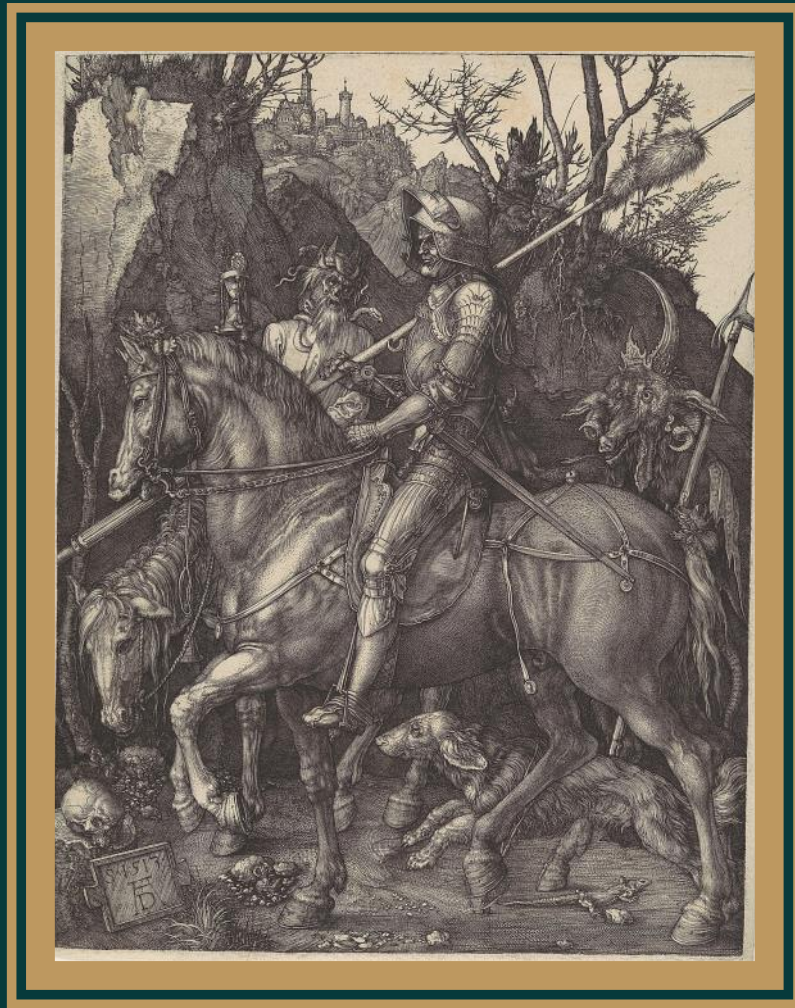


20TH ANNUAL  
**SENIOR  
THESIS  
SYMPOSIA**

THE BROTHER DAVID S. BAGINSKI FSC  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2024





*Knight, Death, and the Devil*, Albrecht Dürer (German, Nuremberg 1471–1528 Nuremberg), 1513, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Dürer's *Knight, Death, and the Devil* is one of three large prints of 1513–14 known as his *Meisterstiche* (master engravings). The other two are *Melancholia I* and *Saint Jerome in His Study*. Though not a trilogy in the strict sense, the prints are closely interrelated and complementary, corresponding to the three kinds of virtue in medieval scholasticism—theological, intellectual, and moral. Called simply the Reuter (Rider) by Dürer, *Knight, Death, and the Devil* embodies the state of moral virtue. The artist may have based his depiction of the "Christian Knight" on an address from Erasmus's *Instructions for the Christian Soldier* (*Enchiridion militis Christiani*), published in 1504: "In order that you may not be deterred from the path of virtue because it seems rough and dreary ... and because you must constantly fight three unfair enemies—the flesh, the devil, and the world—this third rule shall be proposed to you: all of those spooks and phantoms which come upon you as if you were in the very gorges of Hades must be deemed for naught after the example of Virgil's Aeneas ... Look not behind thee." Riding steadfastly through a dark Nordic gorge, Dürer's knight rides past Death on a Pale Horse, who holds out an hourglass as a reminder of life's brevity, and is followed closely behind by a pig-snouted Devil. As the embodiment of moral virtue, the rider—modeled on the tradition of heroic equestrian portraits with which Dürer was familiar from Italy—is undistracted and true to his mission. A haunting expression of the *vita activa*, or active life, the print is a testament to the way in which Dürer's thought and technique coalesced brilliantly in the "master engravings."

Image and text source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/336223>

## SYMPOSIA OVERVIEW

April 24, 6:30 pm

***Welcome and Prayer***

*Kevin Sheridan*

***Opening Remarks***

*Patrizia Costa*

***Student Presentations***

April 25, 6:30 pm

***Reassembly***

***Distinguished Mentor Award***

***Closing Remarks***

*John J. Allen*

***Thesis Awards***





## **WELCOME**

### **TWENTIETH ANNUAL SENIOR SYMPOSIA**

### **CLASS OF 2024**

Welcome to the twentieth annual Senior Symposia for The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program. This forum is an opportunity for students to showcase some of the interesting discoveries they made while working on their theses projects. It is also an opportunity for the Central Catholic community to experience the intellectual vitality that is created when talented students work under the direction of dedicated faculty and outside researchers. This combination of discovery-based learning and mentorship has been transformative for everyone involved.

The breath and scope of the oral presentations reflect not only a wide range of academic interests; they also speak to the caliber of the students themselves. Enterprising and thoughtful, these students have delved into a deepened knowledge within a specific field of study. They worked on multiple drafts of their theses and discussed them with their peers in a thesis-writing course. In February, they stood before a faculty panel and advanced an ethical position through rigorous defense and argument. These experiences have enriched their education, sharpened their skills in critical thinking and strengthened their self-confidence as scholars.

Many of the theses include a recommendation section. As such, this symposia is very much a celebration of our Seniors' noble efforts in advocating for positive change in the world. Some of the pressing issues they tackled this year include: ways to reduce car dependence in Pittsburgh, alternative ways that sociologists can study video game sociality, improvements in the workplace and other settings that would contribute to the wellness of autistic adults, social-emotional learning programs and community rehabilitation as a preventive measure for school shootings, and the multicultural decolonization of museums and practices of archaeology.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all of the Second Readers for their generosity of time and expertise in guiding the students' work. Their names are included under each of the abstracts. We are most grateful for their efforts.

Enjoy the symposia!

**DIRECTORS**  
Patrizia Costa  
John J. Allen





FREE DANCE

FREE

ROCK  
HALL





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## CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Congratulations on the effort that you put into this program. I hope that you take the opportunity to reflect on your successes before transitioning to the challenges that are ahead of you next year. Please also continue to challenge yourself intellectually. We need bright, thoughtful, and moral young men like you to become our future leaders.

Justin Belardi  
Faculty, Science

Famous book proprietor George Whitman once commented that, “All the world is my school and all humanity is my teacher.” Continue to study and learn from the world; thrive with your achievements and follow your future with a compassionate heart. Congratulations on your completion of the Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program!

Sara Budacki  
Faculty, English

Congratulations are certainly in order for all of the hard work you have given to the Scholars program. As you move forward in life, let the lessons and knowledge you’ve gained throughout this process guide you through your ongoing quest and thirst for knowledge and truth, as G.K. Chesterton once said, “The free man is not he who thinks all opinions equally true or false; that is not freedom but feeble-mindedness. The free man is he who sees the errors as clearly as he sees the truth.

Kurt Retenauer  
Faculty, English

While congratulations are certainly in order, especially given the particular challenges you faced this year, be sure to see your completion of this program as the start of something lifelong. Now more than ever, the world needs disciplined and inquisitive minds. Your work in the Baginski Scholars program must lay the foundation for your life’s work, whatever and wherever that may be. Be always like the son in Seamus Heaney’s poem “Digging” who, upon watching his father drive his spade deep into the peat, says of himself:

“Between my finger and my thumb

The squat pen rests.

I’ll dig with it.”

Todd Rooney  
Faculty, English

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# INTRODUCTION

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

Nelson Mandela



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 20th annual Br. David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program Symposium Presentation. This remarkable event represents the culmination of their educational journey at Central Catholic High School.

This is a celebration of the extraordinary achievements of our senior scholars. Through the presentations, our graduating seniors will courageously demonstrate the depth of their knowledge, the rigor of their research methods, and their commitment to intellectual excellence. These young men have shown tremendous dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and have devoted themselves to chasing their intellectual curiosity and using it as fuel for their thought-provoking research. The fruit of this passionate work is a depth of knowledge that they are duty-bound to share to change the world for the better.

Special thanks to Mr. John Allen and Dr. Patrizia Costa for their incredible dedication to the Scholars programs and their devotion to our students. It has been your guidance and influence that has broadened horizons and challenged these students to expand their concept of what they are capable of doing and, in turn, who they are capable of being. This is the true purpose of education, and we are deeply proud of your role in contributing to the academic and character growth of our fine scholars. For this reason, we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

We extend a debt of gratitude to all our parents, second readers, and others who have played a pivotal role in encouraging, supporting, and guiding these young men throughout their educational journey.

As these young men graduate from Central Catholic and move on to university and their life's calling, may they never forget the lessons learned and the duty to use their platforms to serve God and their fellow man. This program has enriched our academic community and set the academic bar at Central Catholic. The Baginski Scholars program is proof of the boundless potential of our students and the transformative power of scholarly inquiry. Gentlemen, we are proud of you! Congratulations on a race well run! Best of luck in your future academic endeavors.

Yours in the Mission,

*Kevin Sheridan*

Kevin Sheridan

Interim Principal



...ance de Dieu.”  
~ Saint Jean-Baptiste de LaSalle





### Song of *Ourselves*: Redefining the Corruption of the American Dream with Walt Whitman's Communitarian Ideals

Charlie Colantonio — English Literature

Changes in the opportunities and the end goal of the American Dream have led to its corruption. This thesis investigates the evolution of the American Dream through a developmental and comparative literary lens using works from across eras. The corruption of the Dream can be seen in the move away from an interdependent and communitarian society, envisioned through the work of Walt Whitman. The problems that have arisen from the movement away from Whitman's idealized community are seen through the exclusionary conflicts portrayed in the works of James Welch, addressing the disenfranchisement and displacement of Native Americans. Continuing into the Harlem era, themes of exclusion and oppression become apparent particularly in Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem" and Ann Petry's *The Street*. This exclusion through racism is further denounced in the works of figures of the Civil Rights Movement: Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. These authors show the inaccessibility of the American Dream across demographics. In the post WWII era, Sloan Wilson showed the loss of individuality in the pursuit of a common Dream in her novel, *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*. Additionally, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald showed the lack of fulfillment that comes with the accepted Dream and the harms that come along with striving to achieve it. Conversely, Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* showed that an active rejection of the common Dream still results in an undesirable outcome. The discussed literature shows the faults of the American Dream, serving as a call to action for us to move towards a more communitarian society.

Reader: Justin Morgan, English

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## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### The People of *Garry's Mod*: A Sociological Analyses of Online Video Game Communities and Their Effect Upon People

Luka DePasquale — Game Studies

Video games have changed society. As these games have had their humble beginnings, being just a simple form of entertainment, they now hold the power to affect the actions of the players who interacts with them. This thesis will explore how "video game sociality" combined with "The Proteus Effect" can be used to view a game as unique as *Garry's Mod* to understand how people interact within the virtual social world and how it can change the way they socialize. "Video game sociality" will be used to decode the various aspects of these online virtual realms, while "The Proteus Effect" will explore how their personality illuminate the changes in the person playing . These ideas include the prospect of anonymity, server moderation, and Game to Player interaction. These aspects are created by the means of communication through in such games, like text chat and voice chat. These online games lead to both positive social benefits but also harmful and concerning issues how this can be harmful to the player. Using these concepts, *Garry's Mod* will be used to understand how video games can create their own societies, knit social bases and social parlors. The decisions that people make affect their social skills and motivations in the real world. Games like *Garry's Mod* will end up changing one's skills of socialization, making their real-life actions represent what they have done in game. If more sociologists were to analyze these games, then maybe able to understand how people may socialize online and in the future.

Reader: Todd Rooney, English

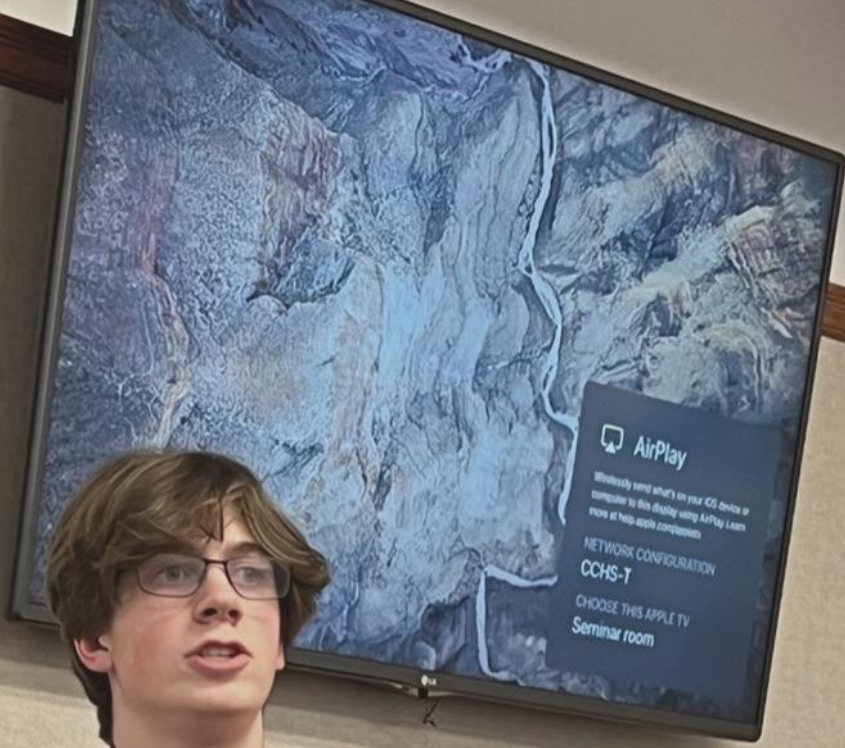


### **Car Addiction, Dependence, and Withdrawal in Pittsburgh**

Miles Hartlage — Urban Planning

Could you go a day without using a car? This paper aims to find the best ways to reduce dependence on cars for transportation in the Pittsburgh area. Car dependence is harmful to the environment, requires sprawling cities and suburbs, makes the streets more dangerous for everyone, and creates societal disconnection. This paper discusses the pros and cons of multiple possible solutions such as increased density, public transit, traffic calming, electric & autonomous vehicles, cycling, and walkability. Based on that research, this paper presents a series of recommendations, namely: removing exclusionary zoning laws and minimum parking requirements, increasing the frequency and reliability of public transit, and creating a complete network of safe and accessible bike and pedestrian infrastructure. These policies would be the most effective at reducing car dependence in Pittsburgh, creating a safer, more sustainable, and more connected city.

Reader: Fr. Michael Darcy, Religion



## **Prosthesis Eisegesis: Three Proposals to Promote Prosthetic Accessibility Globally**

Michael Hollihan — Bioengineering/Bioethics

My thesis approaches the biggest problem facing the prosthetic industry today, being the lack of prosthetic accessibility throughout the developing world. The prosthetic industry is an ever-growing industry as innovation runs rampant throughout, however, an aspect that often falls to the wayside is the availability of prosthetics. I set out to both identify the causes for this accessibility problem as well as offer proposals to make prosthetics more accessible. The first problem identified was that the way technology was being utilized in prosthetics would inflate cost for the manufacturer and consumer. To amend this issue, I propose manufacturers take advantage of 3D modeling and printing, which would allow for increased production as well as decrease in cost for both consumer and manufacturer. The second issue is that the prosthetic industry is isolated from a large population of patients. I propose the industry spread their realm of influence directly or through third parties into the developing world. The third issue is that the media barely discusses the issue of prosthetic accessibility. Without the necessary discourse brought alongside media presence no progress towards amending this issue is achieved. By implementing this discourse within mass media, the media can hold the industry accountable to their mission statements and make change. With these three proposals, we can see a world where every amputee around the world no longer suffers and has access to prosthetics

Reader: Jacob Good, Science





# HUMANITIES

## **Ancient Aliens: Shaping our Ethical System for Interaction with Sentient Artificial and/or Extraterrestrial Intelligence**

Matthew Jordan — Astronomy / Artificial Intelligence Ethics

What would you do if an alien suddenly appeared at your doorstep? Would you resign out of fear? Would you try to make peace with it? Would you take it hostage? To resolve this dilemma, this study investigates two questions: (1) How will humans interact with sentient lifeforms that could arise from artificial (AI) and extraterrestrial intelligence? (2) Based on the answer to the former question, what ethical system should we build to live in relative harmony with these creatures? Coining a lens called “introspective speculation,” this study discerns what makes us uniquely human, pinpoints the factors that govern human interaction, and sources from human philosophies to speculate ethical interactions with a new intelligent lifeform. As part of this introspective speculation, this study evaluates Hegel’s dialectical idealism and Marx’s dialectical materialism to evaluate the principal cause that drives humans to alienate each other into disparate groups. These theories were next situated in the context of a society hosting both human and nonhuman persons in hopes that they can share insight into how humans will interact with nonhuman persons. The findings indicate that dialectical idealism and materialism do not account for the differences in morality and intellect that may exist between humans and nonhuman persons, and thus our ethical system cannot employ an anthropocentric approach. It was also determined that, in light of ongoing attempts to message extraterrestrial intelligence and advance AI, the inability to equate interpersonal interaction among humans to that between humans and nonhuman persons does warrant changes to our ethical system that enable humans to accept nonhuman persons into society. This study offers suggestions for how to construct a new ethical model that allows sentient AI and/or intelligent extraterrestrial life to exist in relative harmony alongside humankind, including a Christian ethics approach. These recommendations extend especially to any policymakers, ethicists, or philosophers who may eventually find themselves pressed to integrate nonhuman persons into human society. This study also strives to evoke more discussion on the topic of sentient AI and/or intelligent extraterrestrials so that the public better understands some of the implications of living alongside these creatures.

Reader: Theodore Rectenwald, World Languages



## NOTABLE LATIN SOCIETIES

Societies that have utilized Latin as their main language include:

- The Roman Empire
- Parkway Gardens
- Wilmsburg, PA
- Instagram reel's comments

These are true hubs of innovation and places of intellectual discussion.



Pictured: Wilmsburg, PA.





### **It's Not Just For Kids: Proposed Improvements for Societal Services and Workplace Accommodations for Autistic Adults**

Jack Kaczmariski — Autism Behavioral Studies

In the year 2000, one out of every 150 people were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. In the current day, that number has jumped to one out of thirty-six. Autism has typically been seen as a condition for children, and many services are exclusive to children as a result. However, accommodations for autistic adults have largely been ignored over time. Both morally and economically, we must make improvements for autistic adults. This thesis seeks to investigate the current state of services and makes recommendations regarding how these services can be improved. In this thesis, I detail two distinct paths for autistic adults: the workforce and higher education. For this study, I conducted both analyses of current legislation and services and interviews with experts in the field of transition-age autistic people. These analyses revealed notable insufficiencies in the current state of services. After synthesizing both the contents of the interviews and the legislation; I proposed several improvements. Regarding the workplace, I propose general sensory accommodations, including toned-down lights, modified uniforms, complementary earplugs, and dedicated sensory spaces. For autistic adults in secondary and post-secondary education, I propose improvements in administrative communication to families, an expansion of academic eligibility, and an expansion of resources. These improvements will help contribute to the wellness of autistic adults and overarching society as a whole.

Reader: Amy Wienand, Family Support Services







## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### **Aftertaste: Deconstructing the Perpetuated Colonial Dynamics of the Coffee Industry**

Luke McCartney — Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE)

Coffee fuels the developed world. Following the colonial transplantation of the crop across the globe, coffee became the bedrock of monocultural economies in the Global South. These producer nations were created solely to direct profits back to their colonizers. After the emergence of slave revolts and greater independence movements in Latin America, these countries were granted independence from their colonizers starting in the late 19th century. Although they became sovereign states, these coffee producing countries were impaired by their monocultural export economies, leading to a reliance on consumer nations—their previous colonial rulers—for economic support, perpetuating their previous colonial status. Using Antonio Gramsci’s theory of hegemony, this thesis will analyze the neo-colonial dynamics of the coffee industry through the examination of interactions between nodes on the coffee commodity chain. Furthermore, Gramsci’s theory of hegemony will be used to understand the limits of neoliberal market practices in regard to producers gaining economic agency distinct from their consumer counterparts. Considering this, my thesis pushes for increased transparency and education on the consumer’s part. This is a crucial component with which one can gain economic and political leverage in coffee’s global marketplace.

Reader: Brittany Diebold, History

### **A Holistic Review of Proposed Solutions to the Problem of School Shootings in the United States and the Way Forward**

James Sweeney — Community Violence Intervention

In the United States, the rates of school shootings continue to increase, and people and legislators are divided on how best to combat this rise. Assessing critical literature, particularly Dr. Peter Langman’s models on the commonalities of shooters and causes of school shootings, mental health problems and demographic similarities are found to be important considerations. These common characteristics and the details of previous shootings establish the “school shooter mythos,” which describes how and why school shootings continue to proliferate. Commonly proposed solutions are examined and are classified in this thesis as *reactive*, *preventative*, or *proactive*. Reactive measures seek to stop a shooter once they have begun attacking, and include the installation of armed officers and other school security measures. Preventative measures seek to stop a shooter before they attack, and are focused on profiling and investigating at-risk students. Proactive solutions that seek to prevent school shooters from developing, such as social-emotional learning programs and community rehabilitation, are demonstrated to be the most effective in reducing the danger of school shootings.

Reader: Amy Wienand, Family Support Services



## A Multicultural Decolonization of Museums and Practices of Archaeology

Kolbe Viator — Anthropology/Museum Ethics

Through a multicultural approach, my thesis explores lingering damages that have permeated our societies through both museums and archaeology practices. Through a *de*-colonial lens, I dissect: (1) The Benin Bronzes and their current residence in the British Museum and how interactions with the current people of Nigeria perpetuate colonial narratives and (2) the storing of indigenous remains and culturally significant items. The latter aims to show the value of indigenous voices in exhibitions, which I encourage through a dynamic museum system. Both studies display a diverse population of remaining colonial systems that are not often considered together. This allows for a more united approach in creating solidarity against a common enemy: colonialism. From the analysis of these examples of colonial power in the world today and in observing movements and policy in progressive museums and the shortcomings of other institutions, I have formulated museum reform suggestions that correspond to the two studies. These are meant to inspire a more active discussion in a movement to truly decolonize our educational systems across the globe beginning at the level of an educated and passionate individual.

Reader: Daniel Perett, World Languages



# HUMANITIES

## **Articulating a Virtue Ethics Based Approach to Environmental Issues with the City of Pittsburgh as a Case Study**

William White — Applied Philosophy

As the incipient results of climate change intensify, many have begun to lament at the lack of action that these fledgling disasters have spurred. However, as this thesis alleges, the lack of action seen in the developed world to confront climate change is moreso a consequence of how climate action is typically imagined, as a pointless endeavor or an only minor incursion into the status quo, especially by young people who have grown up living with anticipation of doom. Even worse, these insufficient paradigms dispose their proponents to fall into disillusionment and apathy. This thesis argues for the adoption of a novel paradigm to invigorate the current state of climate action. Drawing from the works of Rosalind Hursthouse, Julia Driver, and Nicholas Austin, among others, such a novel paradigm is described in terms of virtue ethics theory, characterized by the adoption of the virtues of ecophronesis and attunement. This framework seeks to prompt multilateral climate action by cultivating a grassroots desire and guiding an accessible course of action to create a sustainable society. Using this approach, practical recommendations are made for the residents of Pittsburgh to live sustainably. Specifically, the way Pittsburghers think about their diet, transportation, personal land management, religion, commerce and public spaces is reassessed.

Reader: Mark Krotek, Science



### **More Than a Score: How the SAT Has Failed. What Should Replace It and Better a Student's College Application?**

Benjamin Wingerter — Education

College admissions are becoming important to an increasing number of students wanting to pursue higher education. However, one part of this process has come under scrutiny for its poor representation of students' academic potential, the SAT. This thesis aims to address the criticism of how the SAT is a poor representation of its students. Furthermore, the thesis also explains different methods of analysis of students than the SAT. Beginning with the net negatives behind standardized testing, the thesis aims to address the amount of socioeconomic discrimination that it places on lower-income students, including the amount of preparation they have for the test. With this foundation, the thesis then looks into more recent changes directed at the SAT, mainly the test-optional policies of colleges and the recently released Digital SAT. These changes did not solve the problems of the original SAT but rather added more problems. The thesis finally suggests the removal of the SAT and replacing it with one of a couple of likely solutions. These solutions include a project-based portfolio, the Classical Learning Test, and Game-Based Assessment. If these solutions were implemented in their ideal conditions, students would be able to show their full potential in their college applications more than the SAT has allowed them to.

Reader: Todd Rooney, English

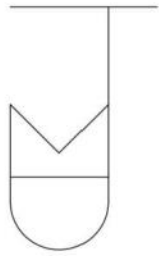


"So



Lo! Harken to that shining, white knight upon that brite, fiery steed!

We first came across “Knight, Death, and the Devil” on our class trip to Cleveland, where it was on display in a featured collection at the city’s Museum of Art. How appropriate to that institution’s name that our class would find its own muse therein! Stumbling into the piece first in the whole gallery, as if by divine providence, we were caught up in its majestic protagonist and his contrast to the conniving figures which haunt his flank.



While all available scholarship points to the idea that Durer made this piece with the intention of attacking contemporary *raubritters*, or robber knights, and their ill-gotten wealth, “Knight, Death and the Devil” has been interpreted among modern audiences as a glorious symbol of the idealized Christian soldier. The symbology in the woodcut is more than a little ambiguous, so we have seen it fitting to craft our own interpretation of this piece.



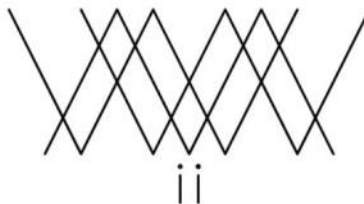
To us, the Knight is a noble figure, well aware of the evil forces in league against him, but who chooses to remain committed to his destination regardless. As Scholars, we too have encountered dangers of the world and the soul. Live carelessly, with inattention towards your thesis, and you will suffer academic “death,” missed deadlines, sloppy work, shallow sources, and apathy for your capstone project. Live pridefully, and you will fall into the “Devil’s” traps, refusing to admit fault, navigating by circumlocution deep-seated issues with your arguments, one-sided sources, and an inability to separate one’s ego from their work. We aspire to be like the Knight who trots solidly by these temptations, though we might stumble at times.



To remind us of our commitment to this captured ideal, we have each designed our own monograms after Durer’s own, to mark as he did our endeavor and thereby infuse it with the same undying passion. These can be found decorating the periphery of this very page.



Co-written by Will M. White II, Miles G. Hartlage, J. Angus Sweeney, and Kolbe F. Viator on behalf of the senior class.



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## A LEGACY OF IDEAS

The American Dream does not exist for everyone. Rather, it had digressed from its noble premise to promote an exclusive and individualized success attainable only through the destruction of community. —Charlie Colantonio

Gary's Mod manifests a new way to understand societal interactions through the social relationships of its players. —Luka DePasquale

Overreliance on cars is driving us crazy. —Miles Hartlage

Losing a limb can derail lives. Why does the prosthetic industry decide whose life gets back on track? —Michael Hollihan

Humans treasure unique morals and ways of thinking, but these qualities warrant a new ethical system prepared for interaction with another intelligent lifeform. —Matthew Jordan

In order to build a better and more equitable society, we must celebrate and embrace our differences rather than attempt to suppress them. —Jack Kaczmarek

Corporations have become the new colonial figures of the coffee industry, only without the need for physical governance. —Luke McCartney

To reach an effective solution to school shootings, we must supplant the destructive culture surrounding their perpetrators with social-emotional intelligence and connected communities. —James Sweeney

Indigenous voice is an integral part of cultural presentation in ethical practices. —Kolbe Viator

The way we think about climate action charts a path for how we will respond. It would be invigorated by a virtue ethics framework. —Will White

The SAT has failed to accurately reflect student potential. Possible alternatives indicate better ways to show this potential. —Benjamin Wingerter



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## NOTES

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program is to foster intellectual, cultural and ethical growth essential to leadership in the service of humanity.

Participation in this program provides Scholars with foundations and opportunities in: intellectual curiosity, civic engagement, balance, diversity of perspectives, leadership, creativity, innovation, experiential learning, applied learning, integrity, effective communication, building community.

A deeper goal of the Baginski Program is to motivate Scholars to reach beyond their individual niches and to understand that they can affect justice in society and, in fact, have a responsibility to do so.

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program was created in 2002 by Brother Richard Grzeskiewicz in honor of the beloved teacher and Vice Principal for whom the program is named. Embodied by three related concepts — scholarship, citizenship and discipleship, it offers an engaging intellectual forum to highly motivated students. These students become part of a community of peers and faculty advisors and meet regularly through seminars, mentoring, programmatic retreats/trips, and symposia.

Students in the program prepare for advanced studies at the university level through a liberal arts curriculum that is interdisciplinary and multi-faceted. In Junior Humanities Seminar, students will engage in critical inquiry, social justice perspectives and community-focused service projects rooted in the Lasallian tradition. In their Senior year, students will use the skills they have acquired to develop, defend and present an original research thesis.

At its core, the program is designed to encourage students to understand the intrinsic connections between their intellectual development and their responsibilities as global citizens. Many of the enrichment activities offered by the program are fueled by this intent.



# SENIOR THESIS SYMPOSIA

2024

WELCOME

Kevin Sheridan, M.Ed.  
*Interim Principal*

PRAYER

Student Led  
*The Junior Scholar Class*

OPENING REMARKS

Patrizia Costa, PhD  
*Director*

PRESENTATIONS

Class of 2024

CLOSING REMARKS

John J. Allen, PhD  
*Director*

THESIS AWARDS

*Outstanding Theses*  
*Best Presentation*  
*Best Thesis*  
*Distinguished Mentor Award*

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL