

AMERICAN STUDIES

2015 - 2016 Year In Review | UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Hear about the diverse interests and professional achievements of members of our stellar faculty.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

See what some of our students have been doing throughout the 2015-2016 school year, and find out what they have planned for this summer.

SENIOR THESES

Read about the final projects of seven graduating seniors, and discover what they learned about writing a thesis and its value to employers.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Discover the many activities that have kept us busy this year.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT & NEWS

Meet some of our passionate alums and learn how these Domers are making the most of their time in professional environments around the world.



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

In this newsletter we want to keep you informed about what's happening in the department. We hope you'll forgive us if we brag a little too. As you will see, I hope, there's a lot to brag about.

Once again we broke enrollment records with our "Introduction to American Studies," with 95 first and second year students taking that course taught by Jason Ruiz, who also won the campus-wide Joyce Teaching Award this year. Brian Collier, who teaches classes for us in Native American Studies, also won one of those prestigious awards this year. Needless to say, we're proud of our continuing record of excellence in the classroom, and it's gratifying to note the student response: 95% of the available seats for our

classes this spring were filled.

We're also proud of the faculty's record of cross-disciplinary collaboration, research excellence, and public outreach. We continued to build links across campus—including with History—and a newly hired colleague, Korey Garabaldi, promises to enrich our collaborations with Africana Studies. Our faculty also gave conference papers and invited lectures across the country and around the world, including at conferences in diverse disciplines, from cultural geography to art history, and in 2015 I had the honor of serving as president of the American Academy of Religion, the world's largest scholarly organization for scholars of religion. Many of us also extended the reach of our scholarship by collaborating with journalists. Most notably, Bob Schmuhl published a book on Irish Americans' role in Ireland's Easter Rising of 1916, and that Oxford University Press book brought a cascade of invitations to speak to the press and the public on both sides of the Atlantic; and Kathleen Cummings, who also energetically directed the Cushwa Center for American Catholicism, was a regular on NBC's television coverage of Pope Francis' visit to the United States.

We're proud of all that, but our students and former students generate the most pride. We're proud that each graduating senior conducted original research and presented that research orally, continuing our tradition of cultivating excellence in written and oral communication. We think communication and research skills, along with our broad multi-disciplinary approach,

provides the intellectual agility graduates need in this rapidly changing world, as 2010 graduate Denise Baron notes in this issue. It turns out employers, non-profit leaders,



and graduate schools agree. This graduating class is leaving to make contributions in everything from public service in Peru to public relations in New York, from Catholic school administration in Michigan to graduate study at Cambridge University in England. They join earlier graduates who have distinguished themselves in numerous fields, including law, education, journalism, public history and business. One of the distinguished alums we profile here, Shawn Layden, returned to campus this fall to talk with our majors. We were delighted the Sony CEO praised our cross-disciplinary perspective and our emphasis on communication skills. We can't take much credit for Shawn, or our other distinguished graduates, but we cherish those enduring connections. So we hope that you too return to campus or send us a note. If you do, we promise to try to do a little less bragging.

Every best wish from campus,

Thomas A. Tweed
Chair, Department of American Studies
W. Harold and Martha Welch Professor of
American Studies

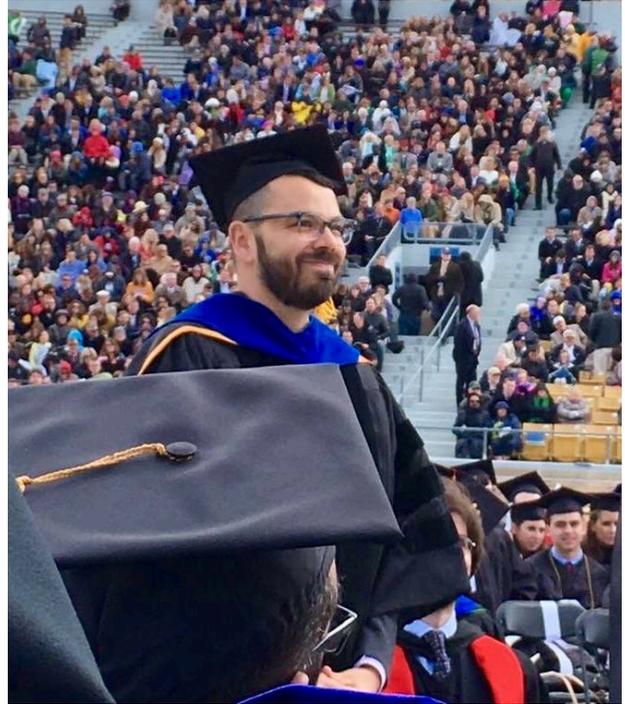
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jason Ruiz

This April, Associate Professor Jason Ruiz, incoming Director of Undergraduate Studies, received the Reverend Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C, Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Established in 2007, the Joyce Award honors faculty members who have had a profound influence on undergraduate students through sustained exemplary teaching at Notre Dame. In particular, the Joyce Award recognizes faculty who:

- Create environments that stimulate significant student learning
- Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement
- Foster students' ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Students and faculty members submitted nominations for this year's awards, and an interdisciplinary faculty committee selected the winners. As a recipient of this prestigious honor, Ruiz was recognized at the 2016 Commencement Exercises in May.



Kathleen Sprows Cummings



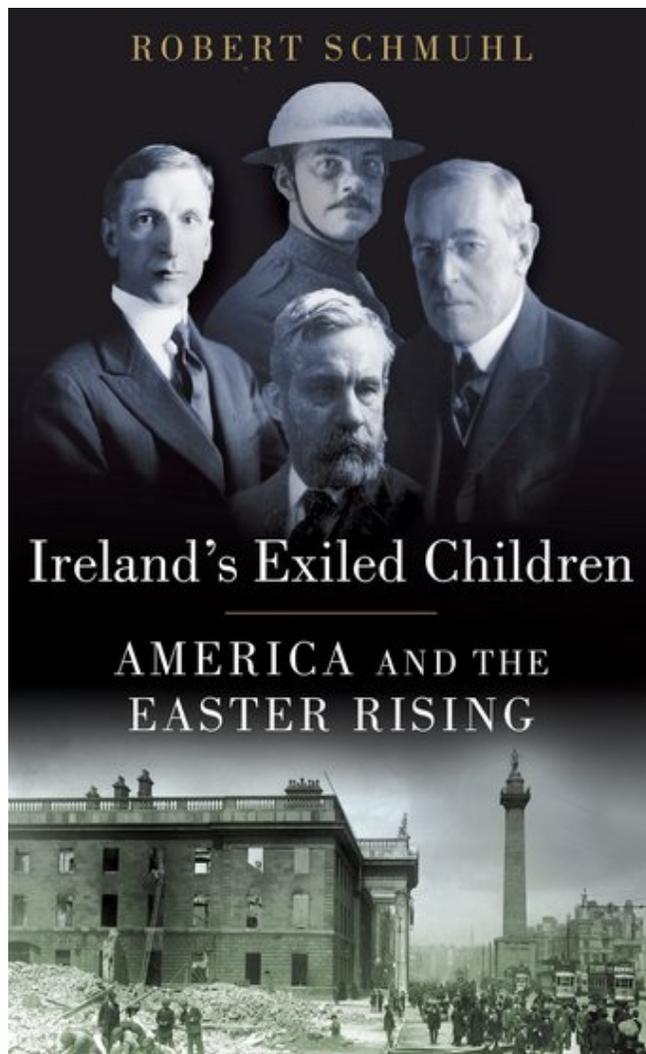
If you followed Pope Francis' visit to the United States last fall, you likely saw a face familiar to American Studies. Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Associate Professor of American Studies and Director of the

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, provided commentary to NBC and MSNBC during the Pope's visit, broadcasting live from New York and Philadelphia and appearing on the *Today* show. Cummings has offered national commentary on papal matters since 2013, when she was first contacted by NBC News. In addition to papal analysis, Cummings also provides media coverage on contemporary events in the Church. She has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. In December, Notre Dame awarded Cummings a 2015 Media Legend Award, recognizing her achievements in "consistently bringing attention to the University's academic excellence through participation in media relations, the Web and other communications channels."

Robert Schmuhl

Culminating a decade-long research project, Professor Bob Schmuhl, the Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce Professor of American Studies and Journalism, recently published *Ireland's Exiled Children: America and the Easter Rising*, released March 10, 2016, by Oxford University Press. The book describes the mostly unexplored history of the Easter Rising's origins in the United States, and is based on original archival research

Schmuhl conducted in Ireland, America, and England. Bringing life to these characters in a tale that had been lost to history, Schmuhl produced this project alongside a host of others on the topic, including contributing to the documentary *1916: The Irish Rebellion*, narrated by Liam Neeson and co-produced by the University of Notre Dame in celebration of the centenary of the event.



***Ireland's Exiled Children: America and the Easter Rising* (Oxford University Press, 2016)**

By Robert Schmuhl

Historians have long noted that the 18th century American Revolution and the 20th century struggle for Irish independence have a number of historical, political, and symbolic parallels—in both cases, separation from Great Britain took several years to achieve, required revolutionary warfare, and tested long-established allegiances. Yet while these similarities have been documented, very few historians have considered the extent to which the roots of the Easter Rising grew in American soil. For instance, not only were Ireland's "exiled children in America" acknowledged in the Proclamation announcing "the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic," a document which circulated in Dublin on the first day of the Rising in April 1916, but also, the United States was the only country singled out in this Proclamation for offering Ireland help. Remarkably, five of the seven Proclamation signatories spent time in the U.S., with one a naturalized citizen and the others influenced by the freedoms that Americans enjoyed. Furthermore, money from the States largely bankrolled the Rising, including the purchase of weaponry used and the funding of publications distributed. And direct involvement was but one dimension of the United States' connection with the Revolution—though the Rising encompassed just six days, the events in Ireland fascinated Americans, and became a major, continuing news story throughout 1916.

Korey Garibaldi

We are happy to announce that Assistant Professor Korey Garibaldi will be joining our faculty in fall 2016. Garibaldi recently completed his doctoral studies in the Department of History at the University of Chicago. He researches and teaches the modern history of the United States, with a special focus on how social and cultural formations were challenged, solidified, and reconfigured by material commodities, especially literary texts, over the course of the twentieth century.

Garibaldi's honors while a graduate student at the University of Chicago include an internal Mellon Foundation Dissertation-Year Fellowship; a joint residential dissertation fellowship co-sponsored by the University's Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, and its Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality; and the dissertation research grant awarded annually by the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights.

Garibaldi is currently finishing the manuscript for his first book, tentatively titled *Knock on Any Door: The Rise and Fall of Integration in American Culture, 1911 - 1972*. The study traces the fitful de-homogenization of the U.S. publishing industry between its marked expansion at the

beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century, up through the persons and literary phenomena associated with the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and early 1970s.

In addition to the *Integration in American Culture and Society* and *Modern History of the American Book* courses he will offer at Notre Dame during the 2016 – 2017 academic year, Garibaldi's future teaching at Notre Dame will draw on his interests in modern U.S. history, 19th and 20th century European social history, and post-Emancipation African American history.



Professor Tweed with his spring 2016 senior seminar

"We created an awesome community, and then wrote capstone papers on the side.... Thanks for a fruitful, challenging semester, Prof Tweed!"

~Hannah Petersen, NDAMST '16

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Cassidy McDonald Wins *New York Times* Contest

Cassidy McDonald, Gallivan minor in the Class of 2017, will be going on assignment this summer with Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist Nick Kristof after winning his annual "Win-A-Trip with Nick" internship contest. The Madison, Wisconsin, native is the second Notre Dame student to win the competition, following in the footsteps of Gallivan student Nicole Sganga '15, winner of the James E. and Barbara L. Murphy Award for Exceptional Journalism in her class.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

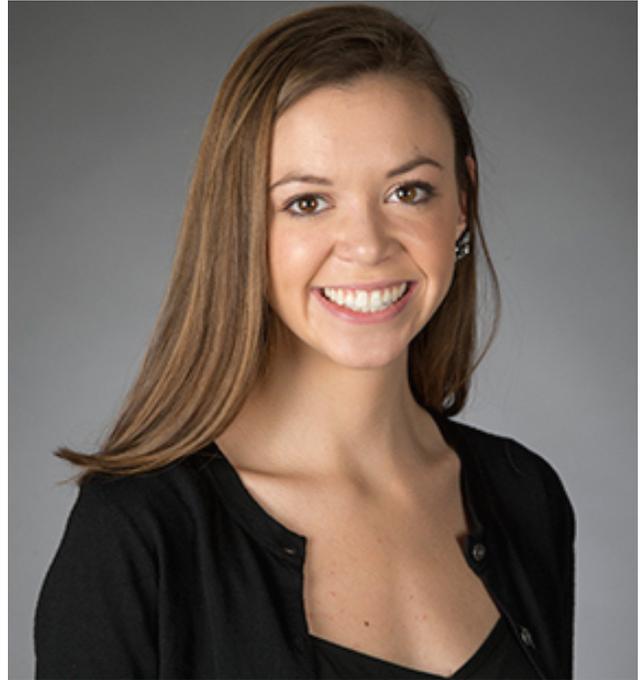
I was in Washington, D.C., this fall for a semester "abroad" with Notre Dame, but I had known about the trip for a long time. A mentor, Tom Bettag (who I met when he was a visiting professor for a semester with the Gallivan program) encouraged me to apply, and I'm so grateful to him for the extra push.

For the application, Nick asked for either an essay or video or both. I opted to submit both. All fall, I drafted my essay and a video script, but I knew that my own small camera and editing software would not suffice. So, I made plans to visit friends at Notre Dame during finals week; the visit was wonderful, but my ulterior motive was to sneak into DPAC and use the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre editing equipment. I spent the whole week crafting my application.

I tried to make a video where the focus was not me, but rather the people I've met, the stories I've covered and the perspectives I've gained throughout my short career in journalism. But in the essay, I let my personality shine through: I opened with one of my favorite ledes from my newspaper internship, which used about four cheese-related puns. Nick razzed me for it a little in his announcement, but I'm glad I included it! I think it was an honest depiction of who I am. (I also hope Nick saw that I'd be a cheerful travel partner.)

Although Professor Ciccone would have had a field day with my cheese pun lede, I truly took to heart everything I learned in his *Fundamentals of Journalism* class. To this day, his critiques of my writing were the most merciless — and helpful — comments I've ever received.

I don't know where I'd be without Tom Bettag's mentorship. He was on constant call to revise my cover



letters, console me when my internship got tough and talk through my next steps and major career aspirations.

My internship at *60 Minutes* was invaluable exposure to elite reporting. I met many people whom I now consider role models. And my D.C. class with Carlos Lozada at *The Washington Post* got me completely stoked about a career in journalism.

I'm excited for an up-close look at how Nick works — what questions he asks, how he interviews through translators, how he crafts a story. I already have a long list of questions that I'm personally curious about; I can't wait to discuss Syria, China, election 2016, the war on drugs and girls' education around the world.

And while I'm obviously excited about our trip, I'm also on alert about the sensitive nature of the topics we'll cover. (Anyone who has read Nick's reporting will have an idea of our major topics.)

After my trip with the *New York Times*, I'll be in New York City interning for *CBS News*. I had a tremendous experience last fall in D.C. with *60 Minutes* and I can't wait to get back to such an incredible news organization.

Katie Laskey Takes American Studies Abroad

Notre Dame juniors Evelyn Trejo and Katie Laskey spent their spring semesters in the United Kingdom at the University of East Anglia School of American Studies in Norwich, England. Conversely, we were happy to host UEA students Matilda Ayris and Griffin Shiel at Notre Dame for the year. Here, Katie Laskey shares her experience of studying at UEA.

University of East Anglia

Notre Dame's Study Abroad now offers the opportunity to study in England through an exchange program for a semester or a year at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich. The University welcomes students from all over the world.



The UEA School of American Studies is recognized as one of the best American Studies departments in the United Kingdom, ranked first for student satisfaction in the 2012 National Student survey. The School also has a special reputation in creative writing. The School houses the Arthur Miller Centre for American Studies, which hosts an annual international literary festival that in the past has featured such notables as Arthur Miller, Norman Mailer, and Toni Morrison.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

Every time I meet a new person at the University of East Anglia and tell them I'm doing American Studies, they ask why I left America. When I say I went to England to study the United States, it does sound rather silly, but it's one of the best decisions I've ever made. My three classes this semester at UEA (*Race and Racism in the USA*; *Southern Literature*; and *The Holocaust in American Literature*) have all felt different from courses I have taken at Notre Dame. My British classmates have a unique perspective, which is often more objective. When I talk about America, it feels personal — I am an American and I have grown up there, and that definitely changes the way I view the country and my own culpability or responsibility. It is also fascinating to hear the different stereotypes of American culture, mostly



disseminated through movies, TV shows, and music, from the British students' perspectives. My classmates also seem to value my own ability to share my experience from home, even though I have a limited scope of what living in America is like. Sometimes it is hard for them to conceptualize how enormous the U.S. is, and the fact that my own experience being from the East Coast and going to public school might be completely different than other Americans' lives. Overall, my experience studying in England has greatly enriched my American Studies education.

SENIOR THESES

This year, seven seniors elected to cap their American Studies experience by writing senior theses. These individuals presented their projects to the University community on April 13, 2016. Below, one student shares her advice for future writers, while another describes the utility of her thesis in securing her current position in advertising.



Hannah Ashley (above) - "Magnificent Megafauna: Wildlife Imagery in America's Mountain West"

Words of Advice: "This is a cheeky piece of advice for future thesis writers on a tight budget who want to print their final work for dirt cheap: 1) Find a place/person on campus that/who will let you print for free (e.g. Engineering Library in Fitzpatrick, that one athlete friend with an unlimited print quota). 2) Print your three copies of profound wisdom. 3) Bring your three copies of profound wisdom to a UPS store to get it bound. 4) Chat up the UPS store worker to give you a nice student discount. Your AMST training has prepared you for this exact moment, so put those suave communication skills to the test. All this should cost you no more than \$10."

SARAH MORRIS - "The Haight & The Hierarchy: Church, City, and Culture in San Francisco, 1967-2008"

During a number of job interviews, I was specifically asked about my senior thesis. Employers were interested in the process—from conceptualization to research to writing, as well as whether it was mandatory, what it was like working with a faculty mentor, and how I could put the skills I gained into practice at work. Interviewers were often impressed with the scale of the project and the degree to which I could talk about it. My senior thesis provided a tangible example not only of my writing and research skills, but of my ability to work closely with an advisor, take constructive criticism, and work on a sustained assignment—all skills that translate directly into the workplace.

VICTOR BENAVIDES - "Labeling Mariah: Industry, Social Media, and Fandom"

MARIA DO - "When Myth Meets Reality: A Comparative History of the "Model Minority" Myth and the Educational Experience of Asian-American, First Generation Students"

GRETEL KAUFFMAN - "Attica! Representations of the 1971 Prison Riot in Local and National Journalism"

LENA MADISON - "The Academic's Guide to the Natural Hair Movement"

JACK ROONEY - "Where Have All the Manly Journalists Gone? Gender and Masculinity on Prestige Television Representations of Journalists"



Senior thesis writers (left to right): Maria Do, Victor Benavides, Sarah Morris, Lena Madison, Gretel Kauffman, Jack Rooney, Hannah Ashley

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Annual Fall Alumni Reception



On October 17, 2015, around forty students, faculty and alumni gathered in Geddes Coffee House before the Stanford game and caught up with each other's lives in and after American Studies at Notre Dame. Earlier that day, about twenty majors lunched with Shawn Layden '83 and learned how he worked his way to become the president and CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment America. Over fall break, Maria Do '16 visited Shawn at SCEA headquarters in California. While there, she took a tour, learned about new virtual reality technology, and was gifted some awesome swag!



On November 12th, 2015, the American Studies Club took a field trip to the Segura Arts Studio, which moved to the Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture in 2012 and has become known for its promotion of minority artists, exploration of photographic techniques, and collaborative environment. Students and faculty were able to meet the Director, Joe Segura, Master Printer Jill Lerner, and visiting artist Hung Liu, whom the *New York Times* called "the greatest Chinese painter in the U.S." We watched them all work on Liu's latest series, some prints based on Dorothea Lange photos from the 1930s, including the one to the right, *Blue Shadow, 2015*.

American Studies Club



Blue Shadow, 2015 (copyright Hung Liu 2016)



(From left) Lindsay Karchar, Hung Liu, Professor Erika Doss, Professor Annie Coleman, Sarah Morris

On April 21, the American Studies Club and the Department of American Studies co-sponsored a game watch at Four Winds Field, where the South Bend Cubs took on the Fort Wayne TinCaps. The event, which included a buffet and South Bend Cubs hat for each attendee, was well attended by faculty, staff, and our majors. Victor Benavides '16 caught a foul ball, and the Cubs beat the TinCaps 7-2.



Experiential Learning



Kathleen Sprows Cummings' *Sanctity and Society* seminar students visit the Catholic Worker House in downtown South Bend for dinner.



Students of Professor Perin Gurel's *Islam and America* class visit the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan, and volunteer at the Muslim Center of Detroit food drive (below).



Professor Annie Coleman's *Space and Place* senior seminar students learn more about campus during a tour of the Notre Dame power plant.



American Studies Graduation Reception

The Department of American Studies and the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy hosted its annual Senior Recognition and Graduation Reception on May 13 in the O’Shaughnessy Great Hall. Parents gathered to recognize graduating seniors and their achievements in scholarship and service. We will miss you, Class of 2016!

2016 Graduates

American Studies

Hannah Ashley	Mary Kate Holmes	Danielle Rieger	Kerry Walsh
Keenan Bailey	Gretel Kauffman	Jack Rooney	
Victor Benavides	Zachary Kutsulis	Ricardo Sanchez	
Bridget Bryck	Katrina Linden	Megan Schilling	
Patrick Couch	Lena Madison	Owen Smith	
Maria Do	Sarah Morris	Lesley Stevenson	
Matthew Greene	Darby Mountford	Sean Tenaglia	
Mary Haley	Hannah Petersen	Rose Urankar	

Gallivan Program

Jeffrey Agar	Katherine Loughran
Bianca Almada	Christina Payne
Kathryn DePaolo	Danielle Rieger
Bridget Galassini	Rebecca Rogalski
Mary Green	Jack Rooney
Gregory Hadley	Sean Tenaglia
Richard Hidy	Alexander Wilcox
Allison Klein	

Student Award Winners

The Hugh O’Donnell Award for *Academic Achievement in American Studies*: Sarah Morris

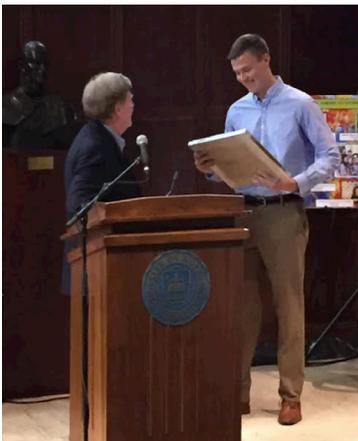
The J. Sinnott Meyers Award for *Outstanding Service to the University Community*: Rose Urankar

The Professor James Withey Award for *Notable Achievement in Writing*: Sean Tenaglia

The Elizabeth Christman Award for *Best Senior Thesis in American Studies*: Gretel Kauffman

The Paul Neville Journalism Award for *Excellence in Journalism*: Rebecca Rogalski

The James E. and Barbara L. Murphy Award for *Exceptional Journalism*: Richard Hidy



Robert Schmuhl and Richard Hidy



Sarah Morris



Senior thesis writers (left to right): Jack Rooney, Sarah Morris, Gretel Kauffman, Hannah Ashley, Maria Do, and Victor Benavides. Lena Madison (not pictured) was participating in the ACC Track & Field Championships.

ALUMNI NEWS

spotlight: Denise Baron - Class of 2010

IN HER OWN WORDS:

Since graduating, I've been working in political communications, including congressional campaigns, legislative efforts, speech-writing, media relations, and more. I actually worked for another ND grad, Joe Donnelly, on his congressional re-election campaign in 2010, and then in his South Bend office. After that, I moved to Colorado where I worked on two more congressional campaigns, and in between election years, I worked for political consulting firms, doing work for non-profits, governmental entities, private companies, and other organizations who needed help with communication or organizational efforts. One project I'm especially proud of involved working with family members of gun violence victims and helping train them to share their own stories with lawmakers and the media.

Last fall, I enrolled in a master's program at the London School of Economics in Social Psychology, because I want to research the cognitive and social processes behind communication and political messaging.

My favorite thing about American Studies while I was an undergraduate has become one of my most useful professional tools. I love how American Studies teaches us to look at a topic or a question from multiple perspectives and disciplines. That approach generates analytical skills that I've used in every job since graduating. Learning how to apply and articulate that type of multifaceted analysis through writing is honestly what enabled me to build a career in politics and communication.

Since I started at the London School of Economics, I've also started a part-time job producing and co-hosting a podcast on American politics, policy, economics, and research. Every episode is basically an audible American

Studies project, integrating academic disciplines to make sense of the biggest questions currently faced by the US. It's a ton of fun.



American Studies trains you to think, write, and synthesize in an incredibly valuable way. While a good GPA, summer internships, and Latin honors can look alright on a resume, what really distinguishes certain young people from others is the ability to tell a coherent story about how aspects of your life, education, and career have come together and helped you grow. But it's not just for job interviews. That skill is necessary for every career that involves communicating with a team, an organization, or even the general public. Being able to connect complicated ideas in a simple yet interesting story enables you to communicate complexity with clarity.

On a more anecdotal level, someone once told me to be equally pragmatic and bold in my professional life, and I probably think about that every week. Aim high, and then do the extra work necessary to get there. Propose wild ideas, but prepare the logical justification and research to back them up. In addition to being pragmatic and bold, I'd add one more of my own: be nimble. Job markets, technology, and even your own goals can change quickly, and that's okay. Just put in the extra work, maintain high standards, and be ready to react quickly to whatever comes next.

news by class: Peter Toomey - Class of 1968

Semi-retired Peter Toomey took a break from his work schedule this past summer to embark on his own version of Kerouac's *On the Road*. Peter, who regularly rides in the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure, did not get to

participate in the seven day trek in 2015, so he decided to make a trek of his own. After a family wedding in Chicago on June 15, he got on his bike and rode the Lincoln Highway about 444 miles from Chicago to his

home in Rocky River, Ohio. His journey took 10 days, and he finally made it back home on June 25.

After working in advertising for over 25 years, Peter now works as a simulated/standardized patient at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. As a standardized patient, he is coached to simulate the body language, physical, emotional, and personality characteristics of real patients. His work helps medical students and residents improve their communication skills and diagnostic exam techniques.

Tawny Nelb - Class of 1975

Tawny Ryan Nelb, President of Nelb Archival Consulting, Inc., continues to work with various clients completing archival needs assessments, writing history, and doing oral history projects to preserve the history and legacy of her clients throughout the United States. Her work also includes lecturing on archival and local history topics, journal and book publishing, and collaborating on designs for new archives.

Elizabeth Bird - Class of 1991

Elizabeth Bird has served as the Native American Director on the Notre Dame Alumni Association Board of Directors for the past four years. She will conclude her service to Notre Dame on June 30, 2016, but will continue serving others in her new role as Acting Executive Director of Tribal Operations for her tribe, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Within the UKB Administration, the Executive Director is the highest position of a non-elected official. Elizabeth began public service in Tribal Administration nine years ago and hopes to continue that service well into the future.

Shannon Warren - Class of 1997



After graduating from Notre Dame, Shannon Warren used her American Studies degree to become a teacher in an urban school in Central Ohio. Now, her daughter Meagan is following in her footsteps with community service. Shannon

and 12-year-old Meagan run a non-profit organization called Books for Bedtime that donates books to low-income children across the state of Ohio. Meagan

started the organization in August 2014, when she was only 11 years old, and has grown Books for Bedtime enormously over the past two years. Books for Bedtime became a certified 501(c)(3) public charity in May 2015 and has donated over 12,000 books in less than two years. Meagan writes and gives speeches, and collects and organizes the books for donation. For more information about Books for Bedtime, visit booksforbedtimenonprofit.org or their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/booksforbedtimenonprofit>.

David Reidy - Class of 1998

Dave Reidy's first novel, *The Voiceover Artist*, was published in November 2015. *Library Journal* included the novel among their list of Top Fall Indie Fiction titles. Dave is the Vice President of Creative at closerlook, inc., a digital marketing firm focused on the pharmaceutical industry. He lives with his wife and two sons in Chicago.



Robert Costa - Class of 2008

Robert Costa, who has been a national political reporter for *The Washington Post* since 2014, recently signed on with NBC News as a political analyst. He frequently appears on shows such as *Today*, *Meet the Press*, and MSNBC programs like *Morning Joe* to discuss the 2016 presidential race and his in-depth coverage of Donald Trump's campaign.

Katie Peralta - Class of 2010

After spending nearly a year as an economy reporter for *U.S. News & World Report* in Washington, D.C., Katie Peralta moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, in January 2015 to become a business reporter for *The Charlotte Observer*. Since then, Katie has been covering retail news in the Charlotte area, winning the AP Walter Spearman Award for her coverage of Belk, a Charlotte-based department store chain that was being sold to a private equity firm. When the Carolina Panthers traveled to Super Bowl 50 in San Francisco, she had the opportunity to step outside of her normal business coverage, travel to California, and cover the off-field storylines related to the team.

Amy Holsinger - Class of 2012

Amy Holsinger will be getting married in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 11, 2016.

Kristen Durbin - Class of 2013

After graduating from Notre Dame, Kristen Durbin moved to San Antonio, Texas, to teach bilingual third grade for two years through Teach for America. Last August, Kristen moved to Providence, Rhode Island, to begin her first year of medical school at Brown University's Alpert Medical School.

Lauren McGrath - Class of 2014

Lauren McGrath is working as the Assistant Lifestyle Editor at *Philadelphia Magazine*, specializing in fashion, beauty, and retail news. She curates content, produces her own photography, and reports on stories for *Shoppist*, an online channel for the magazine. She also contributes to the print version of the magazine, which is one of the oldest magazine publications in the country. She has covered the election of Philadelphia's new

mayor, the city's housing boom, and the Lilly Pulitzer company. Outside of the publication, she works as a freelance photographer.

Tyler Barron - Class of 2015

Tyler Barron spent the summer after his graduation interning with Representative Raul Grijalva in Washington, D.C., as a part of the Udall Foundation's Native American Congressional Internship. After gaining significant experience in the field of public policy, Tyler plans to attend the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy in the fall of 2016.

Shannon O'Brien - Class of 2015

Shannon O'Brien is currently working as a paralegal for the Department of Justice Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C. As a paralegal, she assists in civil investigations involving mergers and anticompetitive behavior. In June, she will be transferring to the DOJ Antitrust Division field office in New York City, which focuses on criminal matters.



Professor Annie Coleman and Professor Thomas Tweed, Department Chair, at the 2016 commencement.

