COHORT 2016 ENGAGED LEARNING PROJECTS

79 projects in 19 countries, including:
Bolivia, Chile, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England,
Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Nepal, Netherlands,
Panamá, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, United
States, Vietnam

RESEARCH (38)

1. Fairooz Adams, SMU ’18, is examining how a speaker’s ethnicity colors the validity of his or her statements in the minds of the audience. (Major: PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Matthew Wilson)
2. Hope Anderson, SMU ’17, on her world tour study abroad program, is comparing migration and human rights in Nepal, Jordan, and Chile. (Major: HMRTS, HIST, SOCI; Mentor: Dr. Brad Klein)
3. Priya Chowdhary, SMU ’17, has expanded The Nari Project, a non-profit that serves female victims of domestic abuse, to Jodhpur, India to gather socioeconomic and psychological data. (Major: FINC; Mentor: Dr. Rick Halperin)
4. Austin Cloyd, SMU ’17, is analyzing public health surveillance law among White and Hispanics in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. (Major: BIOLSC, HLTHSOC; Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris)
5. Magda Cruz, SMU ’18, is cataloguing civic engagement in the Dallas-Fort Worth by the Latino community. (Major: ANTH, INTLST; Mentor: Dr. Nicolas Sternsdorff-Cisterna)
6. Joseph Di Pane, SMU ’17, is researching the molecular basis of brain degeneration to influence neuronal apoptosis. (Major: BIOLSC, HIST; Mentor: Dr. Santosh D’Mello)
7. Noah Earland, SMU ’17, is studying the Drosophila model of aging. (Major: BIOLSC; Mentor: Dr. William Orr)
8. Zainab Fatima, SMU ’17, is studying how subunits of Complex 1 come together in order to form a functional complex. (Major: BIOCHM; Mentor: Dr. Steve Vik)
9. Kayla Graves, SMU ’17, is researching the history of affordable housing and its relationship with public transportation within Dallas County. (Major: HIST; Mentor: Dr. Lucas Kirkpatrick)
10. Ashley Hong, SMU ’17, is comparing plazas usage patterns in Dallas and Copenhagen, focusing on the impact of the spaces’ history, architecture and infrastructure. (Major: SOCI, ARHS; Mentor: Dr. Lucas Kirkpatrick)
11. Claire Huitt, SMU ’17, is analyzing Japanese domestic perceptions of the triangular relationship between Japan, China and the United States and ongoing disputes in the East and South China Seas. (Major: PLSC, PPOL; Mentor: Dr. Hiroki Takeuchi)
12. Katie Ibrahim, SMU ’18, is studying the impact of theatre reviews and criticism of a 21st century social media audience. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
13. Moez Janmohammad, SMU ’16, is conducting experiments to find the ideal environmental conditions that minimize the ability of radon to stick to copper surfaces. (Major: PHYS; Mentor: Dr. Jodi Cooley)
14. Marissa Jennings, SMU ’17, is using the DSM-5 pathological personality trait model to expand her past research that links violence and other constructs of interest for forensic psychologists. (Major: PSYC; Mentor: Dr. Michael Chmielewski)
15. Candace Johnson, SMU ’17, is conducting a study on the mental health barriers faced by minority youth and the resources available to them and their communities. (Major: BIOL; Mentor: Dr. Neely Myers)
16. Shilpa Kudva, SMU ’17, is working on β-Lactamase enzyme research. (Major: BIOL, MUSC; Mentor: Dr. Peng Tao)
17. Katie Logsdon, SMU ’16, is researching low technology childbirth culture in Holland and its effect on Dutch women’s perception of childbirth pain. (Major: ANTH, BIOL; Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris)
18. Stefanie Lohse, SMU ’17, is creating a recombinant yeast strain that expresses a multidrug resistance gene to optimize growth and purification of Human P-glycoprotein for use in Inhibitor Discovery. (Major: BIOCHM; Mentor: Dr. Pia Vogel)
19. Arya McCarthy, SMU ‘17, by using SMU undergraduates as a pool and subjecting the students to a version of the prisoner's dilemma, is researching personality type with decision-making. (Major: CS, MATH; Mentor: Dr. Justin Fisher)

20. Jake Moon, SMU ‘17, is researching the American supersonic transport projects to answer the question why the United States, aviation industry’s world leader, was unable to produce an aircraft to compete with the Concorde and Tupolev Tu-144. (Major: ADV; Mentor: Dr. Laurence Winnie)

21. Patricia Nance, SMU ‘17, is testing the biocompatibility of antimicrobial inorganic polymers to serve as an infection-preventing surface coating for reconstructive breast implants for mastectomy patients. (Major: CHEM; Mentor: Dr. Patty Wisian-Neilson)

22. Jake Oien, SMU ‘18, is using his programming skills to study the identification and synthesis of inhibitors of P-glycoprotein, a major cause of multidrug resistances in cancer chemotherapies. (Major: CS; Mentor: Dr. John Wise)

23. Kaitlin Ostling, SMU ‘17, is pilot testing an intervention designed to improve academic outcomes and well-being among students with ADHD. (Major: HLTHSOC, HIST; Mentor: Dr. Eric Bing)

24. Priya Patel, SMU ‘18, is synthesizing compounds to manipulate the chemistry and signaling of light sensitive proteins as therapies for cancer, diabetes and other neurological disorders. (Major: BIOCHEM; Mentor: Dr. Brian Zoltowski)

25. Shreya Patel, SMU ‘17, is researching an innovative method of three-dimensional display by developing a light-activated chemical dye and optimizing an optical system specific to that dye. (Major: CHEM; Mentor: Dr. Alexander Lippert)

26. Katie Price, SMU ‘17, is conducting a research study examining attentional processing of environmental stimuli. (Major: PSYC; Mentor: Dr. Alan Brown)

27. Miguel Quimbar, SMU ‘17, is developing a novel smartphone-based point-of-care imaging device that uses chemiluminescent probes to detect and quantify H_2O_2 and H_2S in the human body. (Major: ACCT; Mentor: Dr. Alexander Lippert)

28. Stefan Raicevic, SMU ‘17, is developing a chemiluminescent aerosol spray to detect H_2S and other compounds. (Major: CHEM, EDUSTDS; Mentor: Dr. Alexander Lippert)

29. Audrey Reeves, SMU ‘17, is researching the roles of reactive sulfur species and reactive nitrogen species in human health and disease. (Major: BIOCHM, FREN; Mentor: Dr. Alexander Lippert)

30. Nick Riley, SMU ‘17, is investigating whether using Alba Technique can arouse a hormonal change in test subjects. (Major: BIOCHM; Mentor: Brian Zoltowski)

31. Syed Rizvi, SMU ‘17, is studying Muslim immigrant communities in Dallas and London to better understand to what degree the culture gets integrated into their adopted communities. (Major: PLSC, HMRTS; Mentor: Dr. LaiYee Leong)

32. Kelly Schostag, SMU ‘17, is investigating more efficient methods of synthesizing thiols so they can be made commercially available. (Major: CHEM; Mentor: Dr. David Son)

33. Taylor Soursachak, SMU ‘16, is studying the prevalent characteristics and consequences of sexual violence victimization among opposite- and same-sex oriented women and men. (Major: PSYC; Mentor: Dr. Lorelei Rowe)

34. Haley Stutts, SMU ‘17, is collecting and analyzing archival and alumnae narrative data to document major changes in British medical school curriculum from the 1970’s to today. (Major: BIOLSC, HLTHSOC; Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris)

35. Alexis Sunshine, SMU ‘16, is studying the relationship between the expression levels of P-glycoprotein, Breast Cancer Resistance Protein, and Multi-drug Resistance Protein 1 to quantify how much of each pump is in each type of cell. (Major: BIOCHM; Mentor: Dr. John Wise)

36. Emily Tribble, SMU ‘17, is examining corporal punishment in academic disciplining through ethnographic qualitative interviewing of Texas school administrators, and its impacts on student academic, social and mental health. (Major: HLTHSOC, PSYC; Mentor: Dr. George W Holden)

37. Madi Wewer, SMU ‘17, is compiling new and published barometry into a geodatabase to create a visual representation of geological processes of the Transverse Ranges Tilted Crustal Section. (Major: GEOPHY-GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Rita Economos)
38. Austin Whittle, SMU ‘16, is exploring social, economic and political adversities that immigrants face in urban settings. (Major: ACCT, COMM; Mentor: Dr. Rita Kirk)

COMMUNITY SERVICE (10)

1. Wendy Alyea, SMU ‘17, is expanding the Engaged Learning Cochran House community garden to Jubilee Park in East Dallas. (Major: CHEM, ENVENG; Mentor: Dr. Eva Csaky, Elaine Heath)
2. Samantha Butz, SMU ‘17, is educating SMU students about Alta Gracia and labor rights regarding garment factories. (Major: FASHMD; Mentor: Mr. Willie Baronet)
3. Nicolas Gonzalez, SMU ‘16, created a mural project about Pike Park in Dallas to use as his teaching tool in Dallas Parks and Recreation Pike Park summer program. (Major: ART; Mentor: Dr. Janis Bergman-Carton)
4. Duyen Le, SMU ‘17, is raising awareness of the connection between high blood pressure and MSG consumption among two Vietnamese populations through development and implementation of public educational presentations. (Major: MATH; Mentor: Dr. Teresa Strecker)
5. Alison Machabee, SMU ‘18, is using dance to generate positive social change in impoverished communities in Panama and Dallas. (Major: DANC; Mentor: Ms. Patty Harrington Delaney)
6. Ryan McKee, SMU ‘17, is creating a ride-along partnership with Dallas Fire-Rescue to provide SMU pre-health students a hands-on learning opportunity. (Major: BIOL, CHEM; Mentor: Mr. Lee Arning)
7. Hanna Norris, SMU ‘17, is collecting ethnographic data to provide pregnant women from underserved communities improved comprehensive, culturally sensitive midwifery care. (Major: HLTHSOC; Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris)
8. Jose Santoyo, SMU ‘17, is creating a guide for undocumented/DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students at U.S. universities for legal reentry into the United States following study abroad. (Major: SPAN, HMRTS; Mentor: Dr. Bradley Klein)
9. Andrew Timmins, SMU ‘17, is building a water distribution system for the community of Llojlla Grande, Bolivia. (Major: ME; Mentor: Dr. Andrew Quicksall)
10. Brittni Watkins, SMU ‘17, in reviewing the current Data Structures course offered at Southern Methodist University (CSE 2341), is developing a new course curricula using creative coding methodologies and practices. (Major: CRCOMP; Mentor: Mr. Ira Greenberg)

INTERNSHIPS (6)

1. Camille Aucoin, SMU ‘17, as intern for Habitat for Humanity Taos, is analyzing trends in the overall energy use per home to assess if alternative energy systems may be cost effective for future HFH homes. (Major: EE; Mentor: Dr. Milton Gosney)
2. Cecilia Emden Hands, SMU ‘16, interning with the Dallas Innovation Alliance, is launching a Smart City initiative to provide a long-term strategy for efficient use of the city’s infrastructure to improve the lives of citizens of Dallas. (Major: HLTHSOC, HMRTS; Mentor: Mr. Trey Bowles)
3. Uma Lad, SMU ‘17, interned at the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas to determine to what degree companies follow EPA waste management policies and guidelines. (Major: ENVS; Mentor: Dr. Bonnie Jacobs)
4. Hamza Malik, SMU ‘17, is developing an undergraduate SMU research journal, online and hard copy, to raise awareness of student research in the greater Dallas area. (Major: CHEM; Mentor: Dr. Steven Vik)
5. Rachael Rodgers, SMU ‘18, interning with Engineers Without Borders, is evaluating the sustainability of water resource projects in Bolivia to determine sustainability and benefits. (Major: CEE; Mentor: Dr. Andrew Quicksall)
6. Aubrey Smading, SMU ‘17, interned with the Environmental Protection Agency to identify and resolve violations of the Resource Conversation and Recovery Act for hazardous waste disposal. (Major: CE; Mentor: Dr. Bonnie Jacobs)
CREATIVE WORK (25)

1. Conrad Appel, SMU ’17, is designing a digital music synthesizer to generate new and interesting musical sounds through digital signal processing techniques. (Major: CPE; Mentor: Dr. Scott Douglas)
2. Leslie Ballart, SMU ‘17, is studying public presentation of women and their bodies by the pioneers in theatre and politics to develop a personal performance piece. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
3. Grace Cuny, SMU ‘18, is investigating dance’s ability to transcend language and transform spaces in order to unify communities. (Major: DANC; Mentor: Ms. Anne Westwick)
4. Jacquelyn Elias, SMU ’18, is using big data to develop a data visualization that graphically displays the frequency that the U.K. news outlets reports on the European Union. (Major: CRCOMP, JOUR; Mentor: Mr. Yong Bakos)
5. Dalton Fowler, SMU ’17, is creating a performance text that describes the complex relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
6. Caroline Hamilton, SMU ’18, is exploring the history, profession and art of modern social theatre in London by walking in the footsteps of five famous and unique actors as a basis for her own performance piece. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
7. Meagan Harris, SMU ’18, is analyzing the relationship between Dallas, London and New York urban arts environments as background for an art installation on campus. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
8. KatieAnne Head, SMU ’17, is developing an integrated marketing campaign for a real client with the intent to pitch at the National Student Advertising Competition. (Major: MKTG; Mentor: Dr. Peter Noble)
9. Blaze Hubbell, SMU ’18, is exploring genres and techniques of experimental physical theatre produced in London, Edinburgh and Moscow and will create an original performance piece of her findings. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
10. Natalie Khraish, SMU ’18, is producing the feature film Elsewhere, Texas, to be released in May 2017. (Major: FILM; Mentor: Dr. Mark Kerins)
11. Jonah Kirby, SMU ‘16, is developing a platform for students to connect with each other and with existing resources as well to engage in ideation and idea sharing. (Major: ME; Mentor: Ms. Kate Canales)
12. Deepa Liegel, SMU ‘17, is creating a dance piece around the cultural assimilation of ethnic street performers and other immigrants. (Major: DANC; Mentor: Dr. Shelley Berg)
13. Adam Locklear, SMU ‘16, is designing the control system to smoothly move the laser along the two-axis system for measuring silicon chip warpage. (Major: ME; Mentor: Mr. Matt Galla)
14. Jessica Ma, SMU ‘18, is exploring varying purposes and uses of text in theatrical performance to guide her in her development of her own performance piece. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
15. Mark Maxey, SMU ’17, is creating a series of sculptural works at SMU that will educate students about contemporary issues related to online privacy and surveillance. (Major: ARST; Mentor: Dr. Michael Corris)
16. Nilsa Pozo Ortiz, SMU ’17, is developing ways to integrate music making into a weight loss program in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Major: MUTY; Mentor: Dr. Robert Krout)
17. Alexander Saladna, SMU ‘16, is creating an instant translation system for learning new languages. (Major: CSE; Mentor: Dr. Michael Hahsler)
18. Olivia Schmid, SMU ’17, is choreographing original dance works to be performed by SMU students as a result of attending the Trinity Laban Conservatory. (Major: DANC, EE; Mentor: Ms. Myra Woodruff)
19. Jaime Shim, SMU ’17, is writing a graphic novel memoir in the Korean “webtoon” comic style. (Major: ENGLCW; Mentor: Dr. David Haynes)
20. Alec Siems, SMU ’16, is using his optimization and programming skills to help make a commercialized wind turbine for homes, including developing a mobile and web interface for real time analytics. (Major: CS; Mentor: Mr. Mark Elliott Fontenot)
21. Alicia Smiley, SMU ’17, is creating a universal yearbook guide with guidance from the Associated Collegiate Press; the guide will provide framework for SMU’s 2017 Rotunda yearbook. (Major: ENVENG; Mentor: Mr. Jay Miller)
22. Dennis Stewart, SMU ’18, in examining the entrepreneurship journey of students, is developing a model and guide for other student entrepreneurs to follow. (Major: PHYS; Mentor: Dr. Simon Mak)

23. McHenry Taylor, SMU ’16, has written and will produce Elsewhere, TX - a fourteen-year-old kid and the mysterious gun-slinging stranger he meets make their way across the post-apocalyptic American South in the not-too-distant future. (Major: FILM; Mentor: Dr. Mark Kerins)

24. Josh Thomas, SMU ‘17, is developing Jumpstart to facilitate the formation of multi-disciplinary teams of entrepreneurial students, and connect them with industry and faculty mentors. (Major: ME; Mentor: Mr. Mickey Saloma)

25. Jorge Valdez, SMU ‘18, is coding an asynchronous article translation application to aid in reading foreign language text online. (Major: CSE; Mentor: Dr. Michael Hahsler)