

2019 Capstone Projects

Darynn Dean, “All About Love: Jazz and Gender” (documentary film for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2019. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An exploration of how jazz can be founded in what feminist writer bell hooks calls a “love ethic.” The film chronicles the author’s creation of the first ever “NEC & Berklee All Women Cross Big Band,” featuring interviews with prominent women jazz musicians, peers, and scholars from NEC and Berklee.

Julia Cohen, “Rejection” (solo performance piece of five extended monologues for the LARTS Minor in Acting, spring 2019. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A solo performance piece weaving together a series of monologues and guitar interludes on the theme of “The Five Stages of Rejection”: Lesley from Alan Bennett’s *Talking Heads*, Hertha from Tennessee Williams’ *Spring Storm*, Karen from Tracy Letts’ *August: Osage County*, Jessie from Marsha Norman’s *Night, Mother*, and Nina from Chekhov’s *The Seagull*.

Bosba Panh, “Art in Post-Genocide Cambodia” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2019. Advisers James Klein and Jill Gatlin)

A consideration of the cultural value in presenting trauma in art through analyses of works by Sera Ing, Rithy Panh, the *Bangsokol Requiem*, as well as the author’s own song cycle *Father Mine*.

Alexandra Purdy, “Women of Athens: The Contrasting Roles of Women in Classical Athens and Classical Tragedy” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Theatre Studies, spring 2019. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A research project examining the striking contrast between the severely limited roles of women in Classical Athens and the assertive and powerful roles of a number of prominent female characters in Classical Tragedy.

Liana Branscome, “Insomniac” (collection of poems for the LARTS Minor in Poetry, spring 2019. Adviser Ruth Lepson)

A collection of poems about everyday encounters—an exploration of the ramifications of the secrets we keep, the insecurities we believe in, and the mysterious side of life.

Mira Williams, “Transgressive Bodies: Desire and Discipline” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies spring 2019. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An analysis of how works by Sarah Lucas and Andre Dubus offer reflexive, unique, and highly relatable discussions of gender and atypical bodies.

2018 Capstone Projects

Chelsea Fingal DeSouza, “The Problem of Representation and Identity in Three Postcolonial Literary Contexts” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Literature, spring 2018. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

An exploration of the ways individual and cultural identities are created and manipulated in postcolonized nations. Looking at Antigua, Vietnam, and India, the project focuses on three literary works—Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*, Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*, and Kiran Desai's *Inheritance of Loss*—to investigate the ways colonialist oppression persists in the postcolonial era.

Luther Warren, “Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses: Defining the American City” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2018. Adviser James Klein)

A study of the controversy centered on Robert Moses, builder of 20th Century New York City, designer of that 'monumental city' and 'Power Broker' and his critic, Jane Jacobs, dedicated to the idea of the city as neighborhood, as the 'intricate ballet' of its residents.

2017 Capstone Projects

Katherine Miller, “Balancing Act: An Evolution of the First Lady through Conflicting Allegiances” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Literature and Cultural Studies, spring 2017. Adviser Jill Gatlin)

A research project comparing the human rights and nation building work of three notable First Ladies—Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Hillary Clinton—documenting the evolution of the First Lady from advisor to policy maker and how this shift challenged these women to balance their duties to their country, their husbands, their own voices, and the country's women. [Capstone presentation included a performance of “What Can One Woman Do?” from Stacy Garrop's 2006 song cycle, *In Eleanor's Words*.]

Jesse Gardner, “Thinking Gender and the Family in Marx and Freud” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Cultural Studies, spring 2017. Adviser James Klein)

A research project examining the problematic notions of gender in the writings of Marx and Freud.

2016 Capstone Projects

Bryce Leafman, “Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust” (research project for the LARTS Minor in History and Social Studies, spring 2016. Adviser James Klein)

A research project examining the second wave of Holocaust historians who have emerged in the last decade, taking the pioneering work of Hilberg, Levi, and Arendt and complicating it with notions of participation, encouragement, and psychological as well as economic investment in perpetrating the Holocaust.