

GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Presentation Descriptions & Presenter Bios

Mary Lou Anderson

Paper Title: *The Snow was General*

Description: Mary Lou Anderson will examine James Joyce's *The Dead*, an early twentieth century novella about a dinner party. The story content is somewhat mundane but a layering of significant detail based on time and place develops. Joyce's use of an omnipresent weather pattern sets a tension which helps to change a simple party into an opportunity for political discussion and a psychological examination of mortality. The piece speaks to an era of dissatisfaction newly rising to the literary surface. Like the snow falling over Ireland, it has a blanketing effect that is worth examination.

Bio: *Mary Lou Anderson has an undergraduate degree in Film and Media Arts from Queen's University in Kingston Ontario. She has worked in the museum community, film production, retail and publishing. The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is a perfect extension of her interests and lets her exercise her continued passion for reading, writing and intellectual thought.*

Melissa Berry

Paper Title: *The Current Use of Intersectionality as an Approach to the Memoir and Its Contents: "Getting Well at the Stillwell and Still Well"*

Description: Melissa Berry will analyze the memoir, or personal essay, through the broad lens of intersectionality to consider a large range of identity factors. These factors lend specific focus to work, and its value in learning about the author's reactions to momentous choices or events within a limited time frame, and the outcome of the memoir. Her essay revolves around factors of her setting, age, physical ability, gender, race, and class. Moreover, the resulting memoir is much more revealing than initially intended.

Bio: *Melissa Berry, faculty member at Mount Saint Mary's University, teaches undergraduate English and genre specific courses in Graduate Humanities including "The Return of the Novella" and "American Short Stories of Famous Novelists." She earned her MA in Humanities and MFA in Creative Writing from MSMU. Her articles have appeared in Smooth Jazz Magazine, The LA Times, in books published by Simon and Schuster.*

Michael Breger

Paper Title: *Trousers That Are Not Trousers: The Primacy of Materiality in Balzac's Paris*

Description: Michael Breger will trace the trajectory of material culture and the material representation of value in Balzac's Paris. In his 1835 novel *Père Goriot*, Balzac wrote, "Money is life. If you have cash, you can do anything." However, it was not money alone that was of central importance to Balzac; it was the appearances that could be obtained with money, the destinies that could be unlocked by real material things and the power they signified. Breger will underscore the primacy of materiality as a societal force in Restoration Paris by using examples from *Père Goriot*.

Bio: *Michael Breger is a second-year Master of Liberal Arts candidate at Stanford and a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he studied history and astronomy. He works at the Stanford Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. When he is not working, Michael enjoys music, art, and exploring the outdoors.*

Daniel Brooks

Paper Title: *Unity in Plato's Philebus*

Description: Daniel Brooks will consider the variety of theoretical considerations in Plato's *Philebus* (12c-31b) as a coherent whole. He will focus on the compatibility of "eidetic analysis" (15d-17b) and "measure theory" (12b-27d), and will read successive positions as leveraging increasingly encompassing, complementary senses of unity. Eidetic analysis offers an image of species (*eidos*) as the concrete unity of a body, analyzed with a single look (*idea*) over its many parts. Measure theory is then interpreted as a response to intervening critiques of somatic unity, dividing up "all beings" to provide the broader unity of a world for the "bodies" in question.

Bio: *Daniel Brooks was born and raised in the suburbs of Boston. He graduated from Boston University with a degree in Philosophy (2009), followed by five years of a full-time career and non-degree graduate work in Ancient Greek at Harvard Extension. Santa Fe and St. John's followed, with two MAs, in Eastern Classics (2017) and Liberal Arts (2019).*

Rachelle Burnside

Paper Title: *Iranian Women Writers and the Navigation of Confinement*

Description: Rachelle Burnside will show how the conflict with Iraq in the 1980s required traditional Iranian women to leave the home and enter public spaces. Once in those spaces, Iranian women were reluctant to concede these gains in education and the workforce, resulting in a tension between their "appropriate," state-sanctioned role and their actual, lived experiences. Iranian women have used the medium of fiction to engage with this struggle, using traditional Persian literary images and techniques to depict modern female characters who find ways to self-liberate and carve out physical spaces for themselves.

Bio: *Rachelle Burnside has over twenty years experience teaching high school English at all levels, from English learners to AP students. She holds bachelor's degrees in English and history from Santa Clara University and has just completed her third year in the MLA program at Stanford.*

Danny Chang

Paper Title: *16th Century Ship Building and the Humanist Tradition*

Description: Danny Chang will present Venetian shipbuilders of the mid-sixteenth century at the crossroads of the Renaissance Humanistic Project. Shipbuilding techniques required the reevaluation of mechanics and their application to naval construction. Chang's presentation will explore how newly resurfaced classical texts—through the hands of a professor of Greek, a bureaucrat, shipbuilding craftsmen, and a mathematician—transformed the understanding of mechanics in naval design. That people of such a varied set of backgrounds would contribute to the improvement of the speed and mobility of ships is something that could only flourish in Renaissance Venice.

Bio: *Danny Chang is an alumnus of the Stanford MLA program. He has an engineering background and has an interest in the history and philosophy of science. His master's thesis focused on Newton's ideas about the physical nature of light.*

Jillian Cowley

Paper Title: *Engaging with Text as Buddhist Practice: Suggestions from the Early Buddhist Discourses*

Description: Jillian Cowley will offer processes of learning according to the *Discourses*, which focus on encountering concepts through contemplation and questioning, deepening through meditation practice, and applying this understanding to a morally pure life. The *Discourses* suggests we can experience learning as practice itself: text can serve as guided mediation; we can question what we read and hear; we can engage with the text as a direct experience of the teachings; living a holy life can be applied while studying texts; and studying parables can lead directly to developing right intention.

Bio: *Jillian Cowley is currently a graduate student in the St. John's College Eastern Classics Program. She returned to academia after a 30-year career as a cultural landscapes specialist with the National Park Service.*

Holly Duffy

Paper Title: *The Conversations We Don't Have*

Description: Holly Duffy will ask how we can critique our institutions. Duffy has found opinions regarding all institutions fall into three categories—extreme praise, despair, and obliviousness. Our tendency toward myopic thinking is often fueled by our rejection of the paradoxical nature of reality and dependence on the institutions in which we are grounded. According to Tocqueville, “such lapses doubtless bring shame to the human mind; they attest to the inferiority of our nature, which, incapable of firmly grasping the true and the just, is most often reduced to choosing between two excesses.”

Bio: *Holly Duffy lives and works in Santa Fe as a writer, editor and policy analyst. Duffy received her Masters of Arts in Eastern Classics (2015) and in Liberal Arts (2018), both from St. John's College in Santa Fe. She is interested in social and education policy as a means by which to ground the rich philosophic inquiry of liberal arts education.*

Anthony Eagan

Paper Title: *An Outpost of Conviction: Kafka and the Crisis of Authority*

Description: Anthony Eagan will consider our present age—a key feature of which is the absence of any viable epistemic or moral criterion—in which Kafka's tales of disastrous uncertainty merit intense conversation. Drawing attention to the subterranean human thirst for authority, judgment, and finality, this talk will highlight Kafka's expression of our propensity to favor incomplete and even outrageous forms of conviction over the anxiety of unknowing. It will raise the question: “How does Kafka's art compel us to see that our inescapable crises of authority often yield moments of fanatic violence and self-destruction?”

Bio: *Anthony Eagan has a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts from the St. John's College Graduate Institute. He works at McLarry Fine Art on Canyon Road. Later in June, he will defend his PhD thesis on Kierkegaard's aesthetics.*

Alex Earich

Paper Title: *Schopenhauer, Rossini, and Musical Imitation of Concepts*

Description: Alex Earich will outline his study of the thought of Arthur Schopenhauer, focusing on his conception of music. To answer the question “Why was Schopenhauer so fond of the music of Rossini?” he will argue that they had similar thoughts about the nature of music. He will also examine an apparent tension between Schopenhauer's claims about imitative music and an example from *The Barber of Seville*. He argues that the musical movement in question can be reconciled with the conception of Schopenhauer.

Bio: *Alex Earich recently earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Arts from the Graduate Institute at St. John's College, Santa Fe. He wrote his Master's Essay on Arthur Schopenhauer's conception of music. Mr. Earich is excited to visit his alma mater and discuss philosophy and music.*

Martha Franks

Paper Title: *Joining the Global Great Conversation*

Description: Martha Franks will discuss the developing global conversation through her experience in a high school classroom in Beijing China, through discussions with Chinese students about Western classic texts. The texts spoke to Chinese students as they do to Western students, giving rise to passionate opinion and personal empathy. At the same time, the books opened up new avenues of thought and comparison in this different cultural setting. As the global conversation in liberal arts expands, we need to think clearly about how to read together across cultures, but we should be excited about it, too.

Bio: *Ms. Franks spent two years (2012-2014) in Beijing, China, developing a liberal arts curriculum at a Chinese high school. She published a book about this experience, Books without Borders: Homer, Aeschylus, Galileo, Melville and Madison Go to China. She is a part-time faculty member at St. John's College in Santa Fe, a graduate of the Eastern Classics program and a Southwestern water lawyer.*

Verna Gene

Paper Title: *Landscapes: Technology + Art Without Frontiers*

Description: Verna Gene will illuminate art's crucial role to broaden and deepen an awareness of nature and the imperative to realize a new environmental reality. Landscapes are scenes of large, expansive spaces in nature; in digital technology, nature is captured in contemporary works, which document the irreversible marks of human activity to reveal the scale and gravity of the impact on the planet. Sustainability is a discourse that articulates an anxiety about whether we, humans, can sustain ourselves as the project of modernity continues its way to find practical solutions by which we might sustain human beings.

Bio: *Verna Gene is an accomplished leader with over 25 years in the BC Public Service. She enables Health and Justice sectors to access the Province's Real Estate and IT portfolios. Gene's interests include visual literacy work with youths as a Docent at the Vancouver Art Gallery and support of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympic + Paralympic Games.*

Stacie Gin

Paper Title: *My Kafka: Internal Poetry as Derivatives of Prose*

Description: Stacie Gin will introduce selections of Kafka's short stories with personal poetic responses to his work. It is an invitation for artists to communicate to one another by imagining engagement with text. There is an important examination between artist and audience, with an awareness of the 'other'. The poems are annotated with an underlying purpose for inclusion, offering a foundational basis and justification for response to Kafka's prose, which intermingle between author, listener, and influencer—playing with form. The poetry begs the reader to escape into the derivative in addition to the original, providing it with its own life.

Bio: *Stacie Gin recently completed her MA in Graduate Liberal Studies at Simon Fraser University. She works as a paralegal and trust officer in West Vancouver. She is particularly interested in life-writing, memoir and autobiography, and her final project incorporated poetry.*

Jacob Goodine

Paper Title: *Five Years On, One Johnnie Alumni Group's Continuing Dialogue*

Description: Jacob Goodine will show five graduates of the Eastern Classics 2013 program as they continued their studies together outside the classroom. He will cover works read, discussions, and how participation effected group members. He will also discuss the practical considerations of geographically-dispersed reading group might function with the assistance of technology: administrative details, group participation tools, scheduling, and parameters for discussion all proved essential to sustaining dialogue beyond the physical classroom.

Bio: *Jacob Goodine is a 2013 graduate of the St. John's MAEC program. Retired from the Virginia Army National Guard in 2018, he is currently an enterprise architect and transportation consultant with the Logistics Management Institute. He and his family reside in Cave Creek, AZ.*

Kim E. Gudmundson

Paper Title: *The Unsung Heroes of Cannery Row*

Description: Kim Gudmundson will present the role of women in the California town of Monterey in the first half of the 20th century. Historians cite the area as one of the world's largest sources of fish. Though Steinbeck's *Cannery Row* focused primarily on unemployed men, women provided the flexible and specialized labor force that fueled Monterey's sardine canneries from 1900-1960. Canned sardines drove the community's economy and fed American soldiers during WWI and WWII. Thus, women were indispensable to the success of the sardine canning industry, to the prosperity of Monterey, and to the sustenance of soldiers in two world wars.

Bio: *Kim Gudmundson is a Stanford MEd student. She earned her BS from Cornell and her MEd from Harvard. Kim initially conducted federal contract studies at research institutes in Boston and Palo Alto, and later worked in human resources, communications, and management development in the Silicon Valley. She enjoys her MEd studies.*

Jenny Harris

Paper Title: *Roman Holiday: Sympathy and Reform in Middlemarch, A Study of Provincial Life*

Description: Jenny Harris will explore the efficacy of sympathy in the struggle for reform and consider the ability to make the correct moral judgment through the lens of Dorothea on the third-worst honeymoon in 19th century literature. After all, the Reformation either meant something... or it did not.

Bio: *Jenny Harris is a Graduate of St. John's College in Santa Fe (1992). She married Ken Harris (GSJC 1995) in 1997 and has owned and operated SantaFeWebDesign.com since 1999. She has been a George Eliot lover since 1990.*

Kelsey Hennegen

Paper Title: *The Irreducible Self: Liberation in the Aesthetic and the Art of Linger*

Description: Kelsey Hennegen will explore the relationship among conscious states, language, time, and space, particularly the duality of the deep self and the social self as depicted by Henri Bergson in *Time and Free Will*. Selfhood exists as purely qualitative in aspatial duration but we represent the self in language—spatial, static, successive. In her consideration of duration, she introduces Byung-Chul Han's treatment of atomized time and acceleration as a contemporary consequence of Bergson's groundwork. Hennegen finds redemptive possibility in the act of lingering and in art, where we might appreciate the vibrant distinctiveness of each person, each experience, each emotion.

Bio: *Kelsey Hennegen is a current graduate student of Liberal Arts at St. John's College and English at Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English. Her academic focuses include themes of selfhood, time, suffering, and virtue. She writes poetry that explores loss, violence, intimacy, and identity. She will attend Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (Poetry) this summer and has been invited to speak at AWP in March, 2020.*

Jay Richard Hennicke

Paper Title: *Nagarjuna's Lotus and the Disjunctive Solution*

Description: Jay Richard Hennicke will focus on a discussion of existential import as established by the meditations of Descartes and Nagarjuna, leading to the construction of the Lotus as a logical tool. The presentation will include limited usage of technical symbolic logic. This project is an attempt to establish the Disjunctive Solution as a famous forms formula to be included in Logic textbooks.

Bio: *Jay Richard Hennicke earned his BA at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Literature with a minor in Philosophy (2001). He has completed both St. John's Liberal Arts (2003) and Eastern Classics (2015) Masters programs. Hennicke completed one year of a PhD program in Buddhist Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies before returning to New Jersey to teach English, Literature, and Philosophy.*

Marja Karelia

Paper Title: *Kreutzer Sonata: Expressions of Human Anguish in Music, Literature and Beyond*

Description: Marja Karelia will discuss controversies and depictions of human anguish within Kreutzer Sonata and its inspirations for music, literature, theatre, painting, and films from Beethoven's Sonata to Tolstoy's novella to Janacek's string quartet to a ballet currently performed in a Moscow theatre. The Kreutzer Sonata has exemplified expressions of human anguish through a perfect blend of various artistic genres for more than three hundred years. I will argue, as does Martha Nussbaum, that "music is intimately linked with our deepest strivings and most powerful emotions", and that the Kreutzer provides the perfect vehicle for such sentiments.

Bio: *Marja Karelia earned a BA (2005) in Anthropology and Spanish from the University of British Columbia with a specialty in Mesoamerican Music Archaeology, followed by Archaeology and Art and Culture Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU). Karelia is an MA candidate in the Graduate Liberal Studies at SFU, concentrating on the interaction of music and culture from interdisciplinary perspectives, such as history, philosophy and music.*

Shahrane Karim

Paper Title: *Evaluating Kant's Copernican Revolution*

Description: Shahrane Karim will focus on Kant's criticism of reason in its theoretical and practical aspects with the aim of setting knowledge and morality on a firm *a priori* grounding. His resulting theory of knowledge and morals faithfully reflect his conviction that reason would endow man with the ability to intellectually and morally flourish. Kant utilizes the epistemological parameters set forth by his Copernican Revolution, namely the unknowability of *noumena*, in order to overcome opposition. However, his commitment to the epistemological strictures of critique manifests when he limits the criteria and function of belief.

Bio: *Shahrane Karim is from Dallas, TX. She is currently pursuing an MA in Liberal Arts at the St. John's College Graduate Institute. Her background is in Islamic Law and Theology.*

James Karlin

Paper Title: *Asceticism, Marriage, and 25 Years of Lovemaking: The Role of Tapas Kālidāsa's Kumārasambhava*

Description: James Karlin will inquire: How can ascetic practice lead to intimacy? These activities, often considered mutually exclusive, work together in Kālidāsa's *Kumārasambhava*, a classical Sanskrit poem composed in the 4th century A.D. The *Kumārasambhava* is the love story of Śīva, the terrifyingly powerful god, and Pārvatī, the resplendently beautiful daughter of the Himālaya mountain. *Tapas*, the energy developed through isolated asceticism, is the only thing that allows Śīva and Pārvatī to consummate their love in marriage. This presentation will examine the function of *tapas* in the *Kumārasambhava*, and what about human nature makes *tapas* necessary for true union.

Bio: *James Karlin is a master's candidate in Eastern Classics at St. John's College, Santa Fe. He received his B.A. from Kenyon College in 2015, where he studied Classics, with an emphasis in Greek and Latin, and a secondary focus in Sanskrit. When he is not studying ancient literature, he is playing music, or chasing personal bests in distances from the mile to the marathon.*

Devin Ketch

Paper Title: *The Spider's Web Informs the Bee's Hive: The Baconian Project and its Aristotelian Foundations*

Description: Throughout Bacon's *Novum Organum*, he references the ostensibly deleterious effects of Aristotelian physics. There is little specificity to distinguish whether the critique concerns Aristotle's natural philosophy or his natural science. Devin Ketch will attempt to show not only that Bacon's quarrel rests solely with Aristotle's natural science, but that his entire project is founded on Aristotle's natural philosophy. Ketch will direct his inquiry at Bacon's division of his project into physics and metaphysics, with particular emphasis on Bacon's conception of forms in comparison to Aristotle's. He will primarily utilize the *Novum Organum*, with occasional reference to the *Instauratio Magna* and certain other works of Bacon.

Bio: *Devin Ketch is an Eagle Scout and former Academic Decathlete from Torrance, CA. He earned his BA at St. John's College (2018) and continues his studies at the school's Graduate Institute. His interests comprise the philosophy of science, especially natural philosophy; the works of Aristotle, Shakespeare, Bacon, and Faulkner; the study and practice of karate and archery; and music theory, history, and composition.*

Kanishka G. B. Marasinghe

Paper Title: *Time, History, and the Diaphanous Mystery of the Self in Jorge Luis Borges's The Garden of the Forking Paths*

Description: Kanishka Marasinghe will illustrate how Borges' short story beautifully teaches us that the way history discloses itself to us in the present is essentially related to both how we conceive of its underlying structure (time) and the underlying concerns that motivate our actions. Marasinghe will explore how these factors mutually inform each other by attempting to come to terms with the enigma at the heart of the story: Dr. Yu's assassination of Dr. Albert. Borges reveals how a fundamental tension between the desire for the infinite and the desire for the eternal complicates our understanding of the historical self.

Bio: *While completing his M.A. in Liberal Arts, Kanishka Marasinghe grew to love the dynamic mode of instruction that is the St. John's seminar. After a brief sojourn in University of Texas's government department, he joined the teaching faculty at Arete Prep Academy in Gilbert, AZ. Currently, Mr. Marasinghe enjoys discussing classic books with high school juniors and seniors in his humane letters classes.*

Christopher McBride

Paper Title: *"He must get back to where he had been before": Death as Dreamlike Phenomenon in Eudora Welty's "Death of a Traveling Salesman"*

Description: Christopher McBride will examine how Welty draws upon dreams, mythology, and hallucinations in framing Bowman's journey into an archetypal human experience: passage into death. Eudora Welty's first published short story, "Death of a Traveling Salesman" deploys dream, memory, and myth to explore two of her recurring topics: human relationships and individual separateness. The story presents the case of itinerant shoe salesman R.J. Bowman as he returns to the road following a debilitating bout of influenza. The polemical ending of the story offers little hope for Bowman, finally suggesting a critique of the lonely capitalist life of a traveling salesman.

Bio: *Christopher McBride is a current MLA student at Stanford University. His previous training is in American Literature and Composition. He teaches writing and literature, and his specialty is nineteenth-century American Literature. His current interests include interactions between history, literature, and culture. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking and biking in the Bay Area with his family.*

Gabriel Monar

Paper Title: *Melville's Starbuck: The Nature of his Virtue*

Description: Gabriel Monar will focus his presentation on the character of Starbuck in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. Though Starbuck is depicted as a man of virtue who correctly perceives the risk at hand for the Pequod and its crew, he ultimately fails to intervene. Monar is interested in this inability to divert a foreseen catastrophe and the larger implications this suggests within the book.

Bio: *Gabriel Monar is a current student at St. John's in the Liberal Arts Master's program. He has worked as an organic farmer since graduating from a classics program at Trinity College, Dublin in 2010. This Spring, he led a *Moby Dick* reading group that met weekly over the course of the semester to discuss the text with considered nuance and depth.*

Fyza Parviz

Paper Title: *Henry David Thoreau's Romantic Imagination of the Telegraph Harp*

Description: Fyza Parviz will focus on Henry David Thoreau. During one of his solitary meditative walks in the Concord woods, he heard a distinct sound while passing under a recently erected telegraph wire. He realized the blowing wind was sounding the wires, compared it to the Aeolian harp, ran and pressed his ear and the side of his body to a telegraph pole that was amplifying the vibrations. His journal entries indicate that this experience thrilled him. Parviz will explore Thoreau's romantic language about the telegraph, a nascent technology at the time. His writings may surprise people as he is generally portrayed as remote from any technological progress.

Bio: *Fyza Parviz hails from Peshawar, Pakistan and has lived in the Bay Area for 17 years. She studied Electrical Engineering then worked as a Software Engineer for ten years. She is now pursuing her graduate studies in Liberal Arts at Stanford. She takes part in Stanford's Poetic Media Lab and works as a Graduate Researcher on the Lacuna Project, an online Reading and Annotation Platform.*

Steven James Peterson

Paper Title: *Greek Without Greeks: Competing Notions of Authenticity in the Pronunciation of Classical Languages*

Description: Steven James Peterson will examine issues that arise when trying to determine how to best pronounce classical languages. Of particular interest is the notion of an "authentic" method of pronouncing a given language, and the difficulty in determining from where that authority derives.

Bio: *Steven Peterson is from Irvine, California. He earned his bachelor's degree in Linguistics from UC Santa Barbara, and his master's in Eastern Classics from St. John's College of Santa Fe. He recently returned from working as a language analyst for a robotics startup in Fukushima, Japan, and is now recording the poetry of Shakespeare in its reconstructed historical pronunciation.*

Diana Putterman

Paper Title: *Blanquiando: My Mother's Passing*

Description: Diana Putterman will present a conceptualized memoir that reflects upon the secrets and circumstances of her mother's life by depicting the collision of race and cultures within her family. Her mother was born into poverty in the Dominican Republic to a black woman from St. Kitts and a Chinese man. At the age of 16, her relationship with an older, married, white American sugar plantation engineer supported her entire family and brought her mother to the United States, where Putterman was born, where the distinction between black and white persuaded her mother to learn the art of passing for white.

Bio: *Diana Putterman is a retired business-woman who owned and operated an advertising agency for close to 20 years. Her professional background is in social work, media and advertising. She is the proud mother of two young men, Marco and Sam. She plans to write a book from her thesis about her mother's passing as a non-black person even to her daughter.*

Neil Ramiller

Paper Title: *Thomas Sprat's History of the Royal Society and the Making of Modern Science*

Description: Neil Ramiller will focus on Thomas Sprat's *History of the Royal Society*, published seven short years after the founding of the Royal Society of London in 1660, which aimed to provide a defense of the Society and its pursuit of experimental philosophy (empirical science) in the face of potentially damaging public ridicule and hostility. Contemporary institutional theory can help reframe Sprat's seemingly sprawling polemic as serving a concise set of goals. The *History* focused on promoting the institutionalization of early modern science through rhetoric carefully and systematically establishing its cognitive, pragmatic, and normative legitimacy.

Bio: *Neil Ramiller completed his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at Reed College in May 2017. He wrote a thesis on the history of science that made novel use of contemporary institutional theory. He will discuss his thesis at the symposium. Ramiller recently retired from a career as a professor of management, where his research and teaching focused on technological innovation and organizational change.*

Kimberly Serratos

Paper Title: *Schopenhauer's Sublime in Caspar David Friedrich*

Description: Kimberly Serratos will look to a work of art for insight into a philosophical concept. Though sometimes artists provide their own explanation of the concepts their art helps to express, the work is not always done for us. Caspar David Friedrich, a 19th century German Romantic painter mostly refrained from explaining his works. Some of his time in Dresden overlapped with philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer. Serratos will show how two of Caspar David Friedrich's paintings in particular capture the essence of the philosophical concept of the Sublime as presented by Schopenhauer in *World as Will and Representation*.

Bio: *Kimberly Serratos graduated from St. John's College Annapolis. She earned Continuing Education credits at the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University. Serratos graduated from St. John's College Eastern Classics program and began the Diploma in Liberal Studies program at Rice University.*

Joshua Alan Sturgill

Paper Title: *In Search of the Endless Answer: Dōgen's Tao of Inquiry*

Description: Joshua Alan Sturgill will consider a principle teaching method of the great Zen poet and practitioner Dōgen (1200-1253). In Dōgen's writings, he frequently takes what might seem a straightforward question and

expands it to show hidden depth both within the question itself and within the questioner. By helping his students step back from their conceptualizations, Dōgen reveals the intertwining nature of all things and the false separations made between self, environment and experience. Dōgen's practice rests not so much on formulation of answers, but on asking the right question from the right frame of mind.

Bio: *Joshua Alan Sturgill is a 2018 graduate of the St. John's College Eastern Classics Program. His interest in literary and religious studies has led to numerous speaking and writing engagements. Sturgill currently works for Eighth Day Books in Wichita, KS. His first poetry collection, As Far As I Can Tell, was published in 2018 by Darky Bright Press; a forthcoming collection is planned for 2020.*

Abram Trosky

Paper Title: *Citizens After All: The Role of the Liberal Arts in Graduate Military Education*

Description: Abram Trosky will consider the graduate program of the U.S. Army War College, which is tasked with “studying and conferring on the great problems of national defense, military science, and responsible command.” Like many GLS peer-institutions, USAWC uses seminars and small, discussion-based classes to develop in its adult learners the open and critical habits of mind constitutive of responsible scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. Trosky will discuss some similarities in civilian and military graduate liberal education, and the relationship of the discussion format to content and learning outcomes.

Bio: *Abram Trosky is Assistant Professor of Communicative Arts at Army War College. He was formerly Lecturer in Ethics and American Government at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and Lecturer in Politics and Public Law at Framingham State University. Dr. Trosky's research applies insights from moral philosophy, evolutionary psychology, and social science to contemporary challenges in national and international politics, including the defense and implementation of human rights law. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston University.*

Maura Amelia Valentine-Wilson

Paper Title: *The Iconography of the Honey Bee in Western Art*

Description: Maura Amelia Valentine-Wilson will present the relationship between the honey bee and cultures that have represented the bee in art, the way that the bee continues to steadily evolve and adapt to suit the time, and the artist's portrayal in a study of the symbolic use of the honey bee in *Artemis of Ephesus* (2nd century CE), *Venus With Cupid Stealing Honey* by Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472), *The Miracle of the Bees* by Juan de Valdes Leal (1673), and the tomb of Pope Urban VIII sculpted by Gianlorenzo Bernini (1627-1647).

Bio: *Maura Amelia Valentine-Wilson recently graduated from Dominican University of California with an MA in Humanities with an emphasis in Art History. She currently works at Dominican University as an archival assistant and at the Napa Valley Museum in Napa, California. Her goal is to continue working in museums and to travel the world.*

Sam Weaver

Paper Title: *Milton's Adventurous Song: The Role of Place in the Structure of Paradise Lost*

Description: Sam Weaver will discuss approaches to analyzing the structure of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. After a brief review of two accounts from the scholarly literature, Weaver will suggest a third account based on an analysis of the epic's multiple lengthy invocations to the muse. The notions of location and movement, prominent in the invocations, indicate that Milton views the progression of the narrative through various parts of the cosmos as an essential element of the epic's structure. Weaver will conclude by integrating this account with the others to explain why *Paradise Lost* logically must proceed in the sequence it does.

Bio: *Sam Weaver is currently pursuing an MA in Liberal Arts at St. John's College Santa Fe, and previously completed a BA in English at Davidson College. His research interests include John Milton, the Romantic novel, and the intersection of literature and philosophy.*

Tim Whalen

Paper Title: *Exploring the Return from War through Poetry*

Description: Tim Whalen will consider the experience of returning from war. As Homer showed with the ten year return of Odysseus, and as the tragically high rate of veteran suicide indicates, return can be a long and difficult journey with some never truly returning at all. Whalen will examine this through his own poetry to offer some understanding of war, of killing, and of its accompanying fear, horror, blood lust, grief and guilt.

Bio: *Tim Whalen was a U.S. Army Special Forces officer (Green Beret) who served in Afghanistan soon after 9/11. In 2003, injuries ended his 23-year career. Since 2003, he has pursued graduate studies in the Liberal Arts and Eastern Classics and helped other veterans with their post-war adjustments. He was surprised to find that his voice for his experiences came in poetry.*

Kris Workman

Paper Title: *Balancing Economic and Social Values to Implement a Comprehensive Data Policy*

Description: Kris Workman will look at the data policy history within the United States to investigate the economic emphasis that influences decisions regarding data policy. He includes data policy frameworks within the United States, the European Union, and China, demonstrating the reasons that United States should move past a mostly economic framework when establishing policy around data. He calls for a data policy that prioritizes social values which protect users more within digital environments.

Bio: *Kris Workman is a second-year trans-male graduate student in the Master's of Arts for Interdisciplinary Studies. He has been researching various data policies that multiple governments have implemented (or not implemented).*

Lynette Yetter

Paper Title: *Searching for Coya Queens in the List of Twelve Inka Kings*

Description: Lynette Yetter will present the ways women have been ignored, marginalized and erased in patriarchal history. She will focus on the standard list of twelve Inka kings (c. 1400 to 1533 CE), which ignores the existence of *coyas*—independently wealthy women landowners who ruled and expanded the Inka Empire, regardless of whether they had a husband. The exclusion of *coyas* is due to assumptions of male supremacy by both 16th century Spaniards, and 20th century scholars. Recent Andeanists read between the lines of gender- and culturally-biased evidence with interdisciplinary comparative methodologies that re-affirm the importance of powerful Inkan *coya* women.

Bio: *Lynette Yetter is a permanent resident of Bolivia who has studied Quechua (the language of the Inka) at UCLA, is a Pushcart Prize nominated poet, played panpipes on the Academy Award nominated documentary Recycled Life, and is nearing completion of a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree at Reed College. You can learn more about Lynette's music, movies, books and art at www.LynetteYetter.com.*