant mesh that the city weaves. Through collaborative filming and questioning of our straight-from-the-novel settings, we found that Frankenstein's monster was not the only confused creation of art and science that has walked the Earth."

David Howe
Class of '14, Major in Physics



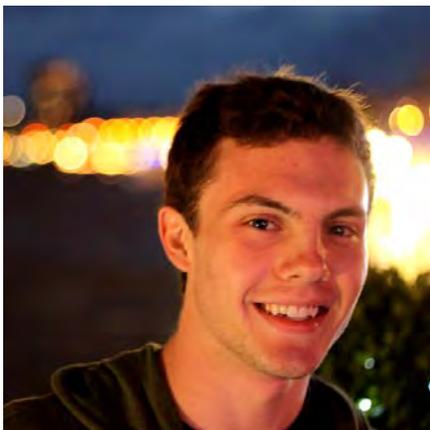
“My experiences in Bulgaria over the past two years have strongly influenced my goals for the future. I am currently in the process of applying for a yearlong research Fulbright to Bulgaria, as well as applying to several Anthropology Ph.D. programs in the Midwest. Through my three trips to Bulgaria, I have witnessed my research question evolve from an interest in consumerism to a genuine concern about the nature in which ethnographic research is conducted.”

Morgan C. Iddings
Class of '13, Major in Anthropology, Charles C. Price Memorial Fund for East-Central European Studies



“Thanks to the funds I received from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, I was able to extend my study abroad experience at the University of Oxford by working with world-renowned opera scholar Professor Michael Burden to begin research on my senior thesis. The month primarily allowed me to flesh out poor ideas and refine my topic; I now feel well-positioned to spend senior year working on a focused question I developed during my summer in the UK.”

Edward Jacobson
Class of '13, Major in Music



“As a History major beginning his third year of undergraduate studies, the ability to utilize an expansive pool of resources, including both primary and secondary sources, is becoming more and more important. Given my focus on Europe between the French Revolution and German unification, the German language is key for understanding many documents from Europe during the time period that I’m studying. The grant that the Nanovic Institute funded allowed me to travel to Germany and propel my knowledge of the language forward.”

Matthew Jewell
Class of '14, Major in History



“Stepping foot off the airplane in Novosibirsk, I knew that my summer would be one in a truly foreign world. The driver dropped me off at a run-down, stereotypically Siberian dormitory. This dormitory had no information on my arrival. After a long and painful conversation with the floor mother, I realized two things. First, I was at the wrong address and needed to find my actual dormitory. Second, I was not fully prepared to immerse myself in Russian culture. After two months, I could approach and converse with people with confidence. Although my accent was strong and my grammar was atrocious, I could get my point across, and I could nearly always understand spoken Russian. I used my newly-acquired language skills to pass the foreign-language exam required for Ph.D. candidates in mathematics.”

Jesse Johnson
Doctoral candidate, Mathematics



“The internship at Arcas Paris was an opportunity for me to develop and expand my skills as an architecture student, and it provided me with a unique experience to be exposed to French culture and architectural tradition as well as the firsthand experience at an architecture firm in the professional field. The two months in Paris gave me not only a better understanding of European architectural styles and ideas, but also a deeper appreciation of Europe itself.”

HaMin Joo
Class of '14, Major in Architecture



"I was overwhelmed with people's generosity with their time and their interest in my research. My interviewees often volunteered the names and contact information of other people they thought would be helpful. Several expressed interest in reading the final report. Personal anecdotes told during the interviews gave my topic a more personal dimension. Several of my meetings continued after I had concluded the formal interview as we continued to discuss a variety of topics over coffee. The research experience in Dublin gave me valuable interview experience and a passion to continue conducting original, qualitative research."

Hilary Kelly
Class of '12, Major in Political Science



"This summer I had the opportunity to study the legacy of the US 10th Mountain Division and the impact that they had during the Italian campaign of World War II. In addition to the vast knowledge I had accumulated about the division, I also gained valuable research and study experience. It was the first time that I conducted individual research outside of the classroom. I was forced to be outgoing and inquisitive, or risk not achieving my research goals. As a result, I learned to budget my time, order my priorities and master the European transportation system. I became an active note taker, carrying a notebook everywhere I went. I also began to keep a daily diary for the first time in my life. I believe that all of these elements combined to give me an enriching and productive experience that has made me a better learner."

David Kenney
Class of '14, Majors in History and Economics



"Before my trip to France, I was unsure how language study would fit into my education or professional plans. Yet now, I am exploring future opportunities to further my studies, from summer internship opportunities, to Notre Dame's new program that allows direct matriculation at the French university Diderot in Paris, to a possible teaching fellowship in France after graduation. The best thing I can say about my summer study abroad experience is that it has transformed me from a student who happened to be studying French to a student who genuinely enjoys French classes and cannot wait to pursue future opportunities to apply the French language in francophone countries."

Matthew Kibler
Class of '15, Major in Philosophy



"Aside from giving me an opportunity to experience the challenges and excitements of doing on-site original research with material that would not have been otherwise accessible, this grant allowed me to connect with my French Revolution course, and with my French studies in general, in a broader way. It became clear, during my time in Paris, that the French Revolution is not simply academic, but is a real historical entity that has had a true impact on the French identity. I could see this in the streets of Paris, where I accidentally stumbled upon a monument celebrating the very events of the Revolution that I had been spending the semester studying, and I could see it in the people of Paris, who were interested in my research and who were more than willing to share insights and advice from a French perspective."

Rebecca Kibler
Class of '13, Major in Psychology



"I spent five weeks in Sorrento, Italy at Sant' Anna Institute-Sorrento Lingue (SASL). As the goal was to improve spoken language skills, I'm glad that I did everything I did when I was in Sorrento. I spoke Italian during my classes, and to people at the office, but I thought my host family made a huge difference because they were constantly speaking Italian to and around me. I feel that my host family gave me the opportunity to be constantly surrounded by the Italian language, instead of spending the day hearing and speaking Italian but returning to an apartment with an English-speaking roommate. I definitely feel that this summer greatly improved my Italian and my comfort level speaking it."

Kaitlyn Kiely
Class of '14, Majors in Computer Science and Italian



"I presented my first paper at a conference of the major academic society in my field. Attending the conference was interesting, as it exposed me to the latest research, and offered many opportunities through working seminars, meals, and informal conversations to meet some of the best scholars, including several whose books I have relied upon in my own research. Among these interactions I was able to meet a scholar whose current work informs my own, and we agreed to keep abreast of each other's ongoing efforts for further study and eventual publication. The comments and suggestions of seminar participants on my paper will assist me to improve it towards publication in a peer-reviewed journal."

Richard Klee
Doctoral candidate, Theology



"This Nanovic grant has given me the unique and significant opportunity to discover first-hand the policies behind Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Ireland. I had the opportunity to meet with government representatives and representatives from China throughout my week in Ireland to discuss the issue of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment, and more broadly, the presence of China in Ireland. Through funding by the Nanovic Institute, I was able to break into research at the international level, and worked on the foundation for my senior thesis, making connections that will help me further develop my research."

Deanna Kolberg
Class of '14, Major in Political Science



"A unique practice of *Le Case delle Piccole Sorelle dei Poveri* in Rome that I did not see in other religious houses was the praying of the Angelus in the Roman way. While it is not unusual for the Sisters to pray the Angelus, the addition of three 'Glorias' at the end of the Angelus was. With this example, the Sisters explained that their order adapted to the culture where they are serving. More information on specific prayers and practices as seen in the Roman Home will be explained and used in my senior thesis on the French spirituality of the Little Sisters of the Poor."

Sandra Laguerta
Class of '13, Major in Theology



“The Northern Ireland Social Concerns Seminar was an amazing experience that I could never have anticipated. Everyone I interacted with while in County Armagh was extremely cordial and generous. The opportunity to share my skills with the students at Lismore Junior High, and build relationships between the Protestant and Catholic school children, was an unforgettable experience. I left Ireland having helped build a professional working website for the *Lios Mor Fort* and as part of a community that had become very dear to me.”

Michelle R. Laux
Class of '12, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies



“My goal this summer was to combine archaeological epidemiology and public health policy. I accomplished the vast majority of the research goals I set out with at the beginning of the summer in sanitation analysis, structural analysis, records analysis, and oral history gathering. I spent most of my time with Leo Murray, a former resident of Inishark who continues to make his living as a fisherman. Conversing and spending time with Leo was without a doubt my favorite part of the entire trip. With the support of the Institute, I experienced the most growth as a scholar and researcher than during any other experience. This was the direct result, I believe, of the amount of independence I was afforded to execute my research plan. For this fantastic experience and for the work I was able to conduct in Ireland, I am truly thankful.”

Philip Lettieri
*Class of '13, Majors in Biology and Anthropology,
Winner, R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Grant for Best Undergraduate Proposal*



“It was exhilarating to experience the actual work of a master architect after spending months studying him. In my two weeks in and around Turin, I was able to visit twelve buildings built by Bernardo Vittone. Six of the twelve I focused my time analyzing and documenting by means of photographs, sketching, and notes. These drawings, notes, and photographs will provide me with valuable knowledge for my thesis and for years to come. The majority of Vittone’s buildings are in small working towns. These projects had meager budgets, and yet these buildings are some of his best. It is these buildings that I find to be an inspiration. No matter the scale of the project or the budget, a beautiful building can still be built.”

George Logusch
Master’s candidate, Architecture



“During my study at the *Institut de Touraine* in Tours, France, I got more exposure to European culture than ever before. Cultural diversity is not just different cuisines or architectural styles; rather, it is reflected by people’s different interests and mindsets in politics, religions, sports, cultures, traditions and other issues. Beside learning French and exploring the country, I also started realizing that outside my usual life circle, there is an extremely broad world where people lead thoroughly distinctive lives from mine. Interacting with people from different countries not only expanded my breadth of knowledge, but also, more importantly, taught me to perceive differences in an objective and inclusive way.”

Qiancheng Lu
*Class of '14, Major in Accountancy, Katie
Murphy-McMahon Endowment for European Studies*



“The support I received allowed me to conduct a two-part research trip. First, I spent four weeks working in the National Archive of Ireland and the National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin. I spent the last two weeks of my trip in London conducting research at the British National Archive. The work that I completed with this grant from the Institute will broaden the reach of my dissertation project’s implications beyond Ireland to nineteenth-century Europe in general.”

Jessica Lumsden
Doctoral candidate, History



“The research that I was able to pursue thanks to the generosity of the Institute facilitated mammoth strides in my intellectual and professional progress. Working at the British and Bodleian libraries, I combed fifteen manuscripts for evidence of a particular indulgence circulating in the late-fourteenth- and early-fifteenth-centuries, the ‘Mass of St. Gregory.’ Thanks to the Institute’s generous support, I have now embarked on an intellectual trajectory that I expect will continue to uncover new information and open up diverse avenues for research.”

Erica Machulak
Doctoral candidate, English



“I spent the majority of my time in Paris interviewing the photographers who contributed to Amnesty International’s exhibit *Dignité* in order to create QR codes for the DIGNITY exhibit which will be debuting in the United States at the Snite Museum of Art this January as part of Rousseau 2012/DIGNITY. While in Paris, I participated in five interviews with photographers Phillipe Brault, Guillaume Herbaut, Johann Rousset, and Michail Zumstein, and the exhibit’s curator Yves Prigent. Yves Prigent and each of the photographers demonstrated inspiring passion.”

Lea Malewitz
Class of '12, Majors in French & Francophone Studies and Arabic Studies



“Over the past two semesters, I visited the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in order to examine twenty-six drawings of male and female nudes in their collections and gain access to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century drawing treatises in their libraries. These trips offered a valuable opportunity to closely observe works on paper that are almost always kept in storage (for reasons of conservation), and to supplement my previous research in preparation for a small exhibition that will be mounted in the spring of 2013 at the Snite Museum of Art.”

Brigid Mangano
Master's candidate, Art History



“Because of my Nanovic European Internship and Service Grant, I was able to spend six weeks this summer working in the Paris office of the architectural firm Arcas Europe. Arcas Paris is a small firm with one principal architect, Maurice Culot, one partner and three permanent employees. Working in the office of Arcas Paris, I was able to meet some important European architects. I even received a signed copy of a book on Pier Carlo Bontempi’s work *Piazza Nuova* which had sections written by Maurice Culot. I am hopeful that working at Arcas Paris this summer will help me to secure a job after I graduate this upcoming spring. It will be helpful to have a letter of recommendation from Maurice Culot as well as Arcas Paris on my resume and work from this summer in my portfolio.”

Claire Martell
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



"I traveled to England from March 21 to April 7, 2012 in order to present a paper at the "Royal Body Conference" at Royal Holloway University of London. A secondary purpose of the trip was to conduct research for an article which has been accepted for publication in 2013 in the journal *Oeuvres et Critiques*. The article is on the political thought of Jean Boucher, a member of the Parisian Catholic League during the French Wars of Religion who was exiled to Brussels after 1594. One scholar from the University of Warwick was interested in serving as an outside reader of my dissertation."

John McCormack
Doctoral candidate, History



"Inspired by my interest in street art, my project, initially 'Street Art off the Streets: Soviet Graffiti in the Reichstag,' was borne from an interest in the Cyrillic graffiti left by Soviet forces that vandalized the German parliament building during their successful seizure of Berlin in 1945. Supplemented by a generous grant, I traveled to Berlin over a week-long break in October 2011 to conduct onsite research at the Reichstag and to see firsthand the scrawled remnants of an unforgotten past. Are they a scar on the visage of a recovering culture or simply a documentation of the past as the country looks optimistically towards its future?"

Shannon McNaught
Class of '12, Majors in Art History and French & Francophone Studies (Supplementary)



“Over the course of two weeks in London, I examined the changes in British counterterrorism and immigration policy, especially in light of the upcoming Olympics. Without the support of the Institute, this research would not have been possible. It was only through traveling to London and experiencing the city that I was able to fully grasp the meaning of multiculturalism and the impact of immigration on society. The in-person interviews, the visit to the *Migrations* exhibit, the tour of New Scotland Yard and Parliament, the trip to visit the caseworker in the suburbs, and the visit to the Home Office could not have happened without actually going to London. Because of the Institute’s support, my research took on a new depth.”

Kelly McRaven
*Class of '13, Major in Political Science, Katie
Murphy-McMahon Endowment for European Studies*



“I was able to conduct archival research for my dissertation, entitled ‘Ireland, the United States and the “Nation of Immigrants,” 1919-1965.’ I visited the United Nations Archives and University College-Dublin for approximately a two-week period. During the course of my writing, I identified issues that required me to consult various private papers again. I plan to present the findings in a conference paper at the upcoming *British Isles and the Continent* conference at Notre Dame, sponsored by the Nanovic Institute.”

Meredith Meagher
Doctoral candidate, History



“While widely considered the international ‘one percent,’ investment banks have been particularly affected by the global economic downturn. The banking industry has changed, perhaps forever, due to diminishing returns on investments, pervasive risks, and the new wave of regulations from a variety of governments. My break travel and research through the Institute allowed me the incredible opportunity to directly learn about the financial crisis from the perspective of financial institutions. In my meetings with Tier 1 investment banks in London, United Kingdom, and Zurich, Switzerland, I gained valuable insight on the current situation of the Euro and the strategies that may lead to future economic recovery.”

Paul Mickan
Class of '14, Major in Economics



“This summer, I spent three months as an intern at an immunology lab in *Helmholtz Zentrum München Haematologikum*, located in the *Großhadern* district. I investigated the expression levels of several microRNAs during the differentiation of regulatory T cells. My lab often made excursions to places near Munich during the weekend, including Lake Starnberg and Wendelstein mountain. Twice during my internship, my lab went to the Isar river to enjoy the nice weather and barbecue after work. I enjoyed my colleagues’ help and company greatly. Researching in Germany made me consider possibilities that I would not have considered otherwise—like doing a Master’s or Ph.D. degree in Germany.”

Young Moon
Class of '14, Majors in Biology and Anthropology



"Although brief, this trip to Rome was enormously productive and illuminating. My objective was twofold. First, I needed to return to the Vatican Library, which I was able to visit the previous summer thanks to an Institute grant. Second, I was to visit the Archives of the Carmelite Order to study a manuscript that was supposed to contain another copy of the text I am editing for my dissertation, and which I had not yet been able to see, either on-site or through a facsimile. The second part of my trip yielded unexpected, fascinating results. I am profoundly grateful to the Institute for supporting my research in Europe, and I am delighted that the past two trips the Institute has funded have proven to be so fruitful, yielding results that will genuinely change the field in new and exciting ways."

David Morris
Doctoral candidate, History



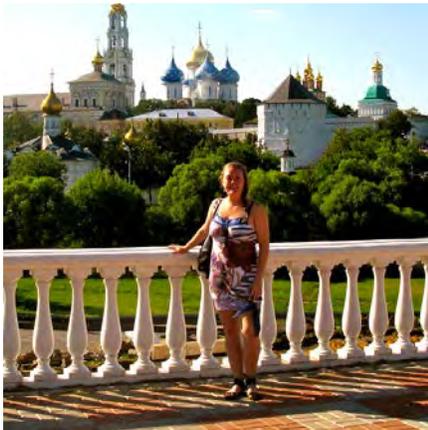
"This summer, I studied the legacy of 19th century Parisian architecture in Paris as well as Brussels. The research I conducted this summer gave me the opportunity not only to further my knowledge of the French capital, but also to further the development of my thesis as an architecture student. I was able to meet with scholars familiar with the development of Paris under the Second Empire and its influence on the continuing developments within Paris and abroad. In addition to my meetings, I found myself in the *Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris* and the library of the *Pavillon de l'Arsenal*. The research I conducted there was a synthesis of both acquiring and obtaining copies of such historical maps as well as personally creating accurately scaled architectural sketches and diagrams of the current cities."

Dorothy Nguyen
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



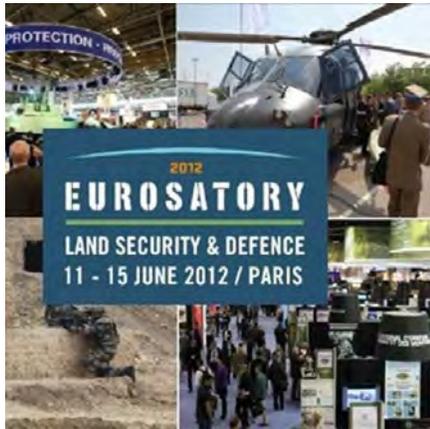
“My political philosophy dissertation on global justice, which asks how liberal democracies ought to treat severely oppressive regimes, and explores the possibility of expanding the EU model globally, has been gathering pace in the last year, as several components of the project have been accepted for publication as journal articles. The Institute’s support of my presentations at several international conferences has helped these projects in too many ways to enumerate, so for that support, I am grateful.”

Shmuel Nili
Doctoral candidate, Political Science



“My summer in Moscow presented me with the opportunity to live in a city amongst a society so very different than any I have ever experienced, and so fascinating. Everything about my time in Russia was exciting; every day was an achievement of some sort. The opportunity to use Russian—this very complicated, extraordinary tool of communication—to accomplish anything, to convey an idea, to order mystery meat from a street stand, to connect with another human being in even the simplest exchange, was incredibly satisfying.”

Katherine Norman
Class of '13, Majors in French & Francophone Studies and Russian (Supplementary)



“This previous summer, I was the lucky recipient of the Institute’s Herrly Internship in Paris and as such, spent my summer in Paris, France assisting former U.S. Colonel Peter Herrly in coordinating a conference on Cyber Security and Cyber Defense as part of the Eurosatory Defense Trade Show. I am extremely appreciative of all the opportunities that Col. Herrly offered me during my time abroad. Not only did he push me to accept great responsibility, but he rewarded my accomplishments and introduced me to company executives and military generals as well as the U.S. ambassador to France. I began the Herrly Internship application thinking that a summer in France would be a great experience for me regardless of what my post-graduate plans were. By the end of my internship, I knew that the internship had offered me insight into what my future would look like. Thanks again to the Institute and to Col. Herrly for a life-altering opportunity.”

Priscilla Nyankson
Class of '13, Majors in Political Science and History



“As a sophomore, I read a novel by French-Algerian author, Leila Sebbar. It was my first introduction to the history of the Algerian War of Independence and the protests of October 17, 1961. I first began my research on the topic through a grant from the Nanovic Institute in the fall of 2011, and was able to continue it this summer in Paris. In the coming year, I plan to write my thesis in a hope of gaining further recognition for this forgotten moment in French history, and my research in Paris has already proved invaluable in analyzing the way that Algerians remember the painful events that defined their era of independence. I hope to use this research to show that the new generations of Franco-Algerians no longer accept the political neglect and are fighting to have their stories and the stories of their parents heard.”

Monica O’Hearn
Class of '13, Major in Romance Languages & Literatures



“This spring, I had the opportunity to present my senior thesis at The National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Ogden, Utah. I found this conference very beneficial for conference experience, networking, and professional development. I really enjoyed presenting, meeting new people, learning about writing, and learning about people who were doing similar research to mine. This experience, which is crucial to my growth as a scholar, was both beneficial in itself and beneficial as a starting point to a hopefully prosperous career in academia.”

Anna O’Meara
Class of ’12, Major in Art History



“This semester I was awarded a grant to assist my travels to present a paper at a conference held by the *Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance*, in Tours, France. It was a particular honor for me, as a junior scholar, to speak at this select gathering, as it was organized by one of the leading European centers for Renaissance studies. Being the most junior member there, I was able to forge new relationships and strengthen old ones with scholars working throughout Europe. Moreover, as I was the only non-native Francophone, this was an excellent opportunity to practice my French, an opportunity not to be taken for granted in a globalizing world of European studies.”

Richard Oosterhoff
Doctoral candidate, History & Philosophy of Science



“Doing research in Rome was an incredible learning experience. I had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to thumb through the handwritten music of a composer whom I had studied in music history, and now have the opportunity to sing this music as part of my senior thesis. I’m nervous about performing music that has been lost in a library for many years, because there is very little upon which to base my interpretation besides the previously published and frequently performed Scarlatti cantatas. However, I look forward to this challenge. In addition, I’m excited about the possibility of expanding this research to more of Scarlatti’s unpublished cantatas.”

Samantha Osborn
Class of '13, Major in Music



“My time in Madrid, Spain, changed my life. It made a vital impact on how I approach different cultures. In seven weeks, I was able to improve my Spanish language skills drastically, give my service to two organizations (Best Buddies of Madrid and Jardines de España), and also begin the first steps of my research for my senior thesis. I learned that I want to continue my cross-cultural research for a thesis comparing the opportunities and lifestyles of people with disabilities in developed, developing, and under-developed countries. I also clarified where to focus my research and which aspects I would like to compare.”

Alexis Pala
Class of '15, Major in Anthropology, R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Family Grant



“In the summer of 2012, I taught English in Brychovychi, Ukraine. The program was English Summer School, an annual effort of the Ukrainian Catholic University to create an English immersion environment for their students and affiliated seminarians. Each teacher had a co-teacher, and the two taught roughly ten students. My co-teacher and I were in charge of beginning English students. Teaching English, especially to beginners, was a unique challenge. I learned what an awful tangle of webs English grammar is: for a language with almost no declensions or conjugations, it still presents its share of woe.”

Dale Parker

Class of '13, Major in Classics, Katie Murphy-McMahon Endowment for European Studies



“I had the opportunity to further my research toward a Master in Fine Arts degree in Studio Art by traveling to Berlin, Germany. In addition, to follow up on professional contacts, I extended my trip to include a stay in Barcelona, Spain. It was wonderful rubbing shoulders with an eclectic array of international artists. I consider my experiences in both places to be formative in the direction of my work, and I have returned to the Notre Dame campus energized, inspired, and better equipped to develop my work here to its full potential.”

Heather Parrish

Master of Fine Arts candidate, Studio & Design



“My research took me to southern Albania to examine the impact of heritage management at Butrint National Park on the nearby villages of Ksamil, Shëndilli, Vrinë, Xarrë, and Mursi. This grant allowed me to carry out research that will serve as the foundation of my senior thesis, and granted me the opportunity for total immersion into a foreign culture, testing my ability to adapt and compensate for linguistic and cultural differences. The analysis of the interviews I conducted will enhance my understanding of the relationships between local stakeholders in protected sites and the goals of local communities. The experience of living and conducting research in Albania is the defining point of my career as a Notre Dame student.”

Suzanna Pratt

Class of '13, Majors in Anthropology and Peace Studies (Supplementary), Katie Murphy-McMahon Grant for European Studies



“My research over the summer as a whole was a critical experience for me as a university student and something that has enriched my academic career. The research I did feeds into the research I am currently doing for my senior research seminar for English which looks at how we study and ‘read’ a poem and whether it can be read as something that is historically contingent or even contingent upon the poet himself. Also, my study in London has helped me to better prepare for pursuing research as something that is at once strategic, needing significant planning and also adjustment during the process, and is bound to have difficulties along the way though it is all the more rewarding for it.”

Irene Rho

Class of '13, Major in English



“The Nanovic grant afforded me the unique opportunity to conduct original research and address a general lack of scholarship on the Temple of Roma and Augustus. But it also enabled me to experience monuments and artifacts that have been admired for millennia, bringing me one step closer to the works of historians, scholars and poets who came before me that felt the same awe and had the same questions. Being able to undertake my research on the Athenian Acropolis and amongst Roman ruins was a unique privilege and an invaluable resource for my Master’s thesis that would not have been possible without the Nanovic Grant.”

Anna Rogers
Master’s candidate, Art, Art History & Design



“My research trip to the French Foreign Ministry archives completely changed the scope of my thesis on Syrian nationalism during the French Mandate. For my senior honors history thesis, I am researching a Syrian nationalist organization that advocated Syrian autonomy from the Ottoman Empire under the aegis of France. Before going to Paris, I had access to information about their president, Chekri Ganem, and to various written works by the *Comité Central Syrien*. What I was lacking, however, was proof that the *Comité* was closely working with the French government in order to achieve their goals. The new information I was able to gather will be extremely helpful in developing a strong argument in my thesis and in demonstrating the significance of the work of the CCS during the mandate period.”

Nathalie Rosado
Class of '12, Major in History



"This summer, I was fortunate enough to be able to work with Professor Rolf Zwaan, a cognitive psychologist and chair at Erasmus University, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. During the weeks that I was there, I worked in an office at Erasmus, reading relevant articles, creating experiments, and analyzing data. I also attended lab meetings once a week, which were opportunities for me to tell the other graduate students in the lab how my project was progressing and receive feedback, as well as to hear the graduate students' projects and results. Ultimately, my time working at Erasmus University with Professor Zwaan assured my confidence in how I want to invest my future."

Meghan Salomon
Class of '13, Majors in English and Psychology



"I interned for two months at the Holy See Mission to the United Nations. The work entailed direct cooperation and collaboration with staff members, detailed research on relevant issues at the United Nations, and the formulation of the response of the Catholic Church to the issues at the United Nations. Although I was the youngest intern in the office by eight years, there was always opportunity for substantive work. I was responsible for producing three of the Mission's six official speeches. The three statements I researched and authored were on the elimination of discrimination against women, the human rights of migrants, and freedom of religion. For other meetings I also produced statements on the rights of refugees and persecution of Christians."

Nicholas Schilling
Class of '14, Major in Political Science



“To me, this summer abroad experience was much more than a trip to learn German. I spent a month with a class of students from all over the world. Without a doubt, this experience has opened up my mind to the many different ways of living. I saw what it was like to live somewhere where all the stores closed rather early or where an extremely large portion of the locals biked to and from work. I had to try to explain to the rest of my class why Americans have a healthcare problem or why I pay so much for a university education. I heard from a native what it is like to, to this day, deal with the consequences of having ancestors be involved with the Holocaust. Those are the types of experiences that kind of stick with you on the plane ride back and influence your perspective on what you thought you knew.”

Stephen Schroder
Class of '15, Majors in Accountancy and German



“I served as an intern architect for eight weeks at the ARCAS Europe firm located in Paris, France. I remain very grateful to the Nanovic Institute for funding this experience. I now feel more confident about my ability to branch out from what I know and do well in situations that require me to learn rapidly. I also came away valuing very strongly the work environment that takes into account the professional and personal wellbeing of an employee and intern. I am now much better prepared to successfully interview with national and international firms that require previous international experience. It is also reassuring to know that I can more than merely live and work in a large foreign city. I can thrive.”

Christina Shannon
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



“The Nanovic grant gave me the opportunity to present my paper at the ‘Borders, Sovereignty, and Human Rights’ conference in Milan, Italy. My perspective on political theory and peace studies expanded as a result of listening to lectures, engaging with other Italian students and presenters, and exploring Italy’s culture. The conference reminded me of my passion for learning and engaging with students, thus affirming my desire to pursue a career in which I can interact with students and intellectuals, ultimately with the goal of making a difference in the world.”

Tamara Shaya
Master’s candidate, International Peace Studies



“My intensive class was just that, intensive. Everything was in German from the moment I got to class, to the last day when we had to say goodbye. Having to define and explain words pushed us to use our expanded vocabulary in concrete, realistic situations while we were still in class. When I wanted to get groceries I had to speak German; when I would buy a cup of coffee I needed to use German; when I went to museums, the display cards were in German; everything I saw and heard was overwhelmingly in German. I was forced to integrate German into every aspect of my life and it paid off. At the end of my time there in Munich, I was thinking in German and could converse fluidly in everyday speech.”

Kimberly Smith
Class of ‘15, Major in Mechanical Engineering



"I spent two weeks this January conducting research at the Irish Film Institute (IFI) in Dublin. Much of my research focused on films that are commercially unavailable and thus unavailable to the students and faculty at Notre Dame. It is now possible for our library to purchase such films, and start building its Irish film collection to cater to our outstanding Irish Studies Department as well as the students and faculty of the Film, Television, and Theatre Department. Hopefully new access to these previously unavailable films will help inspire a growth in academic interest in the Irish film industry. Moreover, it is my hope that it will broaden other student's perspectives on the politics of film as it did mine."

Eilis Smyth
Class of '13, Majors in English and Philosophy



"When I left the United States in late May I was very idealistic about what awaited me in Finland. I had read countless books and articles about the success of the Finnish education system and from those I had created a picture-perfect ideal of what this system would be like. Unlike many realities that do not live up to such high expectations, the reality in Finland was even more amazing than the picture I had created. My trip to Finland was an invaluable experience for both my research into the Finnish education system, but more importantly for the dreams and ideals that I have for what the American education system can be."

Alexandra Soisson
Class of '14, Major in American Studies, Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies



“My experience in Vienna provided me with a wealth of knowledge about the MuseumsQuartier Wien’s (MQ) role within the urban environment, both through the information garnered through interviews with Viennese professionals and my own analysis of the MQ’s location, facilities, and advertising campaigns. Many of the insights that I gathered during my time in Vienna, especially in relation to the MQ’s outdoor courtyards, are notably absent from the existing academic literature on the MQ, and this opportunity to collect data on-site, and within the MQ itself, will aid me tremendously. Many thanks!”

Sarah Spieler
Class of '12, Majors in Marketing and Art History



“This summer, I participated in the distinctly Spanish way of healing for seven weeks in a pediatric oncology internship at the Vall d’Hebron University Hospital of Barcelona, Spain. Not only was I able to observe the cutting edge of oncological practices, but also I had an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the relationship between a society and its medical care. While Spanish medicine is not without problems, particularly in light of Spain’s current economic crisis, the medical professionals at Vall d’Hebron exemplified personalism in medicine. After my experience in Barcelona, I am newly convicted to follow in their footsteps: to practice compassion and humanity as a physician and to use the best of my culture to the advantage of my patients.”

Kathryn Squiers
*Class of '14, Majors in History and Arts & Letters
Pre-Health (Supplementary), Charles C. Price Memorial
Fund for East-Central European Studies*



“Over spring break, I was fortunate enough to receive from the Nanovic Institute the Senior Travel and Research Grant, which allowed me to travel to Paris, France for one week. While I was there, I was able to study at the *Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris* and to visit the markets about which I wrote my research paper, Les Halles. I feel that my research truly profited from my trip to Paris over spring break. I was able to access literature at the library that was not available to me here at Notre Dame. More importantly, I was able to explore Les Halles itself, and discover how much the area has changed in the last 150 years. I am truly thankful to the Nanovic Institute for allowing me this opportunity.”

Sarah Sraders
Class of '12, Major in Romance Languages & Literatures



“The only real way to perfect an accent and colloquial speech is by spending time speaking the target language in the target country. I was in Italy for two months this past summer and spent four hours every day in intensive language classes at the *Cultura Italiana* language institute, focusing on conversation. The language school provided exactly what I was hoping to experience: native speakers, cultural immersion (with multiple nationalities!), and assistance with the weak areas of my grammar. Apart from an improvement in my teaching, I am hoping that the extra time spent on my language will help me as I apply to Ph.D. programs this fall.”

Susanna Stamile
Master's candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures



“My advanced language training grant has made possible for me an opportunity that otherwise would not be within the realm of possibility; as such, this grant has provided the occasion, not only for the direct results and effects to be gained during the summer experience, but the subsequent, longer-term effects that this opportunity provides in my academic and personal life. As regards the short-term effect and results during the summer, I was able to give a lecture in French at the Sorbonne on the philosophical and religious thought of René Descartes and its influence in contemporary philosophy. The amount gained during my time abroad is difficult to calculate, however, since my experience in Paris has planted in me more seeds for growth than are possible to quantify.”

Troy Stefano
Doctoral candidate, Theology



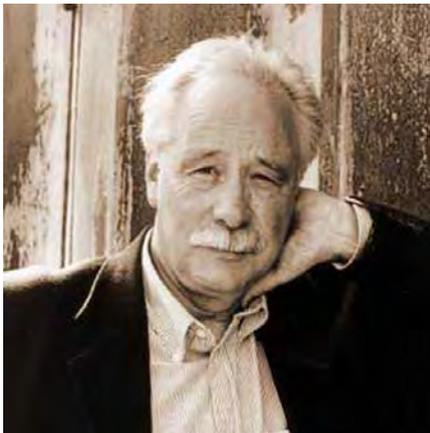
“With funding from the Nanovic Institute, I was able to take an internship position with the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival. While attending the festival on the beautiful French Riviera and experiencing French culture was an experience I’ll never forget, the most valuable part of my experience that complements my film studies back on campus is what I learned about the film industry as a business. While my film studies have taught me how to create and analyze the creative product of a film, my experience with the American Pavilion showed me how film works in the context of capitalism.”

Claire Stephens
Class of '13, Major in Film, Television, & Theatre



“My grant was used for a four-week intensive language course at the Goethe-Institute in Berlin. I think my experience in Berlin has enriched my research and intellectual development immeasurably. Even returning to old projects like papers I have been working on – one on Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and one on the relationship between Frege and Wittgenstein, two German-speaking philosophers of language. I feel that I can better contextualize my research in terms of the history of German thought up to the present. The program has also further encouraged me to consider returning to Germany to do research under professors there, through a Fulbright or DAAD grant.”

Alexander Stern
Doctoral candidate, Philosophy



“In March, with funding through the Nanovic Institute, I was able to recreate a part of W. G. Sebald’s text, *The Rings of Saturn*, first-hand. For five days, I roamed all through East Anglia, visiting numerous sites from the book and recreating many of the fascinating photos taken by Sebald (pictured at left) and included in the text, only now, mine depicted a land twenty years older. I slept in bed and breakfasts in the coastal towns of Lowestoft and Southwold and ventured out each day to tackle a new part of the countryside. The experience was mind-boggling.”

William Stewart
Class of '12, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies



“How does one build in a city that has been nearly completely decimated? Architect Warner Ditscherlein and his wife, Eve, offered me the means to enter into the debate about how to build in Neustadt. Surprisingly, young people are some of the strongest advocates for traditional architecture and urbanism. I am very grateful to the Nanovic Institute for European Studies for offering me the opportunity to explore German architecture in person and to meet with German architects in preparation for my thesis project. The truths I have learned and the buildings I have studied with sketches and measurements during my trip to Germany are crucial to my academic work and to my advocacy for tradition and beauty in modern building.”

Gabrielle Stroik
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



“The highlight of all my time at the Wellcome Library in London came on the sixth day of my journey, when I was allowed into the Rare Materials room to handle and read William Buchan’s *Domestic Medicine*, an original medical text from the 18th century. I had handled rare books before, in my English courses at Notre Dame, and so I was prepared with the proper training. But the excitement of using such a rare work for my own research took what I had learned in those courses to a new level, as I was able to use such rare materials as reference for my own studies. I wasn’t just admiring the book for its age and rarity; I was reading and examining its meaning, in order to get a living picture of medicine in the 18th century.”

Anna Sundbo
Class of '13, Majors in Biological Sciences and English



"I was able to present a paper of mine at a conference held at University of York on December 9, 2011. I received a number of insightful comments during the question and answer period that will be useful when I prepare the paper for publication this coming spring. One professor asked me for a copy of the paper to share with one of his graduate students who is also writing a dissertation on Heidegger. It is this sort of connection and exchange of ideas that made attending this conference especially worthwhile."

Joshua Tepley
Doctoral candidate, Philosophy



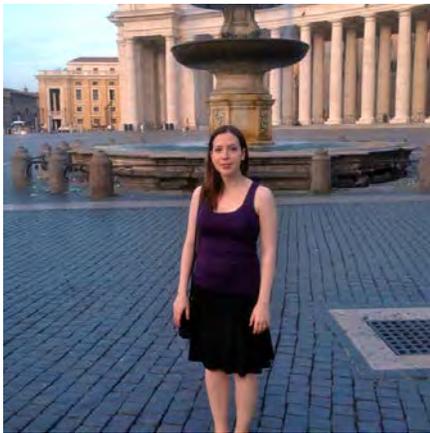
"During my week in Paris, I was able to read and analyze multiple texts by Flora Tristan at the *Bibliothéque Marguerite-Durand*, including books, essays, and even letters she had written to other contemporaries. By studying her works in French, I was able to analyze her radical feminist thought and how her own utopian philosophy relates to that of Rousseau. By visiting the library, I gathered a significant amount of material that was absolutely indispensable to my studies of this feminist philosopher. Visiting the *Bibliothéque* allowed me to take my learning outside the classroom and to embark on a self-created learning experience that stimulated my intellectual curiosity and satisfied my desire to immerse myself in Parisian culture."

MayaJoy Thodé
Class of '12, Major in Romance Languages & Literatures



“I was able to meet with French filmmaker Delphine Moreau and follow the filming of her documentary that will be released in June 2012 on the 300th anniversary of Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s birth. On the week long trip to Paris and the French department of Oise, I gained valuable insight about how the French are commemorating Rousseau in 2012. My week in France was a wonderful capstone to my experience as a French major at Notre Dame and allowed me to use my language and research skills while engaging with native French speakers. I am extremely thankful to the Nanovic Institute for the opportunity.”

Monica Townsend
Class of '12, Majors in French & Francophone Studies and Political Science



“Thanks to the Nanovic Graduate Travel and Research Grant, I was able to continue gathering research that is vital to my dissertation, which challenges the dominant view that Italian emigration literature invariably depicts Latin America in terms of its difference from Italy. Beyond consulting key texts for my doctoral research, my time abroad was additionally productive because it permitted me to develop contacts with leading Italian researchers in the field of Italian emigration.”

Sara Troyani
Doctoral candidate, Ph.D. in Literature



“With many thanks to the Institute, I was able to present a paper at the CHArt 2011 Symposium in London. The conference, entitled ‘The Challenge of Ubiquity in Digital Culture,’ brought together academics and professionals from various fields to discuss the inundation of digital information that affects our day-to-day lives. It was a fascinating experience for me, and I am truly grateful that I was able to attend such a thought-provoking symposium.”

David Trujillo
Master's candidate, Art History



“Working at the European Parliament brought certain Notre Dame class lectures to life. In my European Politics class, I had learned about the history and formation of the European Union – and here I was living in its present! I had learned in class about the rotating presidency – and here I was watching its transition. I had known that the six main institutions worked together as checks and balances on each other, but not until I was sitting in a committee meeting did I really understand the tensions and obstacles that each political body faces. This internship truly threw me into the middle of it all – writing speeches on developing economies, researching and writing up human rights violations, and vetting drafts of proposed legislation. I worked hard, learned a lot, and loved every minute of it.”

Catherine Underwood

Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and French & Francophone Studies



“I flew to Rome to uncover the broader context of a unique text that I found in a small archive in Lima and chose as the basis for my honors thesis in History. I investigated the *Historia de la Provincia del Perú* that the Spanish missionary and Jesuit Diego Francisco Altamirano (1625-1715) wrote between 1711 and his death. The three weeks I spent in Rome helped me find helpful connections between Altamirano’s text and contemporary documents, including archival manuscripts, paintings, and church architecture. Reflecting on my thesis full-time in such an inexhaustibly rich and imaginative setting yielded an ambitious but clear outline for the project and exciting questions and insights with which to frame it.”

Joseph VanderZee

Class of '12, Major in History



"From the standpoint of a History major, the U.S. War Memorials in Europe Internship was absolutely fantastic. Not only did I live and work out of the beautifully historic city of Paris, my job afforded me the opportunity to go out into the world in search of history. The markers and exploits of the men and women I researched offered a snapshot of genuine history that cannot be duplicated. My research was invaluable in invigorating my love for history as well as giving me practical experience for the in-depth research necessary to document history well."

Macklin Wagner
Class of '14, Major in History



"How can I best describe my summer experience? It stretched me not only academically, but also emotionally and personally. Living and studying in a non-English speaking country improved not only my language skills but also my confidence in those skills, my self-reliance, and my independence. Truly, there is no replacement for time spent outside the U.S. in terms of foreign language acquisition; my French improved significantly in just six short weeks."

Julie Wamser
Class of '13, Majors in Computer Science and French & Francophone Studies



“In January 2012, *The Economist* argued that London’s future as the banking capital of the world was under threat from regulators representing both the UK Parliament and the European Union. The article suggested that if these strong regulations against London’s banks were to pass, the hundreds of banks and financial firms in London would pick up their baggage and move to Switzerland, Dubai, or Hong Kong. To find the truth, I met with consultants from JP Morgan Chase, risk analysts from Credit Suisse, executives from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and a private wealth manager from Morgan Stanley. As a future employee of a financial institution, this trip allowed me to really dig under the surface and understand the intricacy of a major economy.”

Peter Wasik
Class of '14, Majors in Accountancy and Italian Studies



“My week in Paris over fall break was very productive and also very moving. Overall I would say that the trip was a huge success, even more than I was hoping or expecting. I was able to establish contacts at Amnesty International, and I am looking into an internship there for next year.”

Lauren Wester
Master's candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures



“My Nanovic research experience allowed me to explore my interest in sustainable urban design and planning by traveling to Florence, Italy. While at Notre Dame, I have studied how the design of a city influences the lifestyle of its citizens, which in effect impacts the environmental health and energy requirements of a city. Six days in Florence provided me ample time to walk the city’s streets, observe the hierarchy of its roads, study its piazzas and understand more about the public and private realms within the city. Florence is a laboratory for urban design, and the insights I gained will help me as I seek a graduate degree and eventually pursue a career in urban planning and design.”

Anne Whitty
*Class of '12, Majors in Sustainable Policy &
Development and Environmental Sciences
(Supplementary)*



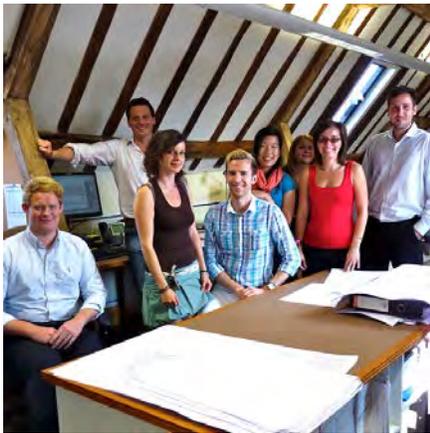
“In applying for research funds to travel to Paris and consult the French Naval Archives at the Chateau de Vincennes, my goal was to identify some relevant documents and sources that could be useful in the writing of my senior thesis. Having now visited the archive and examined their files on the Battle of Mers-el-Kebir, I feel that I am in a much better position to begin work on my thesis, and that I have gained valuable insight into an important aspect of this historical event. I am looking forward to continuing to develop my understanding of French public opinion on this thorny issue, and I believe that the quality of my final product will be positively influenced by the fact that I have undertaken this research.”

Ryan Williams
Class of '13, Major in History



“I was able to spend two months working in archives critical to my dissertation. My project examines the debate surrounding the incorporation of Quebec and 70,000 French Catholic inhabitants into the British Empire. The time I spent working in the archives this summer allowed me to complete the essential research. It allows me to begin writing my dissertation in earnest with a solid base of material. I am extremely grateful for the ability to travel to Britain and work in the manuscript collections only accessible through on-site research. The Nanovic Travel and Research Grant provided me with invaluable time in archives and a valuable boost to my professional development and prospects.”

Aaron Willis
Doctoral candidate, History



“This summer at ADAM Architecture in Winchester, England, was my first foot in the architecture working world. I was given a variety of work in many parts of the firm in order to gain a well-rounded perspective of the practice. For once, the work I was doing felt very relevant. I was no longer doing hypothetical projects, or feeling distant from my surroundings by studying classical architecture. I was a part of the traditional and classical building process and was not only working traditionally, but living it as well.”

Diana Yu
Class of '13, Major in Architecture



“I received funding to conduct manuscript research at the British Library during fall break 2011, prior to a conference organized by Prof. Kathryn Kerby-Fulton at Notre Dame and held at the University of Notre Dame’s London Centre. My work explores the affinities between medieval romance and religious/theological texts, especially mystical treatises and hagiographic works, that make use of the tropes and language of romance. The research I was able to complete has enlarged my sense of what is at issue in my project, which I will continue to ponder as I work on my proposal and dissertation. The progress I have made thus far would not have been possible without the Institute’s support.”

Hannah Zdansky
Doctoral candidate, Ph.D. in Literature