

Summer Fellowships and Honors Theses

English majors are regularly awarded summer research grants from the University of Richmond, which they have made use of either in the U.S. or abroad.

Sam Mitchell was awarded a summer fellowship to study the works of Virginia Woolf, a project that took him to London and in turn supported work on his honors thesis entitled “The Stuff of Thought: Virginia Woolf’s Object Lessons.” His thesis examines how Virginia Woolf uses objects within her fiction, both as structuring devices for the narrative and as ways to portray the subjectivity of consciousness among her characters. Exploring the theoretical work being done on Woolf and on things, his approach is highly attuned to Woolf’s style and technique, to the way objects may change and reform within the fiction, and how Woolf uses such objects to create the rhythm and boundaries of her novels.

<http://news.richmond.edu/features/article/-/7173/sam-mitchell-11-senior-pursuing-his-love-of-writing-in-grad-school.html>

Korine Powers researched the audience's relationship with serial killers in fiction and film.

<http://news.richmond.edu/features/article/-/10307/korine-powers-12-english-and-philosophy-major-researches-the-audiences-relationship-with-serial-killers-in-fiction.html>

Austin Carter’s project is “Living Life as if it Matters: *Revolutionary Road* and a Study of Postwar America.” In her words, “the project examines Richard Yates’ 1961 novel, *Revolutionary Road*, hailed by Kurt Vonnegut as ‘*The Great Gatsby* of [its] time,’ yet only now starting to receive critical attention. The project considers a collection of related narrative strands in the novel in relation to the larger field of postwar American literature and culture.”

Michael Doss’s summer project, titled “Honesty and Obscurity in Contemporary American Autobiography,” aims in his words, “to offer focused attention on how recently published nonfiction works share information in terms of openness and concealment, and to what end.”

Carter Staub’s project, titled “Cathleen ni Houlihan: Changing Images of Women in Contemporary Northern Irish Poetry,” traces images of sexual violence and entrapment through the poetry of W. B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Louis MacNeice, Medbh McGuckian, and others.

Ellen Tagtmeier, who is pursuing a combined major in English and Classics, is working on a project entitled “The Girl Behind the Face: The Objectification and Eventual Agency of Helen of Troy in Classical Literature and Twentieth-Century Cinema.” In her words, her project “explores the objectification and subjectification of Helen of Troy in both classical literature and mid-twentieth to early twenty-first century film, and its broader implications for the portrayal of the feminine with the cultural contexts of the classical period and the twentieth century.”

Shannon Biello is working on a project entitled “The Language of Trauma” that focuses on how Ernest Hemingway and Virginia Woolf attempt to navigate the emotional damage on WWI in their novels. Shannon is a double major in both English and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and her project brings together her work in neuroscience together with her work in literature. In her words, she “explores the permutation of trauma in World War I literature, examining how authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Virginia Woolf portray the emotional ‘wounds’ of their characters and how these portrayals relate to findings in the field of psychology and the treatments of psychiatry both during the World War I era and presently.”