2020 Capstone Projects

**Alex Garde**, “Listening to Future Forests” (research and creative project for the LARTS Minor in Environmental Science, spring 2020. Adviser Matthew Duveneck)

This project simulates the next 100 years of a forest under two scenarios: one with normal climatic conditions, and one with climate change. The simulations are represented musically, allowing one to “listen” to the forest in order to help understand the impact of climate change on forest ecosystems.

**Ilana Zaks**, “Flying Forward” (multimedia project for the LARTS Minor in Creative Arts, spring 2020. Adviser Patrick Keppel)

A multimedia performance featuring Jennifer Higdon’s Violin Concerto, a dance premiere, and a documentary film on the subject of the empowerment of women in the classical music, fashion design, electronic production, film and dance industries.

**Allyson Bennett**, “The Marriage of Lieder and Text” (research project for the LARTS Minor in German, spring 2020. Adviser Sia Stovall)

An examination of the relationship between Romantic German text and Lieder through various settings of Goethe’s Der Erlkönig.

**Andrew Barnwell**, “Observational Study of Museum Visitors’ Interactions with Analog and Digital Educational Tools” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Social Studies, spring 2020. Adviser James Klein)

Research from the Jacob Lawrence Gallery of the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), along with demographic data and financial analysis of the PEM and the Museum of Fine Arts.

**McKinley James**, “New England Traditional Music and Dance” (research project for the LARTS Minor in Anthropology and Ethnomusicology, spring 2020. Adviser James Klein)

A comprehensive study of the traditions of contra dance, showing the heritage and community of New England dance and music through a historical and modern study of culture and music.

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.


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.


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.

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### 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.

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### 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.