A Letter from the Director

This sixty-eight page booklet demonstrates the wide range of research and internship activities undertaken in Europe by undergraduate and graduate students during the breaks in the academic year and during the summer. Included are testimonials from undergraduates who earned special recognition as recipients of the R. Stephen and Ruth Barrett Grant for Best Proposal, the Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for Russian and East-Central European Studies, and the Charles C. Price Memorial Grant for East-Central European Studies.

Our Institute takes pride in giving students the opportunity to elevate their academic work and connect with the history and culture of Europe in an intense, productive way. Their educational experience becomes much more sophisticated as they learn how original research is actually done. Each student writes a detailed proposal and includes a budget to justify why he or she wishes to travel to Europe to undertake research or an internship. Some 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, our recipients take particular delight in sharing their experiences with classmates. We frequently hear from students’ faculty advisors that these travel experiences contribute greatly to the excellence of senior theses and dissertations. Given their sincere quest to engage in travel and research, and their desire to enrich their educational experience at Notre Dame, we are pleased to send these students abroad as ambassadors for Notre Dame and their country.

A. James McAdams
Director and William M. Scholl Professor of International Affairs

For More Information
The opportunities represented in this collection were supported by the friends and benefactors of The Nanovic Institute for European Studies.
If you would like to learn more about our programs, please visit our website at http://nanovic.nd.edu or call us at 574-631-5253.
“My experience in London was life-changing. Writing is about tapping into a world outside reality, getting out of your comfort zone, walking into secret doorways and monster shops, and getting to know the world in a way you never have before. I was sitting among some of the most literary people in London. I met volunteers who were editors for Random House and Penguin Books; I met a children’s scriptwriter from the BBC; I met a cover illustrator of fiction novels…”

Felicia Aguirre
Class of ’11, Major in English

“The research I’ve undertaken will continue to be an important part of my academic interests next year. My professor and I are hoping to understand where these Irish islands’ medieval monastic inhabitants came from. If the project goes as expected, our findings could shed light on the composition of the Irish monastic movement. These medieval people and the landscape they created still shape the culture of modern Ireland, and the local understanding and interpretation of this study will certainly be part of my future research.”

Elise Alonzi
Class of ’12, Majors in Environmental Science and Anthropology
“I am indebted to the Institute for allowing me to deepen my understanding of the Portuguese language, history, and culture. This experience has taught me more than I could have possibly imagined. My interests in Portuguese postcolonialism has only grown, and I have a new perspective and clearer idea of modern-day perceptions of it. I am eternally grateful for having been given the best summer of my life and an entirely new perspective on my Portuguese studies.”

Ruby Amezquita
Class of ‘12, Major in Political Science

“My on-site research in Italy was more fruitful than I could have hoped. My sincerest thanks go to the Institute for giving me the opportunity to experience these remarkable works of Fra Angelico’s firsthand. No visual reproduction, no matter how sophisticated, can properly convey the texture, size, and true color palette of a painting, nor can it capture the precise lighting effects created by virtue of the work’s placement in its original setting. I was able to observe all this and more while in Italy, and due to the fact that I examined his Annunciations in immediate succession, I was able to establish important comparisons among the works.”

Kirsten Appleyard
Masters Candidate, Art, Art History, & Design
“I had the opportunity to present my senior thesis at the 44th Annual UNIV Congress, an international conference of college students and professors, during Holy Week in Rome. This was an important learning experience in many different ways. It was an important professional learning experience, a valuable immersion into European culture, and a spiritually enriching week. Having taken a whole class dedicated to reading the works of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI, as well as having read many of his works in other classes, it was an amazing opportunity to be able to see him four out of my seven full days in Rome.”

Elliott Argue
Class of ‘11, Majors in Philosophy and Theology

“This summer was the most amazing summer of my life. I met so many new people, saw so many beautiful things, and lived life like I had never lived it before. Going abroad opened my eyes to the ways that I can make a difference on a global scale, and I am so excited about what the future holds for me. The lessons that I learned while living overseas are ones that simply cannot be taught in a classroom. My internship with the Save Venice organization was very rewarding.”

Danielle Arthur
Class of ’13, Majors in Political Science and Italian
“I participated in the Early Book Society conference in York, England, a small, discipline-specific conference on medieval English manuscripts and early printed books. It was a conference populated largely by the well-respected, senior scholars in the field, who proved a receptive and helpful audience for my paper. It was, moreover, a conference very much on the pulse of current debate in the discipline, full of panels that proposed innovative, and at times quite controversial research. It was a conference at which you felt the discipline move around you, and a number of the papers suggested further paths that my own archival work might fruitfully follow. Following the conference, I traveled back down to London to spend the remainder of my time working in the archives of the British Library.”

Sarah Baechle  
Doctoral Candidate, English

“With the Institute’s support, I actually recovered the lost European art of scagliola, a faux-marble technique based on shattered al fresco plaster, obscure pigments, wax, and linseed oil—not paint. Looking closely at archival sources, I was able to produce a 14”x36” example of scagliola and, by carefully recording my trials and errors, establish workable proportions for all materials and a solid procedure. I then sanded and polished it to a mirror-like sheen with a combination of Tripoli polish and beeswax, resulting in an uncanny facsimile of Rosato Nembro marble found primarily found near Verona, Italy. The example is now on display in the School of Architecture.”

Matthew Balkey  
Class of ’11, Major in Architecture
“The most remarkable portions of my trip to the Abbey of St-Martin-du-Canigou, are things that I can describe with words, but never adequately convey their meaning or the reality of their experience. An old man excited to meet a young seminarian. A father remembering how to make the sign of the cross. A young girl happy to see that nuns still exist. Her older sister praying earnestly with her eyes squeezed shut. A youthful man humbled before the Blessed Sacrament. Another, who only asked for prayers. A little boy silenced by the quiet of a church. And many people who came to the Abbey seeking architecture and culture, but left with a sense of something greater. Like them, I came to the Abbey of Saint Martin seeking a prayerful retreat and an opportunity to serve, but left with a sense of something greater.”

Stephen Barany
Class of '13, Majors in Philosophy and Industrial Design

“Being in Italy for over two months not only amplified my passion for the Italian language and culture but also affirmed my decision to go to medical school. For the first four weeks of my program, I was the only American in my language class. Once a week, I received a two-hour private lesson to learn health-related and medical terminology in preparation for my internship. After four weeks, I started my internship in orthopedics at Siena’s regional hospital. It was a pre-med student’s dream come true. I was able to discover Italy’s public health care system on a first-hand basis... Over a month after returning to the United States, my dreams are still in Italian. I take this as a sign that I will go back one day to the country that has a special place in my heart.”

Elizabeth Barron
Class of '13, Majors in Psychology and Pre-Professional Studies
“Modernism, a movement explicitly committed to the rejection of tradition, went from being an obscure philosophy of central European origin to being the dominant approach of architectural academies worldwide. This movement encouraged novelty not only in aesthetics but also in matters of building construction. This focus on novelty in construction has resulted in an unsustainable architecture and a building culture that is actually destructive to our communities. Albert Simons and Raymond Erith were two architects who resisted this trend. By now, many of their contemporaries’ modernist buildings have become derelict, in need of either major over-haul or complete replacement. I have seen in great detail how Simons’ and Erith’s buildings have, by contrast, stood the test of time.”

Jenny Bevan
Masters Candidate, Architecture

“My experience abroad was more pleasant and exciting than I could have dreamed. I met Fr. Flannery at the Gregorian University in Rome. We had a cappuccino and discussed some of the finer points of my senior thesis in Philosophy. He agreed to look over parts of it for me and offer his feedback. Philosophical inquiries are furthered in a very special way by dialogue. The opportunity to share my ideas with a great intellectual who shares and ponders the same issues was an experience I will never forget and forever treasure. Coupling that with the overall experience of being in Rome, which I have so longed to see given my vocation, I want to express my deep gratitude.”

Michael Black
Class of ’11, Major in Honors Philosophy
“As an engineer, I am very interested in the rise and fall of the economy as it relates to technology and engineering. It was fascinating to interview engineers in Ireland to see how their jobs and lives have been affected and how they will continue to change. I researched over spring break, roughly two weeks after the biggest election Ireland had seen, and I believe conducting research at this crucial point in Irish history was invaluable. Not only did I learn about the Irish economy and engineering’s role in society, but in ten days of being immersed in the culture, I gained invaluable knowledge of what modern Ireland is really like.”

Alex Boll
Class of ’12, Major in Mechanical Engineering

“Arriving in Italy was a dream come true. And then everything changed. Stepping into the train station in Pisa, full of commotion, people yelling, a long line of people at the ticket office, all with panic in their eyes… The tired taxi driver, the stressed woman with her three small children, and the grumpy lady behind the ticket office all said the same thing: sciopero! Strike. No trains would be running today. Just by luck, I overheard two girls mention the words “Siena” and “taxi.” From that point, time flew by. In Siena, not only was I able to improve my Italian more drastically than I thought was possible in a few short weeks, but I gained a new sense of independence and self-confidence that I know I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Maegan Boucher
Class of ’14, Majors in Accounting and Romance Languages & Literatures
“The objective of my travels throughout Italy was to gather information on how a Eucharistic theology is experienced outside of the Mass through pilgrimage experiences. This research was conducted in preparation for my synthesis seminar, my final thesis in the Master of Divinity program, which will analyze how the Body of Christ is built up in the world. I compiled interviews with concrete examples of how a Eucharistic theology is experienced outside of the Mass, especially in Italian pilgrimage. In addition, since my return to campus, members of my program are now more aware of the potentially fruitful partnership between Theology and European Studies.”

Margaret Bouffard  
Masters Candidate, Theology

“I determined that if I were to create a bilingual comic book that gave Irish speakers not only a way to use the Irish language, but also provided them with a glimpse of what Ireland and its people would look like in the absence of Gaeilge, then perhaps the vulnerable Irish language would be one step closer to narrowing the gap between competence and use. What I did not expect to learn or experience was a nearly unconditional love and passion for the Irish language. There is something so outwardly beautiful about being greeted by a complete stranger walking opposite of you on the street with “Dia duit.” In direct translation, it means, “Let God be upon you.” To let a language like this die would not only be a severe cultural loss to the people of Ireland, but also an artistic loss.”

Kathleen Bracke  
Class of ’13, Major in Film, Television, & Theatre
“It was helpful for my understanding of Paul Klee as an artist and man to spend time in the town and environment that was so important to him. Bern, Switzerland, is a World Heritage Site, so it has literally not changed for hundreds of years. The view of the city from the hills and the Old Town architecture is exactly how it would have been during Klee’s lifetime. It made it easier for me as a researcher to get inside the artist’s head and allowed me to literally see a little slice of the world through his eyes.”

Laura Bradley
Class of ’11, Major in Art History

“The Institute gave me the financial and academic support to carry out a dream: to act in a Shakespeare play in London. Now, when I come back to the city, I won’t be a stranger. And I might be coming back to the city sooner rather than later. On the last day of performances, our director made an announcement to the cast. The directors at the Rose Theatre enjoyed our production so much, they wanted to find a way to bring it back to the stage for an encore performance.”

Nicholas Brandt (at right)
Class of ’12, Majors in Program of Liberal Studies and Theatre
“As an undergraduate at the American Anthropological Association meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, which brings thousands of anthropologists together to present their research, I presented a paper in a session on “Embodying Heritage.” This was my first experience in presenting a paper at the professional level, and it was an incredible learning experience in the preparation of a conference paper as well as in presenting my research to the academic public. As I am applying to graduate school for the fall, attending this conference was an invaluable opportunity to meet professors from graduate programs that I am interested in, and to discuss the course of study at their universities.”

Claire Brown
Class of ’11, Major in Anthropology

“I was able to conduct two weeks of archival research in Dublin this summer. This research will compose part of my dissertation, investigating the relationship between women and the Irish Free State between 1922-1937, in particular how the questions of nationalism, political activism, and gender intersected in the lives of Irish women. I found a treasure-trove of information.”

Keelin Burke
Doctoral Candidate, History
“One day in March, I woke up in South Bend, Indiana, and went to bed in County Wexford, Ireland. This fact alone would have been enough to get me excited, but it barely scratches the surface of the experiences that I had thanks to the support provided me. When I applied for my grant I listed my pursuit as “service” because I knew that the type of research I was hoping to pursue was a bit atypical compared to scientific studies or historical exploration, but I ended up learning more than I ever could have imagined. All in all I could not be more pleased about all that I gained. Not only will my classroom work soar beyond what it would have been, but so will my experience at Notre Dame. I was changed as a learner, as a minister, and as a person.”

Colin Campbell  
Class of ’13, Major in Philosophy

“The art historical research I gathered during this trip to Florence and Paris was met with great appreciation and encouragement by the direction of Villa La Pietra in Florence, especially by its collection manager. In fact, she has invited me to return to the Villa next fall to present my findings to her Museum Studies class, and perhaps to the Villa’s administration. It is my hope to do just that over fall break while writing up my findings as a senior thesis.”

Felicia Caponigri  
Class of ’12, Majors in Art History and Music
“The experience of living in Berlin was irreplaceable. Since the Office of International Studies cancelled Notre Dame’s Innsbruck program the year I had applied to it, and I was unable to participate in a true ‘study abroad’ year or semester program, I used this experience to immerse myself in the German culture completely. Since our student apartments were not equipped with internet access (a terrible distraction for a student abroad!), I spent much of my free time exploring the city, visiting museums, sightseeing, and speaking and reading German everywhere I went. This trip was invaluable to me, and I learned not only in the classroom, but also in the city itself.”

Amanda Carter
Class of ’12, Majors in Graphic Design and German

“Before my summer in Paris I had a fairly decent ability to read French, but was very poor at speaking it. The primary reason for my wanting to improve my ability is academic. As a student of Theology with a specific interest in Eastern Orthodoxy, being highly proficient in French is necessary. I will eventually be applying to Ph.D. programs in Theology, and thanks to my improved French, I will also be applying to schools in French-speaking Canada, France and Belgium. Whether I eventually live in a Francophone country or not, my strengthened ability in French is, and will continue to be, an indispensable part of my academic pursuits.”

Jonathan Ciraulo
Master of Arts Candidate, Theology
“I was able to travel to Paris over spring break to shoot a short documentary about Paris street musicians with my friend. During our week in Paris, our plans for the documentary changed and matured as we met an incredibly diverse and entirely fascinating group of street musicians and performers. While we had initially set out to attempt to compose original music with the performers we met, as we met more and more artists throughout the week, our vision changed from trying to do something to trying to learn as much as we could.”

Kyle Collins  
Class of ’12, Major in Mechanical Engineering

“I lived for eight weeks in Saint Petersburg, Russia, studying Russian language at Gertzen University. The experience deepened my commitment to the language but also provided fodder for my development as a fiction writer. I had imagined Russia to resemble the novels of my literary role model, Dostoevsky, and I was strangely expecting to meet characters like Raskolnikov and the Underground Man. This vision was romantic and inaccurate. When my image of shadowy, swampy Saint Petersburg was dashed by its reality of being a modern, commercial city, I had to confront my romantic point of view in my own philosophy and fiction writing. The disillusionment about place that I had dreamed about informed my thinking about the nature of dreams and reality which are so vital to fiction writers as dream-weavers. The pressing obstacles that I encountered in Russia will be incorporated into my thesis, a novel.”

Leah Coming  
Class of ’13, Majors in English and Russian
“No amount of preparation could have adequately readied us for our journey on the Camino de Santiago. In a way, our whole lives were preparation for our week together, walking, sharing, learning, praying, loving, and growing. This intense experience of a living theology of pilgrimage can hardly be put into satisfactory words. It was what we expected and so much more. I want to continue exploring. Notre Dame has been a Way, of sorts. My final destination has not been graduation but my career and the person I am called to become beyond here. The Camino de Santiago took us as we were (ready or not) and brought us together and to exactly where we needed to be. Notre Dame has done the same. And for that, I praise God with my entire being.”

Julianne Corroto  
*Class of ’11, Major in Biochemistry*

“I traveled to Paris this June to attend an international seminar in the philosophy of mathematics. The month-long course, titled “Simplicity and Complexity of Proof,” was the second of its kind in what is planned to be an annual series, hosted jointly by the University of Notre Dame, the University of Paris 7, the University of Nancy, and the École Normale Supérieure, under the direction of Notre Dame philosopher Michael Detlefsen. It was a wonderful way to get to know, and get to know the ideas of, scholars from the US, the UK, France, Russia, Australia, and elsewhere. I may never have otherwise interacted with many of them.”

Jordan Corwin  
*Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy*
"For the past four years, I have intimately studied the lives of the great composers that define the history of Western music. These men have, in a way, created and fostered my Notre Dame experience, and having the chance to share at least a piece of their world in Vienna was an opportunity I will not soon forget. This experience would not have been nearly as overwhelming if I had visited Vienna earlier in my musical studies. As a senior, these experiences will strongly influence my performance of my current recital repertoire, our Mozart opera, a potential research performance on Berg, and my final performance of Mozart’s Ach, ich fühl’s at the Senior Commencement Concert. Thank you so much for this incredible experience."

Daniel Crupi (at far left)
Class of ’11, Major in Music

“I had the opportunity to attend and present an original paper with my co-author, a professor, at the ‘Three Country Meeting’ sponsored by the Austrian, German, and Swiss political science associations at the University of Basel in Basel, Switzerland. The theme of the conference was ‘Political Integration.’ The comments that we received from our panel’s discussant and other members of the workshop proved quite useful and will help guide us as we substantially revise our study and corresponding manuscript for future publication. The conference provided a great opportunity to network with other young scholars based in Europe who are engaging in compelling research. As a result, I have made plans to meet with several of my co-presenters at the upcoming Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in April, and I look forward to working with them again in the future.”

Chad Kiewiet de Jonge
Doctoral Candidate, Political Science
“My summer spent in London was one of the most incredible, enlightening, and exhilarating eight weeks of my entire life. I was able to pursue an internship as an Assistant Director and Stage Manager for a professional production of Shakespeare’s *Pericles* to be performed at The Rose Theatre in Kingston-on-Thames. Typically, our rehearsals ran five days a week. London is a pretty incredible place to live for a professional theatre job. In fact, London is a pretty incredible place to live, period.”

Carolyn Demanelis
*Class of ’12, Majors in Film, Television, & Theatre and Arabic*

“My trip to Vienna was the perfect capstone to my major in classical voice. Five days of uninterrupted saturation in the city that fostered the works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss and Mahler provided a fertile playing ground for four voice majors with several years of music history, theory, and performance practice under our belts. What made this trip particularly effective was that our faculty sponsor sent us with four guidebooks and a strict list of must-sees. One of our most meaningful experiences was a voice lesson with a soprano and voice teacher who spent an hour telling us about the Viennese system of musical education and then worked with each of us individually. Our lesson with her was a very authentic taste of the Viennese music scene, because she was so candid about how the system works.”

Stephanie DePrez
*Class of ’11, Major in Music*
“Beaver Island, Michigan, hosted a majority Irish immigrant and descendent population from about 1857-1903. Many of these immigrants came from an island off the coast of County Donegal called Arainn Mhor (Inishmore). With generous help from the Institute, I traveled to Inishmore with my two research partners. Archival research was a brand new experience for me and it was certainly a rewarding one. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity. The research materials I gathered are proving invaluable to the project now that I am in the drafting phase of my Irish Studies capstone project.”

Rhiannon Duke
Class of ’11, Major in Anthropology

“The Sixteenth Century Studies Conference (SCSC) is the single most important conference in the field of early modern history. This was my first opportunity to present a paper at the SCSC. I was pessimistic about the prospects for a substantial audience when I discovered that I was slotted to present at 8:30am on a Friday morning. But to my amazement, there were over sixty-five scholars in attendance, coffees in hand. This is a very large turnout by SCSC standards, especially for panels that include Ph.D. students. The audience included some of the leading scholars in the field of Reformation Studies. Two scholars approached me after my presentation to suggest that I publish the paper, and I received an invitation from a distinguished professor to present a spin-off paper at the American Academy of Religion Conference in San Francisco next October. My trip to Montreal could not have gone any better. I am incredibly grateful to the Institute for its support.”

Adam Duker
Doctoral Candidate, History
“This summer I took part in a two-month internship with British American Tobacco in Hamburg, Germany. This experience was one of the best so far in my life. I was able to use and improve my German language skills while learning aspects of international business and finance. Thanks to the Nanovic Institute, I was able to achieve my summer goals and learn more about myself as a student and person. Overall my experience this summer is one that I will never forget. Through the contacts that I established and the insights I gained into the financial world, I now have an idea of what I want to do with my life after Notre Dame. Had it not been for the generous support of the Institute, I would not have been able to have this experience and would still be wondering whether learning a foreign language was really worth it.”

Ian Duncan
Class of ’13, Major in German

“By traveling to the places that are relevant to a composer’s life—in this case, Frederic Chopin’s journey to Mallorca—I was able to learn a great deal more about what occurred during that time of composition. This research trip not only contributed to my factual knowledge, but also gave me a less tangible but deep understanding and helped to raise new questions. I now understand more fully the value of going to the source and making use of primary resources in understanding and writing on a topic. I owe a great deal to the Institute for its generous support of this project.”

Jacques Dupuis
Class of ’11, Majors in Music and Italian
“I attended the Centro Italiano di Studi sull’Alto Medioevo’s annual conference on a medieval interdisciplinary topic in Spoleto, Italy. The conference not only gave me the opportunity to hear lectures from noted medievalists from around the globe, but it also gave me the chance to practice my Italian in a conference setting and to share memorable experiences with Italian medievalist graduate students. What I found particularly interesting was that the lectures were not necessarily designed to present something “new.” There are other conferences for that purpose. Most of the professors were considered experts in their field, so the goal was to produce a series of high-quality, up-to-date lectures on foundational topics. This makes it a particularly useful conference for graduate students.”

Lesley-Anne Dyer  
Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Institute

“Thanks to the funding I received from the Institute, I was able to spend eight weeks in Paris this summer. The purpose of this trip was to perfect my speaking skills in French so that I could continue my studies in the Masters program here at Notre Dame. Studying in Paris was extremely beneficial in improving my vocabulary, accent and fluidity in speaking. As a Masters student I teach French 101; this class was helpful in preparing me to speak with energy and emotion in front of my class.”

Amanda Elsner  
Class of ’11, Major in French; Masters Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
“I took part in a Summer Institute for French Organ Studies (SIFOS). Six students spent the first week in the Angevin Gothic Cathedral of St. Pierre in Poitiers, where we attended lectures and master classes with veteran organ-builder Gene Bedient and French music specialist Jesse Eschbach. We presented our work in a public recital. The second week proceeded according to the same arrangement at the parish church of Notre Dame in Epernay, in the heart of Champagne. Our student group enjoyed a pronounced esprit de corps that enabled us to play, observe, assist and otherwise offer comments and suggestions to each other in an enthusiastic and strongly collegial atmosphere.”

Michael Emmerich
Masters Candidate, Theology & Sacred Music

“After hearing so many stories about Jean Vanier’s L’Arche community in Cork, Ireland, I wanted to see it for myself. My intent was to witness how the L’Arche community model enables those with intellectual disabilities to exercise virtue in ways that only a community can, not an institution. As a result of my experience there, I left Ireland with a new understanding of sacrifice, commitment, and joy. This grant opened up to me so much more than a country. It opened up the simple fact that each day we are all assistants to one another. Gaining that new vision has lent me a revitalized idea about our common call as members of the same human family.”

Raquel Falk
Class of ’13, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies
“Conducting research in Dublin was a unique experience. I needed permission to access many of the resources, and being a student opened many doors and opportunities. At the National Library, I had to register and explain my reason for wanting to conduct research. I was granted research passes to access the main library hall. It was a challenge at first to learn the Irish system for book acquisitions. It was necessary to fill out a sheet with the book information and that sheet was then given to runners who brought the sources to your table. In the end, I grew to really appreciate this system and the environment of quiet and tranquil scholarship.”

Bianca Fernandez
Class of ’11, Major in Anthropology

“I was able to present my paper on the Alexander Romance at the Symposium on Byzantine and Ottoman Civilizations at Istanbul Sehir University. My paper was extraordinarily well-received and will be published by the *Journal of World History*. It would truly be impossible to explain the full impact that this educational trip already has and will continue to have upon my academic and professional development.”

Jennifer Fox
Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature
“The Early Book Society’s Twelfth biennial conference held at the University of York this summer was easily one of the most intellectually stimulating and rewarding conferences I have attended. This gathering also gave me the opportunity to present a piece of an article I have underway to a group of well-respected scholars in the field of manuscript studies, who responded to my work positively. During this trip, I also witnessed the reunion of a beautiful Nicholas Love manuscript, owned by a Japanese professor who carried it with him to England in a briefcase, with its original home at Mount Grace Priory after three hundred and ninety-nine years. This memory will forever be one of my most cherished academic experiences.”

Karrie Fuller  
Doctoral Candidate, English

“Because of the funding I received from the Institute, I was able to interview the head of the Department of Economics at Trinity College and a member of the Central Bank of Ireland about the financial crisis of 2008. Being at Trinity’s campus made me realize that it is potentially a school I could attend after graduation. Previously I had no interest in applying there, but now it is one of the schools I am looking into. I am also applying for the Mitchell Scholarship, a full-ride scholarship to any two-year graduate program in Ireland. This is not a scholarship I would have even considered if not for my experience in Ireland, thanks to the funding I received from the Institute.”

Mitch Gainer  
Class of ’12, Major in Economics
“For three weeks in Paris, I planned to do research for my doctoral dissertation, which looks at the beginnings of the physical theater movement through a philosophical analysis of its French founder, Jacques Copeau. My specific goal was to find a text that links him with Maria Montessori, another European genius whose educational philosophy has Aristotelian roots. Not only did I achieve this goal, but the cultural and scholarly experience itself opened new vistas, opportunities for making connections and friends, and ways of interpreting my evidence that I never would have thought possible.”

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

“My internship in Dublin, Ireland, allowed me the opportunity to pursue career opportunities while at the same time experiencing an interesting and different culture. The experiment that I worked on tried to find the best way to align CdTe nanoparticles on an aluminum oxide substrate in order to learn more about the properties of these particles. Another way in which this abroad experience will help my future is in my relations to other physicists. Physics is a very international area. Notre Dame itself is in collaboration with Trinity, the school where I had my internship. Creating these bonds with foreign professors, as well as learning about and experiencing the cultures and countries of my future peers and coworkers, was an amazing opportunity.”

Kathryn Gerbich
Class of ‘12, Majors in Physics and Mathematics
“I spent a month attending the Summer School of Slovene Language in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This provided me with the opportunity to truly learn the language of my heritage. I had already gone to Slovenia multiple times and still not fully understood the language; therefore, being able to attend the summer school was the best way for me to finally speak Slovene fluently. I plan to use my knowledge of the Slovene language for my thesis research. Studying in Slovenia this summer was certainly a life-changing and amazing educational experience!”

Christine Gorman
Class of ’14, Majors in Economics and Chinese

“I was able to travel to Rome over fall break to conduct history research, learn first-hand about the culture of Italy, and enhance my language skills through common interactions with Italians. I was also able to gain a better understanding of some of the problems and influences that affected the process of Italian unification. This experience encouraged my desire to study abroad in Bologna during spring semester next year.”

John Greaney
Class of ’13, Majors in History and Italian
Theatre has always been a powerful platform for change in Prague, dating from the days of Vaclav Havel, a dissenter from the Communist regime, to the explorations and stylistic approaches of modern-day Czech theatre. Theatre, art, and society are such visceral, immediate entities, it was difficult to grasp qualities that are unique to Prague until I was fortunate enough to experience it for myself. The ability to stay in Prague and be part of this unique arts experience—visiting galleries, seeing live performances, and interviewing local artists—has profoundly shaped and guided my research on the tenuous relationship between Czech art and government.

Sarah Grothaus  
Class of ’11, Major in Film, Television, & Theatre

“My internship with the US Department of State at the Consulate in Istanbul was my dream internship. I worked as part of a dynamic team on the front lines of US foreign policy. I conducted daily research for my supervisor, a Foreign Service officer who covered human rights, religion, women’s rights and minority issues in Turkey. I attended conferences of interest to our Washington audience and wrote a diplomatic cable on the Kurdish issue in light of Turkey’s national elections in June. I contributed research on media coverage of domestic violence to a cable that was circulated at the highest levels of the department. I learned skills and made contacts that will help me pursue a career in international affairs.”

Melissa Guinan  
Class of ’12, Major in Political Science
“This summer I spent ten incredible weeks participating in a research internship sponsored by the German Student Exchange Service through the Research Internships in Science and Engineering program. Professionally, this has drastically increased my understanding of European culture, which I believe will increase my hiring potential in today’s highly competitive, international engineering job market. I am very lucky to have been blessed with this opportunity. Without the help of the Institute, I would not have been able to cultivate and establish so many friendships and professional contacts that will help me both personally and professionally in the future. College presents a unique opportunity for individuals to take themselves outside of their comfort zones and try new experiences. Working abroad is a great way to do this.”

William Conor Hawes
Class of ’13, Major in Mechanical Engineering

“This summer I spent the months of July and August in Grenoble, France. The main purpose and focus of my trip was French language acquisition, but the lessons in French history and culture, especially of the Rhone-Alps region, proved to be not only enjoyable aspects of my time abroad but significant reinforcements of the gains made in French language comprehension. The reason for my study of the French language was for the benefit of my dissertation research. In the field of early and medieval Christianity, much of the important secondary literature is in French, and many ancient works remain only in modern French translation. This summer experience has led me to hope for an opportunity to spend, not several weeks, but several months, if possible, in France in the coming years.”

Hannah Hemphill
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Theology
“I am preparing the first modern critical edition of a book of poetry written by Prosper of Aquitaine (d. ~450). This first grant from the Institute began something of a chain reaction. The research I did from initial microfilms led me to apply for and receive grants from the Vatican Film Library at the University of St. Louis and the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library at St. John’s University in Minnesota. With this in mind, I prepared applications for two national competitions: the Fulbright Student Program to Austria and the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. I recently heard that I was awarded both grants and that I will spend the forthcoming academic year in residence at the American Academy in Rome.”

Albertus Horsting
Doctoral Candidate, Theology

“I had the opportunity to travel to Leuven, Belgium, and various cities in Ireland to conduct research on the religious situation in modern Europe, giving specific attention to the current men in formation for the Catholic priesthood in these countries. The method of research was to live in community with the men of the American College of Leuven, and of the seminary at Saint Patrick’s in Maynooth, Ireland, to understand the daily life of men in formation in these countries. My research and experience has helped to put into perspective the blessings we of Holy Cross have here at Notre Dame. There are struggles for the Church around the world, particularly in increasingly secular nations, but those struggles are not destroying the life of the Church.”

Matthew Hovde
Class of ’11, Majors in History and Theology
“When I looked back at my experience at the small Italian village, I could not help regretting that I was unable to spend more time there. Every moment in the senior center contributed to a learning experience that led to self-reflection and growth. I interacted with almost every patient in the senior center. Helping the staff organize the annual Refugio festival, distributing leaflets in the near town to advertise the festival with poor Italian, selling homemade jam on the local market to raise money for the center, cooking food after sunset with the volunteers from Muslim countries during Ramadan, and traveling alone in Turin and Florence during weekends and appreciating the delicate Renaissance sculptures all marked the unique aspects of my culture-learning experience in Italy.”

Ruoging Huang
Class of ’13, Major in Accounting

“Arriving in Sofia, Bulgaria, on a crowded Lufthansa A320 from Frankfurt, I immediately began to experience the culture shock that occurs every time I enter a formerly Communist nation. After only being in Sofia for a few hours, however, I fell in love with my host family and the people of this often overlooked Baltic nation. The purpose of my trip was to conduct an ethnographic research study of how consumer-spending tendencies have changed since the downfall of communism in the early 1990s. Both of my hosts were economists under the communist regime and often reminisced about their lives twenty years ago. By living with them, I was able to hear first-hand how their perspectives on the economy have changed in the last twenty years and how that has affected what, and where, they purchase things.”

Morgan Iddings
Class of ’13, Majors in Anthropology and Russian
“I traveled to Rome during spring break to conduct archival research and site documentation on the topic of Franciscan architectural history. During spring break, I focused on unfolding a part of this story through architectural, artistic, and textual sources. One of my goals was to gather primary and secondary source documents about the history of the division in 1517 between the Conventual and Observant Franciscans and its impact on the physical organization of their churches, friaries, and the Franciscan presence in Rome today. This trip helped me complete my senior architecture thesis, which is a design proposal for a Franciscan library in Rome. I intend to continue research based on this experience in the context of graduate studies for architectural history at the University of Virginia.”

Elizabeth Israel
Class of ’11, Major in Architecture

“The benefits of spending a summer at a German language institute impacted my life on two levels. On the one hand, the summer greatly improved my German language skills, which I will need in pursuing my future academic goals in historical musicology. But for me, such experiences went further: they made me even more appreciative of the great works of art and culture that have stood the test of time and their ability to challenge our thinking and enrich our souls today. Cliché as it is, I learned more than a language this summer. I experienced a culture, and I am a better person because of it. I am more adventurous. I am more confident. I am more ready to take on the world.”

Edward Jacobson
Class of ’13, Major in Music History
“As a recipient of an Internship and Service Grant, I traveled to Greece in order to work for Caritas Hellas, the Greek branch of the international Catholic charity Caritas. Only after working side by side with volunteers as young as fifteen and as old as seventy-five, serving infants to elderly, did I feel like my education could be completed with a diploma. It did not take more than a couple of weeks of working at Caritas for me to feel its lasting effects. I had felt an inclination towards working in immigration law that spurred me to volunteer in the first place, but I now understand that immigration is a working charity for the men and women who risk their lives for legal status in a first-world country.”

Martha Karam (third from left)
Class of ’12, Majors in Anthropology and Greek & Roman Civilization

“This trip to France was extremely helpful to me in my research on the Monument of the Heart of Henri II. One of the most remarkable and important aspects of my research in the Louvre was the viewing of the original contact drawing, which would not have been available to me elsewhere. I was also able to see other monuments of a similar nature, which helped me to locate and understand style developments and tendencies in the art of the French Renaissance. My interactions with the monuments in their locations were also invaluable to me.”

Emma Kessler
Class of ’12, Major in Art History and Supplementary Major in Greek and Roman Civilization
I am currently attempting to analyze the relationships between German national militarism and the Catholic minority within the Second Reich leading up to the First World War. The two weeks of research in Munich this summer that I undertook as a result of the Institute’s support were invaluable in the information and development I have obtained for my thesis. It was only through this experience that I was able to gain proficiency in reading real examples of German handwriting which, until then, I had studied only theoretically. Beyond this, the support of the Institute was crucial in giving me the time in Germany’s archives necessary to build experience in historical research. These were invaluable opportunities for academic development that I could not have gained in the classroom.”

Mark Kettler  
*Class of ’12, Major in History*

“In taking the time to document architectural details in Greece, I unexpectedly learned much about the culture of the islands and cities I was fortunate enough to visit. Not only do the people of Greece take great pride in the cities they live in, but also in the buildings in which they dwell. They aren’t ashamed to share that pride. I embraced every opportunity I had to speak with them. I didn’t have to try hard: I just had to take out my sketchbook and begin to draw. I can’t wait for the chance to get back to Italy and Greece to study more.”

Bryan Keve  
*Class of ’11, Major in Architecture*
“It was odd to see a line of Georgian houses in Dublin in which a house with broken windows and graffiti stood next to a well-preserved one. The economic downturn that I read about in my Irish politics class was in full effect, covering every inch of Dublin. Seeing is believing, as the saying goes, and I believed it then. Irish history is a testament to the notion that change is inevitable. With the growing number of immigrants, Ireland is changing once again. By getting to know the country through the eyes of both natives and foreigners, I got a firm grasp of how history lives on in Ireland. In my thesis, I hope to capture this shared sense of citizenship from the trip in exploring Irish identity.”

Jungyong Kim  
*Class of ’11, Major in Industrial Design*

“The five days I spent in Wexford, Ireland were eye-opening for a number of reasons. I lived within a community of four volunteers who are spending ten months in Wexford. The purpose of their time and service is to serve the Church as liturgical, music, and youth ministers. I realized that my gifts in music and youth/parish ministry could greatly benefit the Church and school community there. My interest in the House of Brigid service program has now become a passion, and I will definitely apply to serve there during my senior year. I am extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to visit Wexford through this grant. It has made my future plans more realistic, hopeful, and positive.”

Katie Klee  
*Class of ’12, Major in Theology*
“My course in German script at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania will be enormously important for my future research because the skills that I learned there will allow me to access a wide range of handwritten historical documents that I was previously unable to read. As I begin to plan primary source research in German archives for my current projects and ultimately my dissertation, I know that I will consider my opportunity to learn to read German script with the experts at the Moravian Archives a godsend. I now have the skills that I need to make sense of the piles of handwritten documents that I will surely have to file through during my dissertation research. My experience at the Moravian Archives will be critically important to all of my future research in German history.”

Jonathan Knowles
Doctoral Candidate, History

“As part of my abroad experience in the Notre Dame London Program, and thanks to the assistance I received from the Institute, I completed an internship in the UK Parliament this past spring semester. This support allowed me to explore my interest in comparative politics firsthand. As my goal is to one day work for the federal government, having the opportunity to work in the center of the government of a foreign country was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am immensely more knowledgeable about the government and politics of the UK, British culture and society, and European politics and culture in general.”

Amanda Koziel
Class of ’12, Major in Political Science
“I received an Institute grant to present my paper at an international conference in Bochum, Germany, held at the Ruhr-Universität in the fall. I presented the paper “Writing Sanctity: Thomas More as Literary Saint.” My interdisciplinary approach can help us understand this topic in a new light, and hopefully will contribute to the growing understanding that the boundary between medieval and modern is not firm and absolute, and that our work needs to adapt accordingly. This conference was an excellent professional experience. As it was a small symposium, I had the opportunity to speak at length with several very important scholars in the fields of medieval literary studies, hagiography, and art history.”

Anna Larsen  
Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Institute

“My participation in the Settimana di Studio, sponsored by the Centro Italiano di Studi sull’Alto Medioevo, was productive and very successful. Over the course of the week I had the chance to get to know very bright students from Italy, to learn about their research interests, and to discuss my own research with them. Not only did several of the other students express interest in my topic, but they also provided me with new insights as to how I might continue my work. Since I have been working with primarily English and German secondary sources and am unfamiliar with much Italian scholarship, this information was very helpful. I believe it will allow me to research and write a more effective and precise dissertation.”

Hailey LaVoy (fourth from the right)  
Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Institute
“This grant from the Institute allowed me to conduct research on the health and demography of small-island fishing communities in Western Ireland. The first goal was to build upon previous years’ work to generate knowledge of the island’s demography and the interplay of biotic and abiotic epidemiological factors. Given new data as a proxy for epidemiological data, we are trying to characterize the 1907 epidemic, to model it, and to understand the broader ramifications upon health and demography in Western Ireland.”

Philip Lettieri  
*Class of ‘13, Majors in Biology and Anthropology*

“Over spring break, thanks to a grant from the Institute, I was able to travel to Prato, Italy, to conduct research for my senior essay on the Chinese community in the city. With China’s huge population and migration becoming more prevalent, there will be many more cities like Prato that will encounter similar issues. How a small European town such as Prato deals with the Chinese now could set the tone for Europe’s interactions with the Chinese in the years to come.”

Douglas Lim (at far right)  
*Class of ’11, Majors in French and Chinese*
“With the Institute’s help, I was fortunate to spend eighteen days exploring the architecture of seven former Soviet bloc countries. My task was to capture and understand how architecture played a role in cultural and political transformations. As I reflect on those weeks, I am amazed at how much I was able to learn and see. I hope to put my research together in a larger exhibition, highlighting each city I was able to explore and discover. My research will also aid my senior thesis, as I try to tackle building in a city that also is striving to recover from revolution: Cairo, Egypt.”

Rebecca Lischwe
Class of ’12, Major in Architecture

“I was able to spend six weeks in Paris as an intern for retired Army Col. Peter Herrly. This internship provided me with a wonderful opportunity to use the French I had learned during my study abroad the preceding year and to develop new skills and interests that will serve me throughout the rest of my Notre Dame career and beyond. It allowed me to fine-tune my French skills, develop a new skill set, receive career advice from many highly-placed experts, and add focus to my political science major. Most significantly, I gained a lot of experience speaking on the phone in French, one of the most difficult situations in which to speak a foreign language. It was an incredibly educational experience and an honor to work with the group that I did. The summer was everything that I had hoped for and more.”

Tara Lucian
Class of ’13, Major in Political Science
“In order to study the Francophone community in Egypt, I started by asking our student orientation leaders at the Anglophone American University in Cairo if they spoke French. Many of them said yes, they had gone to French schools and agreed to be interviewed. Unfortunately, I was unable to conduct any interviews in person because on January 31, 2011, I was evacuated from the country by the State Department. Our last day of instruction was Thursday, January 27. Just after midnight, the Internet and mobile phones were shut down in Egypt. We had signed up for a trip to the pyramids on Friday, but our trip was postponed indefinitely. Classes were supposed to start Sunday, but they too were postponed. Instead, we explored Zamalek a little, before getting tear-gassed and returning immediately to the dorm. There, we watched from the roof.”

Lea Malewitz
Class of ’12, Majors in French and Arabic

“My six weeks in Tours, France, over the summer were inspiring. I have traveled internationally a lot for fencing competitions, spending a couple of nights in a foreign country each time, so I considered myself well-traveled and pretty cultured. However, being fully immersed in another culture for a month and a half is a completely different story. It was much more exciting and challenging than I ever anticipated. Knowledge that comes from experience—from being immersed, making mistakes, and being corrected by native speakers—is knowledge that stays with you longer and has a more profound effect than any other kind.”

Darsie Malynn
Class of ’12, Major in French, and Masters candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
“Over winter break I spent five days in Paris conducting research for my senior honors thesis in art history. My project is to study the oil paintings and pencil drawings produced by the nineteenth-century French artist Guillaume Bodinier during his twenty years in Italy and to explore how they are in conversation with contemporary French artists and intellectuals who were equally interested in understanding ‘the other.’ The purpose of my trip was to supplement the research I had already gathered for my thesis by examining several books and auction catalogs housed at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. I have already been in communication with Patrick Le Nouine, the director of the museums of Angers, as it is my hope to conduct further research at the archives in Angers perhaps this upcoming summer.”

Brigid Mangano (at left)
Class of ’11, Majors in Art History and French

“Our pilgrimage walk on the Camino de Santiago was wonderful. Meeting people and interacting with Spanish culture enriched my understanding of both modern and past European life. Sharing in an ancient pilgrimage strengthened my faith. I am grateful to the Institute for helping to make this trip possible.”

James Maslar (at left)
Class of ’11, Majors in Theology and Preprofessional Studies
“My time in Ireland was relaxing, nourishing, and wonderfully helpful in discerning my postgraduate path. Through the help of this grant, I was able to spend almost a week with the lay volunteer ministers of Teach Bhride, the House of Brigid. Through music ministry, youth ministry, and liturgical and music catechesis based in Clonard Parish outside Wexford, the House is attempting to reevangelize and revive the Church in Ireland.”

Dan Masterton
Class of ’11, Major in Theology

“I am very grateful that I received such a wonderful opportunity to study German in Munich this summer. My interaction with Germans my age was usually a good experience. I found that their use of slang was generally accepted by the older generation, and in general that they are less vulgar than American college students. The experience will go a long way in preparing for my spring semester in Berlin at Freie Universität. I now know what it takes to learn a language effectively.”

Brandon Materna
Class of ’13, Major in Economics

“Because of the generosity of the Institute, I was able to stay for the entirety of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Montreal and take full advantage of the opportunity to network and discuss my dissertation with people whose comments on my work will be crucial in the years ahead. I am grateful for your support, and I hope that similar privileges will continue to be afforded to graduate students in the years to come.”

John McCormack
Doctoral Candidate, History
“Climbing Mont Ventoux, retracing Petrarch’s journey up the Brenta Canal, spending time in his last house outside Padua, and seeing the sites of Rome he praised so highly made my study of Petrarch come alive. I returned feeling that I had a much deeper understanding of his ideas and his personality as it was affected by the many places in which he lived. I know this information will be invaluable as I begin my senior thesis, and I am very grateful for this unique opportunity.”

Michael McHale
Class of ’12, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies

“During high school, I lived in Germany and became aware of the problem of the declining birthrate in Europe. At Notre Dame, I continued to be interested in this and wanted to understand whether and how the policies in various countries affected birthrates and whether these policies could be transferable. I had seven scheduled interviews in locations throughout Paris with scholars from the Sorbonne, Sciences Po’, The National Demographic Institute (INED), and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). My experience inspired me to continue to search for opportunities that will take me back to Europe and continue to give me an understanding of European cultures and societies.”

Kelly McRaven (at right)
Class of ’13, Major in Political Science
“Thanks to the generosity of the Institute, I was able to spend nine weeks in Dublin, Ireland, conducting research for my dissertation. This trip was absolutely essential to launching my dissertation research and sharpening my arguments for my project. I conducted research at the National Archives of Ireland and the Archives Department at University College. I supplemented this research with rare books, pamphlets and other periodicals not available in the US at the National Library of Ireland.”

Meredith Meagher
Doctoral candidate, History

“I presented a paper at the International Medieval Congress, the largest conference of its kind in Europe. Particularly appealing for non-Europeans is the opportunity to meet, chat and collaborate with European colleagues who are often unable to travel to the US or elsewhere. The conversations sparked by sessions that I attended and above all the one in which I participated are a boon to my development as a scholar. Personal connections that are so essential to furthering collaboration and research are solidified only in person. I am grateful, therefore, to the Institute for funding my participation in these sessions.”

Stephen Metzger
Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Institute
“This summer research trip to Greece was an invaluable experience. It was fascinating to study how the birthplace of classical architecture returned to its roots and again began building in a classical style in the 1800s. Through this trip, I was able to participate in the two-dimensional documentation of four different cities, most of which are currently undocumented. This research trip served an additional purpose: it provided a model of the process of site documentation that I will use for future site documentation in my senior thesis project.”

Meeghan Miller
*Class of ’12, Major in Architecture*

“The experience of working as an intern at the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival was one of the most rewarding of my life and an invaluable step in my future career as a filmmaker. I was assigned to work as a PR intern for a production company out of Santa Monica, California, and I was able to work alongside producers and directors in order to sell their films on the vast Cannes Film Market. I am deeply grateful to the Nanovic Institute for providing me the opportunity to take part in this internship.”

Audrey Mitchell
*Class of ’12, Majors in Film, Television, & Theatre, and English*
“Thanks to a grant from the Institute, the variety of activities in which I was able to engage during my short stay at the Harriman Institute in New York gave me the unique opportunity to crystallize my plans and dreams for the coming years. I attended the Harriman Institute’s panel discussion on transitional justice, had meetings with professors and former Ambassador Kuchinsky, and was thrilled to see Russian exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art.”

Katherine Mohrig  
*Class of ’11, Majors in Physics and Russian & East European Studies*

“The Vatican Library houses the two oldest known versions of a manuscript of Joachim of Fiore’s commentary *Super Isaiam*. Both are from the thirteenth century. My main objective was to study the marginal commentary of these earliest manuscripts because I believed that the variations would reveal how they relate to each other and to later versions—something that may not necessarily be gleaned from the main body of text, which generally remained stable across the manuscript tradition. This kind of analysis had to be done on-site because the reproductions rendered these marginalia virtually illegible. The trip proved to be enormously productive, with many exciting discoveries. Overall, this research has greatly clarified the origins of the text and thus helps trace Fiore’s influence on Western intellectual history.”

David Morris  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*
“I set out to intern in Paris at STYLES Architects in order to gain needed experience at an architecture firm that emphasizes the importance of traditional architecture and New Urbanism, as well as to explore the culture and architecture of Paris. Visiting a city as a tourist is vastly different than living in a city for an extended period of time. The chance to get to know Paris as an active participant was an opportunity I am very thankful for. The lessons learned I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Kristina Mosco  
*Class of ’12, Major in Architecture*

“This spring I conducted ten interviews with members of Finland’s Ministry of Education and professors of education at the Universities of Helsinki, Tampere, and Jyvaskyla. The purpose of these interviews was to discover a sample of the range of opinions that pervade the philosophy behind Finland’s extraordinarily successful public school system. The interview findings will help me in the content as well as the structure of my senior thesis. More importantly, I now carry with me a worldview and a perspective on education that has been greatly enriched.”

Stephanie Mueth  
*Class of ’12, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies*
“Before college, if someone had told me that I would devote four years of my life to performance of vocal art song and opera, as well as the academic study of Western classical music, I probably would not have believed it. However, I would not have traded my musical studies over the past few years for any other academic pursuit. The recent trip to Vienna, with three of my colleagues and friends, absolutely confirmed this. As a senior, these experiences will strongly influence my performance of my current recital repertoire, our Mozart opera, a potential research performance on Berg, and my final performance of Mozart’s Ach, ich fühl’s at the Senior Commencement Concert. Thank you so much for this incredible experience.”

Kate Mullaney (at far right)
Class of ’11, Majors in Music and English

“Thanks to the Institute, I traveled to Germany, Israel, and the US to present papers central to 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. Having kindly commented on previous journal articles I had written, several of which directly address his work, a prominent professor offered to read further components of my dissertation as they develop. This leads me to believe that in due course he might serve as an external member on my dissertation committee, which would greatly enhance my research in multiple ways.”

Shmuel Nili
Doctoral Candidate, Political Science
“My original goals for summer travel and research were to contribute to the current documentation of nineteenth century neoclassical buildings in Greece and Rome, gain experience in field documentation and sketching, and experience the unique cultures of these places. There is much to gain from precedent research through books, but experience is essential. The streetscapes in all of the visited areas were unique, varying from place-to-place. The differences, both vast and small, were those that could only be determined by actually seeing the places. It is one thing to study the architecture from plan, section, and elevation, but to actually be there witnessing how these nuances affect the lives and traditions of these people (and even myself) is incredible. I will use this research in conjunction with my thesis work. I hope to set my architecture thesis project in Corinth.”

Gina Paietta  
Class of ’12, Major in Architecture

“During the early summer of 2011 I studied the German language for four weeks in Germany at the Goethe Institut’s Freiburg location. I was able to practice consistently enough for a long enough time that I feel I truly internalized the nuances of the language with which I had been struggling. While in Munich, we visited the famous Frauenkirche for Mass on Pentecost and were able to hear the Gospel in a foreign language that we could understand. It was truly a unique experience.”

Daniel Palmer  
Class of ’13, Major in Political Science
While conducting research at the Institute of Automatic Control at RWTH in Aachen, Germany, I became aware of the differences between American and German academic careers. In addition, I had a chance to travel to different German cities over the weekends. I visited Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Bremen, Hanover, Hamburg, Cologne and Düsseldorf. Germany is the country I had always dreamed of visiting because of its advanced high technology, especially in the automotive industry. I realized my dream this summer.

Yichao Pan (at right)
Class of ’12, Major in Mechanical Engineering

As for the long-term results of having studied German in Munich over the summer, I do not know that I could describe them fully in an essay constrained by any sort of word limit. It will be enough to say that two things stand out most distinctly: that I developed a healthy degree of fluency in a foreign language of moderate difficulty, and that I came to understand how Europeans viewed America—a view that, I am extremely proud to mention, I considerably brightened in the minds of my host family. The departing words of the mother of the family to me were, ‘I have a much more beautiful picture of the United States now.’

Dale Parker
Class of ’13, Major in Classics
“I had the pleasure of working for two months doing theoretical nuclear physics research at France’s national accelerator facility, GANIL (Grand Accelerateur Nationale d’Ion Lourds), in the Normandy city of Caen. My summer research experience in France was one of deep immersion in physics and culture. The results of our research were presented at the CSNSM, Orsay in July and will also be presented at the Division of Nuclear Physics meeting in October 2011. I also greatly flourished in the life of research at GANIL and took the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of northwestern France. I hope to return to GANIL for some doctoral research, and am greatly thankful to the Institute for allowing me to live and work in Europe for the very first time.”

Nancy Paul
Class of ’12, Major in Physics

“The conference at which I presented my paper in Belfast helped to open up new questions and moments in Irish literary history for me as a scholar, especially the intercourse between the intellectual communities of Paris, Dublin, and Belfast in the early twentieth century. Presenting my paper gave me the opportunity to receive some very helpful feedback, including some secondary reading to consider as I prepare this work for publication. The support and interest of professional scholars was encouraging, and I valued the opportunity.”

Marianne Peracchio
Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Literature
“I could not stop grinning as our puddle jumper descended through the clouds and onto the sheep-bordered runway of Dublin. Faint shafts of light illuminating a distant mountain mirrored my ethereal expectations and promised to fulfill my romantic ideals. About three hours, two missed busses, one currency misadventure, a pair of snow-sogged boots, and a grubby hostel later, the smile was waning. The challenges of conducting research abroad provided an equal, if not greater, opportunity for growth.”

Kathryn Petrik  
Class of ’12, Majors in the Program of Liberal Studies and Arabic

“Thanks to the Institute, I was able to start the archival portion of my dissertation research. I was in England for three and a half weeks, and in the course of that time I visited the Eton College archives (Windsor), St. Paul’s School archives (London), Magdalen College archives (Oxford), King’s College archives (Cambridge), the National Archives (in Kew), and the British Library (London). I was also able to arrange a meeting with a professor at Cambridge University, who has now agreed to write my institutional letter of affiliation as part of my Fulbright application.”

Eleanor Pettus  
Doctoral Candidate, History
“Globalization has integrated across national boundaries diverse political, economic, and social actors. Consequently, the individual is exposed to political, economic, and social forces of unprecedented proportion. Faced with these forces, individual agency is challenged to be anything more than a modest, limited enterprise. It was with this challenge in mind that I explored Paris in search of the legacy left behind by Napoleon Bonaparte. As my nine-day journey drew to a close, I came to a greater understanding of the legacy of one person, the efficacy of his actions, and how those effects continue to reverberate.”

Jason Pham
Class of ’11, Major in Political Science

“It is almost drug-like. When I am asked what draws me back to Russia, I say merely that it is something in the air. A full explanation of ‘Russia love’ would prove to be too time-consuming, if even possible, to someone who has never experienced it. The advanced language training program I attended provided a host family for each student. I was placed in a family of three: a mother, her daughter, and her son. The children, now aged 23 and 25, were just as eager to engage me as I was them. They and their mother showed me the city and gave me an education in contemporary Russian language and culture that no university course could replicate.”

Paul Phelan
Class of ’12, Majors in Political Science and Russian
“As a first year architecture student, this level of realism and the ability to compare and contrast my designs with the existing structures was an incredible experience. It allowed me to piece things together and to see the things I did well and the things I would change in my designs, if given the chance. Additionally, our presentations to citizens and government officials provided a priceless experience. To have such a strong, positive impact on these citizens was a wonderful thing to see.”

Stacey Philliber  
*Masters Candidate, Architecture*

“The greatest achievement of my research trip to the National Archives in Paris was the discovery of a very promising collection of sources that will serve as a foundation for a possible dissertation topic. It all began with a small file entitled ‘medical quacks’ in the files of the Ministry of Cults, files which included a number of pastoral letters and statements on the propagation of the smallpox vaccine by Catholic clergy during the First Empire and the Restoration (from 1804-1824). The thick accumulation of dust somehow made the experience that much more exciting. My research proceeded apace, and I was confident in my skills as well as in my area of research.”

Sean Phillips  
*Doctoral Candidate, History*
“This experience in France allowed me to pursue a topic of intellectual interest in a way that I would be otherwise unable to investigate. It has greatly improved my understanding of the complex dynamics that affect the changing demographics in Europe. Being immersed in French society allowed me to develop a real understanding of this issue and has spurred my interest in pursuing undergraduate research in Europe in the future. These valuable experiences have given me direction in my academic goals as I continue to work towards a senior thesis in the coming years.”

Alison Podlaski (at left)
Class of ’13, Major in Anthropology

“Thanks to a grant from the Institute, I was able to complete a number of research goals related to my studies of the liturgy of the European Crusaders in twelfth-century Jerusalem. My purpose in examining evidence on-site was to determine, by examining the codicological and paleographical features of manuscripts, their relative dates and relationships to each another. This would in turn allow me to chart the rise and stages of development of the Crusader’s Jerusalem feast day in the twelfth century. My studies of the manuscript sources for the Crusader’s Jerusalem feast have laid a sure foundation for two articles I am currently completing.”

Cara Polk
Doctoral Candidate, Theology
“I spent the past summer living and working in Paris. As I look back on my all of my experiences in France, I know that I am not the same guy who stepped on the airplane back in June. In ways that I haven’t yet fully grasped, my time abroad has affected me as a student, a Catholic, a world citizen, and especially as an architect-in-training. The interesting thing about working in the summer of 2011 was seeing first-hand the effect of the economic crisis that seems to be gripping most of the world. France was not exempt from this problem. It was especially evident working at an architecture firm, where the crisis manifested itself into clients who, having lost money, were unable to continue with projects. As an intern, this put me in a unique position. From day one, I was entrusted to create drawings meant to impress potential clients into employing the architecture firm. This was my first experience working with architects in a professional setting, and it was vastly different from my experiences with professors. I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the Institute for making this dream a possibility.”

Evan Possley
Class of ’12, Major in Architecture
“This experience of independent research abroad was one of the most challenging and rewarding things I’ve ever done. Thanks to the support of the Institute, I was free to concentrate on points of interest at my own pace. As different as Piacenza and Cisternino were in their architectural language, this research allowed me to witness and understand the underlying similarities and successes. I will now go forward in my studies, in particular with my final thesis project in Architecture, with a greater understanding of urbanism at its best, and what we can strive for in our hometowns.”

Kathleen Puls  
*Class of ’12, Major in Architecture*

“I conducted my exploratory research in Rome, Italy, with the aim of examining the associations between the conceptions of adulthood among Italian university students and the presence of “emerging adulthood” in the *mammoni* population. This population ranges in age from early twenties to late thirties and forties. Through preliminary literature reviews and direct surveys of Italian adolescents, I obtained some highly intriguing data. For each item within the individual subscales, participants were asked to ‘indicate whether you think each of the following must be achieved before a person can be considered an adult.’ I found the results particularly fascinating in comparison to Jeffrey Arnett’s findings in the American majority population.”

Catherine Reidy  
*Class of ’13, Majors in Psychology and Philosophy*
“My dissertation examines the development of Archbishop Wulfstan’s *Poltity and its relation to Wulfstan’s other writings in Old English and Latin. The trip proved to be enormously beneficial for my research and professional development. My research began in London with ten days at the British Library. The week I spent at the Bodleian Library at Oxford was equally fruitful in both academic and professional terms.”

Ben Reinhard  
*Doctoral Candidate, Medieval Institute*

“My journey to Rome to study the dogma of the Immaculate Conception as depicted through Italian artwork proved to be extraordinary. My visits to the Papal Basilicas, the Vatican Museums, the Column of the Immaculate Conception at the Piazza di Spagna, the Capuchin Church of the Immaculate Conception at the Piazza Barberini, and the Church of San Andrea della Fratte each took me by surprise in unique ways.”

Katherine Remley  
*Class of ’12, Majors in Theology and Medieval Studies*
“The Institute’s support allowed me to travel from Russia, where I was conducting my dissertation research at the time, to Boston, in order to present a paper at the American Historical Association’s (AHA) 125th Annual Meeting. The paper I delivered at the AHA meeting is part of my doctoral dissertation on the late Soviet scientific intelligentsia, and was my first attempt to analyze the findings of my dissertational research and present it in front of highly qualified scholars. My paper, entitled “Between Loyalty and Dissent: Scientific Intelligentsia in the Late Soviet Union,” aspired to explore the boundaries of loyalty and dissent in post-Stalinist Soviet society. Both my participation in the AHA, which is the largest and most prestigious history conference in America, and my presentation were extremely rewarding experiences.”

Maria Rogacheva
Doctoral Candidate, History
As soon as I arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria, and got a glimpse of my surroundings, I knew I was in for a rude awakening. Even within the city limits, I felt like I was in a remote village. For the first five days, I lived with a family in Knazhevo. After my stay, I made my way with a small group to Razliv, a tiny village about thirty miles from Sofia. There were only two general stores, one restaurant, and the Razliv Orphanage. As soon as we stepped inside the orphanage, kids crowded around us, wanting to touch us, talk to us, and hug us. The three of us were assigned to take care of the twenty or so kids, and we really had no idea of what we were getting ourselves into. Not used to interacting with other human beings, the children would cringe when you touched them and were very sensitive to everything around them, so they would usually sit together and do nothing but move their eyes around the room. Seeing them smile in response to our encouragement was priceless. I have never in my life felt so welcomed, needed, or loved by complete strangers as I did when I lived in Bulgaria.”

Nathalie Rosado
Class of ’12, Major in History
“I had the pleasure and fortune of interning at John Simpson and Partners, a traditional architecture firm in London, U.K. This was, in my opinion, an ideal opportunity for me to cap off a phenomenal year of study abroad in Rome, Italy. I was not studying out of textbooks anymore; I was studying the fascinating spaces I was in. The internship honed my interpersonal skills and helped me learn to integrate into a professional working environment. The academic, professional and social skills I acquired through my experience will be invaluable for my future endeavors. I cannot thank the Nanovic Institute enough for the exposure and skills this opportunity offered.”

Bisma Sarfaraz
Class of ’13, Major in Architecture

“My four weeks in Dresden gave me the chance to experience history while improving my language skills. Surrounded by German speakers, and few English speakers, I had no other choice but to communicate in German. In my free time I watched American movies dubbed in German, read books or newspapers in German, or met up with some German friends to go bowling. I talked with receptionists, salespeople, waiters, street vendors and other students in German. I was inundated with German and, though my grammar and pronunciation are not perfect, was able to do more than just survive. Over four weeks, I gained a great amount of confidence in my speaking ability.”

Catherine Schrandt
Class of ’13, Major in History and German
“My summer study in Italy comprised two phases. During the first I attended the Cinema Ritrovato festival in Bologna, and during the second I attended an intensive language course in Milan. Overall this experience was greatly enriching. My improved language skills and expanded cultural knowledge will benefit me immediately as a student and graduate instructor of Italian and have helped to solidify my background in the field of Italian Studies as I begin my job search.”

Laurel Schuirmann
Masters Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

“The week I spent traveling the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in Spain was one of the most academically and personally significant experiences of my undergraduate career. As a student who had never previously left the country, experiencing some of the language, culture, and traditions of Spain was a mind-blowing experience. As a theology student, being able to experience the practice of pilgrimage gave me greater insight into Catholic spirituality and practice throughout history and today. I know that it is a trip I will return to again and again in my academic future.”

Rebecca Sharbaugh
Class of ’11, Major in Psychology and Theology
“I traveled to Ireland to research the future of the Irish economy after the recent economic downturn. As an Irish dual citizen and an accounting student, I was interested in hearing how Irish accountants viewed the future of the Irish economy. This was my first research venture. I was able to take my learning from the College of Business to a current and significant issue in Europe and see first-hand the effects of economic decisions. The discussions I had gave me a fascinating perspective into the Irish economy. I am so grateful to Notre Dame for offering this opportunity.”

Connor Skelly
Class of ’12, Major in Accounting

“With support from a grant from the Institute, I was able to live in Berlin and begin background reading for my senior thesis. Once a week, I also met with a faculty member of the Freie Universität Institut für Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie to discuss the direction of my reading. He offered suggestions for the direction of my thesis and provided helpful clarifications on an author I am studying. We spoke only in German, which, though it made my engagement in the conversation difficult, provided a good exercise and stretched my ability to participate in prolonged academic discussions in German.”

William Stewart
Class of ’12, Major in the Program of Liberal Studies
“The Institute’s support enabled me to present a paper, “Social Coping: Mothers’ Mental Health in Northern Ireland,” at the International Society for Political Psychology. My paper was well-received, which was wonderful considering I had cited both the discussant and at least one audience member. Another panelist also presented on survey data collected in Northern Ireland and her specific focus was on religiosity, which overlaps with another member of my research team; I was able to connect them via email to discuss their shared interests. During this session I also received encouragement to submit my paper for publication. This was an incredible opportunity for me to share my scholarship, raise Notre Dame’s profile among an international audience of psychologists and political scientists, and network with other universities that are potential future employers.”

Laura Taylor
Doctoral Candidate, Psychology & Peace Studies

“Participating in this year’s annual meeting of the Heidegger Circle was a wonderful experience. It was a joy to be surrounded by so many others who share my deep interest in and passion for Heidegger’s work, and I plan to attend (and hope to participate in) more annual meetings of the Heidegger Circle in the future. I am thrilled to have begun this stage of my professional development and would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the Institute for its part in making this experience possible.”

Joshua Tepley
Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy
“I was able to travel to Ireland to further investigate a facet of the Irish American experience. Ultimately, it is exciting to have been given the opportunity to make a contribution to the dialogue surrounding Irish immigration to the United States. To think that another person who is also interested in this topic might come across my article is a very rewarding feeling. Nanovic helped me to tell this story and illustrate these transformations by helping me to fine-tune my research skills abroad.”

Jacqueline Thomas  
*Class of ’11, Majors in Anthropology and Film, Television & Theatre*

“On the whole, the experience Kyle and I had documenting Parisian street musicians was culturally enriching, educationally engaging, and professionally valuable. The technical skills I developed in Paris will be utilized repeatedly throughout my remaining year at Notre Dame, and the story telling techniques I honed will have cross-disciplinary applications. Professionally, the opportunity to develop an extracurricular documentary film of this caliber will help propel me to the levels of filmmaking success that I have diligently pursued since the beginning of my cinematic career.”

William Thwaites  
*Class of ’12, Majors in Film, Television & Theatre and Economics*
“I was able to achieve every goal I set for myself and was even able to learn and experience things I hadn’t imagined. I strove to improve my French, and although that came with many errors, it naturally developed in a way that it couldn’t in any classroom. I look forward to taking my sketches, pictures, notes, guides, maps, and my dreams from Paris and transforming them into a research study thesis for my senior year. Opening my eyes to such a challenge, encouraging me to strive to be a better person, following my dreams, and sharing with others is exactly what the Institute helped me do.”

Tiffany Tibbot  
-Class of ’12, Major in Marketing

“With the help of the Institute, I learned a great deal about the culture, history, and architecture of the city of Bath. But even more than that, this project taught me how to tour a city as an architect/urban designer, how to make a project proposal to concerned stakeholders, and how to speak about new developments in a historic center with everyone from avant-garde architects to hard-nosed preservationists. I hope to work on urban infill projects in historic districts for my career, so I will carry the lessons I learned on this project for a very long time.”  

Joel VanderWeele  
-Masters Candidate, Architecture
“I spent the past summer in Brussels, Belgium, as an intern in the office Mario Mauro, a member of the European Parliament (EP) in the European Union and the head of the Italian European People’s Party delegation to the EP. Overall, this experience allowed me not only to understand the workings of the European Union firsthand, but also gave me opportunities to make meaningful contributions to the work of the office. It expanded my view of the importance and difficulty of international cooperation. It was an amazing opportunity to make friends from across the world and discuss their perspectives on global issues. The things that I learned at the EU this summer will be invaluable in my future academic and career pursuits.”

Laura Wetterer
Class of ’12, Majors in Political Science and Spanish

“Thanks to the Institute, I spent five and a half weeks conducting research in Barcelona for my honors senior thesis in History. Living in Barcelona allowed me to access documents and books hard to find or unavailable in the United States, providing me with a strong foundation and understanding of Catalonia during Francisco Franco’s regime. Interviews with Catalans who worked during the regime also gave me unique perspectives and new openings to areas I had yet to think of. Although I knew my thesis would benefit from this grant, I did not anticipate how I would develop and adapt to the challenges of researching abroad and interviewing subjects on a sensitive topic. I am very appreciative of the Institute’s generosity and will never forget the time I spent researching in Barcelona.”

Tessa White
Class of ’12, Majors in History and Spanish
“Over the summer, I spent eight weeks on three different work sites in France related to medieval archaeology. First, I participated in a multi-year project to build a medieval village. During the next four weeks, I participated in an archaeological dig on a medieval castle in Normandy. My final two weeks were spent with a service organization that did restoration work in southern France. Thus, I combined my two majors of Anthropology and French into a summer internship and service experience and plan to use what I learned this summer as a potential foundation for my senior thesis.”

Allison Whitlock
Class of ’13, Majors in Anthropology and French

“The Institute’s support allowed me to conduct research essential for my dissertation. The grant afforded me the opportunity to travel to the Vatican Library in Rome and the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence to consult two early thirteenth-century manuscripts of Jacques of Vitry’s Historia orientalis as well as one manuscript of Helinand of Froidmont’s Chronicon. Jacques and Helinand, two early thirteenth-century intellectuals who produced emblematic universal histories, are the focus of my dissertation. Having the information that I gathered thanks to the grant, I will be able to produce strong fellowship applications to study other manuscripts throughout Europe, which will add a dimension to my study that would have been impossible otherwise.”

Caroline Wilky
Doctoral Candidate, History
“The research I undertook in Saint Petersburg, Russia, provided useful information and materials for both my senior thesis and my Fulbright grant application for 2011-2012. This trip provided me with literature and historical information that I will use for the next two years, as well as the opportunity to solidify relationships in the city in which I hope to reside for the next year. The Institute provided me with funding for an invaluable academic experience in Russia.”

Thomas Wiseman
Class of ’11, Majors in German and Russian

“I knew that our pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, would be the trip of a lifetime, but I did not expect it to affect my heart as much as it did…With our connections with the people, I felt connected to all pilgrims that had come before us, that were walking with us then, and that will walk after we left Spain…I believe that the Camino is not just an end, not simply a destination, but a beginning.”

Tim Woodward
Class of ’11, Majors in Psychology and American Studies
“Alba Adriatica is a small fishing town in Italy driven mainly by tourism. It is right along the Adriatic Coast and is connected to the surrounding towns by a boardwalk called Il Lungomare, literally “the long sea.” I became very intimate with this road over the summer. From a cultural standpoint, the trip was much more immersive than an entire year in Rome. Being in a region where almost nobody speaks English was daunting, to say the least, but it forced me to learn the Italian language and way of life. By the end of my trip, I was fluent in conversational Italian and could go out with my friends from work.”

Joseph Yatco
Class of ’12, Major in Architecture

“This trip to Bath, England, was a great educational experience for me not only as a part of my academic understanding of architecture, but especially for a practical understanding of the process of building…I only wish we could have stayed longer. Bath is an amazing city, and is packed with learning opportunities for American architects.”

Stephen Zepeda
Masters Candidate, Architecture