

Celebrating Student Achievement

-often don't think about. Not only that, but going into space for long periods of time also affects your mental health adversely, which obviously has to be combatted if we want all the astronauts to come back mentally stable, and without the urge to kill their fellow crew mates.

Miranda Ameen

A Review of Sea Turtle Migration Studies



Photo Credits: Miranda Ameen

What led you to pursue this topic?

Over the summer, I interned at the NC Aquarium and took an immediate interest in sea turtles. Unfortunately, information on sea turtles is scarce due to the fact that sea turtles only return to land to lay their eggs. With limited funding and technology, tracking sea turtles is a difficult task. The goal of my research was to compile various literatures to create a better understanding of sea turtle migration patterns, as well as highlight a need to focus future research efforts on examining the correlation between sea turtle movement and survival.

If you could do your research over again, would you choose the same topic?

Yes. I have thoroughly enjoyed researching this topic.

How did you conduct your research?

I conducted my research by reading various journals and studies that examined sea turtle migration patterns.

What did you conclude?

I concluded that sea turtles do not appear to have set migration patterns. Migratory factors include: food, water temperature, and water currents. Loggerhead sea turtles found along the east coast of the United States typically migrate toward Florida during the winter season and toward the North Carolina-Virginia coast during the summer season. Further research can be conducted examining other species of sea turtles and migration patterns of sea turtles in other areas.



CSA Day 2015

Abigail Lorentzen

The Effects of Government Censorship of Media on the Culture and Global Awareness of the Public



Photo Credits: Abigail Lorentzen

What was your thesis?

My thesis explored the censorship of television media by the government and how the type of governmental regime in a country influences the global awareness of citizens within that nation through media censorship.

What led you to pursue this topic?

I love to travel and during my time abroad, I noticed that each country I visited presented certain issues differently. During my semester studying abroad in London, I realized that British news presents information in a much different manner than American news outlets.

If you could do your research over again, would you choose the same topic?

I would choose the same topic, but I would choose different countries. My countries were in North America, Europe, and Asia, so if I conducted this research again, I would include countries in Africa and South America.

How did you conduct your research?

I selected four different countries, each falling in different categories of censorship according to the World Press Freedom Index, and conducted a case study looking at television coverage of certain domestic and international issues. Additionally, I surveyed international students and study abroad participants from Meredith College.

What did you conclude?

I concluded that, according to my research findings, the more restrictive and less democratic the governmental regime of a nation, the more censored the media is, causing the public to have a lack of global awareness.

What advice can you offer about starting/writing your thesis?

When writing your thesis, make sure you set deadlines for yourself. I found that deadlines helped me stay on track and helped me space out the bigger sections of my writing. Also, make sure to utilize your thesis advisor; Dr. McLennan and Dr. Holder were both great resources for me as my thesis advisors.

Abigail Lorentzen

God of Wonders: An Examination of Late Classical and Early Christian Art

What was your thesis?

When early Christian artists began making art, they had no examples from which to draw inspiration. They did not even know what Christ actually looked like. Christians wanted to depict Christ in a manner similar to that of classical emperors and gods, and as a strong and compassionate ruler. Similar to classical artists, they wanted to send a message through their work, one that shared the Gospel story with the multitudes. In order to share that story with the pagan public, Christian artists needed to find a way to portray Christianity in a way that would be understood by an illiterate pagan public and did so by adopting pagan iconography and giving it Christian significance. Over time, such images began to lose their pagan significance and began to be recognized only for their religious meaning.

What led you to pursue this topic?

I took Latin for four years in high school and was always fascinated with Roman and Greek art. When I traveled to Rome my senior year of high school, our guide at the Vatican told us that many of the Christian statues in St. Peter's Basilica were actually ancient Roman statues that were repurposed to portray Christian figures. This made me think about what other classical art was altered by early Christian artists, inspiring my thesis topic.

If you could do your research over again, would you choose the same topic?

I would choose the same topic, but I would like to explore other iconographical symbols and Christian figures in order to get a more well-rounded view of the relationship between late classical and early Christian art.

How did you conduct your research?

I started with my topic and began doing research to try to understand the relationship of pagan images and how they influenced early Christian artists. When researching, you are exposed to other ideas and avenues you can pursue in your writing and I used the information I found in my research to influence my writing.

What did you conclude?

I concluded that many images that were traditionally used to portray pagan figures have since lost their pagan meanings and are now solely known

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as my thesis advisor.

Nyssa Tucker

I'm presenting on both my research in synthetic medicinal chemistry and my honors thesis research entitled: Finding the Feminine in Watchmen.

What led you to pursue this topic?

My interest in Ethics stems from my interest in developing myself as a person. Ethics is a discipline uniquely engaged with the conversation of what it means to be a 'good' person and, although it varies from person to person, can be said to generally be a discussion on how it is best to treat another person. This doesn't automatically make ethicists better at being 'good' people, but they can be trusted to at least have some argumentation to back up their actions.

At the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference I discussed my thesis work in a presentation named Finding the Feminine in Watchmen. My goals here are entirely personal: how to better develop myself and enrich my way of thinking to better reflect how I believe the world should be. I presented on a graphic novel that was written to satire classic superheroes like Batman and Superman, presenting the stereotypes in a variety of lights through multiple characters. It's a great book, and beautifully illustrated. But the women in Watchmen were few and far between! The ways they were presented were annoying to me because, true to the genre, they were hyper-sexualized and their plots were centered around sex. I want to see a kick-ass female superhero who acts to further their own agenda, not to encourage male sexuality.

What did you conclude?

Looking at gender within Watchmen has opened my eyes to the issues of gender, the superhero genre, and to the world of academic discussion on popular culture. The conference was incredible. I have never felt more invited and engaged in conversation with strangers than I did at the Seattle PCA conference. The level of academic discussion was formidable, but in such a way that I felt encouraged to question and contribute.

What advice can you offer about starting/writing your thesis?

I would share with my honors sisters the importance of a liberal arts education. Curiosity and inquisition are essential to learning and growth. Exercise your interests and allow yourself to get excited about new ideas, no matter if the subject is in your major or not. Those ideas that you do not make your bread and butter from are the ones that will lead to conversations and connections that no amount of networking can fabricate. Get excited! I know that it isn't cool and feels really uncomfortable, but those ideas that get you going are the ideas that have the most meaning to you. Figure out what they are, and keep figuring out the increasingly abstracted meaning for yourself.