



2012 Student Projects

41 PROJECTS; 11 COUNTRIES - including Bangladesh, Belgium, Ecuador, England, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Italy, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United States; **22 projects in the DFW metroplex!**

Research (20)

- Junior Eric Alt is designing a compound to remove heavy metals from polluted environments. (Majors: CHEM, ME; Mentor: Dr. Dieter Cremer)
- Senior Jan Anderson is exploring segregation in churches in this post-Civil Rights era and current movements towards integration. (Majors: JOUR, HRTS; Mentor: Dr. Rick Halperin)
- Senior Claire Coogan is advancing the current understanding of metabolic diseases, such as diabetes, using the fruit fly as model organism. (Major: BIOL; Mentor: Dr. Johannes Bauer)
- Senior Jean Paul Destarac traveled to Belgium to research the European debt crisis and its relationship to a lack of Eurozone central fiscal authority. (Majors: ECON, MKCL; Mentor: Dr. Thomas Osang)
- Senior Brittany Dickey, while in London, analyzed the impact of the London Olympics, a major global event, on global human rights awareness. (Majors: COMM; Mentor: Dr. Rita Kirk)
- Senior Roza Essaw is assessing the human rights situation in post-genocide Rwanda through on-site interviews and research. (Major: COMM, PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Rick Halperin)
- Senior Laura Israel is investigating well-being and life satisfaction in collegiate gifted and talented students. (Major: PSYC, ENGL; Mentor: Dr. Ann Batenburg and Marilyn Swanson)
- Senior Taylor Johnson studied non-governmental organizations in the London Olympics this summer to analyze the Games as a spring board for publicity and awareness. (Major: COMM, APSM; Mentor: Dr. Owen Lynch)
- Senior Andrew Lin is comparing the anatomy of SMU's 17-million-year-old beaked whale specimen with a modern beaked whale fossil at the Smithsonian museum in Washington, D.C. (Major: BIOL, GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Louis Jacobs)
- Senior Katharina Marino, after visiting the Harvard Forest research station (MA) and learning about its outreach program, is recording the ecological diversity at the Great Trinity Forest in Dallas and developing a similar educational program. (Major: JOUR, GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Bonnie Jacobs)
- Senior Kathleen Masterson is mapping and recording the tree fossils of the Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona. (Major: GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Louis Jacobs)
- Senior Austin McBride is researching undergraduate pre-law programs and, using a cost benefit model, determining the correlation between student pre-law preparation and admittance into Law School. (Major: ECON; Mentor: Dr. Ellen Pryor)
- Senior Kimberly Mendoza is researching health-related traditions, beliefs and practices in an indigenous Mayan community in Guatemala. (Major: BIOL, CHEM, SPAN; Mentor: Dr. Nia Parson)

- Senior Pascual Pellegrino is looking into the socio-economic struggles of the undocumented. (Major: PLSC, INTLST; Mentor: Dr. Jim Hollifield)
- Senior Justice Pirkey is undertaking a toxicology study of Asian Carp, an invasive species of fish, prevalent in the Mississippi River. (Major: MATH; Mentor: Dr. Yeo-Jin Chung)
- Senior Basma Raza is researching societal perceptions of herself as female, Muslim, married, and student, to explore similarities within differences between cultures and ethnicities. (Major: COMM; Mentor: Dr. Owen Lynch)
- Senior Jacqueline Ross is investigating and telling the story of the multi-racial, multi-ethnic undergraduate student experience. (Major: COMM; Mentor: Dr. Owen Lynch)
- Senior Menalco Solis is looking into the debate that surrounds immigration reform in the U.S., balancing the perception of citizens with the experience of the undocumented. (Major: PLSC, INTLST; Mentor: Dr. Jim Hollifield)
- Senior Dung Michael Tran is researching the feasibility of adding the invasive species, Asian Carp, into the U.S. food supply. (Major: MATH, CSE; Mentor: Dr. Yeo-Jin Chung)
- Senior Katie Ye is examining how female gender stereotypes influence upward communication in China. (Major: FINA; Mentor: Dr. John Sumanth)

Service (12)

- Senior Aden Abiye worked with the non-profit Advance Team Africa's efforts to design life skills training workshops for youth in Ethiopia. (Major: ECON, MKCL; Mentor: Ms. Ne'Shaun Robinson-Jones)
- Senior Tanya Arora is designing a training program for universities and colleges to reduce the adverse effects of annual leadership change in student organizations. (Majors: MNO, PSYC; Mentor: Dr. Maribeth Kuenzi)
- Senior Juan Castillo is implementing the redesigned student leadership curriculum at Irving ISD for high school Hispanic youth, and designing and painting a mural for the school. (Major: ARST; Mentor: Katie Bell)
- Junior Drake Frank is modifying a stationary diesel engine to run off of coconut oil to be introduced to Kenyan families to provide sustainable energy through Kenyan Agriculture Commodity Exchange Ltd. (Major: ME; Mentor: Dr. Tindaro Ioppolo)
- Senior Katie Jones worked with the non-profit UBELONG and local farmers in Ecuador to develop sustainable solutions to restore the Amazonian ecosystem to its original balance. (Major: ECON; Mentor: Dr. Victoria Lockwood)
- Senior Jonathan Machemehl, through his organization, Boulevard PR, has taken on Get Healthy Dallas as a client to help them develop their message to reach different audiences through various media. (Major: PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Steve Lee)
- Senior Pamela Nickell is developing pedagogical examination material and a study guide for the Spanish for Business Certification Program, a joint SMU/ US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce initiative. (Major: SPAN, INTL; Mentor: Dr. Leticia McDoniel)
- Junior Richard Nixon is expanding a group microfinance project into Vickery Meadow with the creation of business development workshops. (Major: ME; Mentor: Mr. Jim Bryan)

- Senior Mayra Pratz is preparing a bilingual, Spanish/English, informational report and pamphlet based on her research on local Spanish-speaking immigrant women who suffer domestic violence. (Major: SPAN; Mentor: Dr. Nia Parson)
- Senior Rachel Stonecipher volunteered at No More Deaths aid camp, Arizona, to learn about social inequalities inherent in service-based work, research best practices and develop training that addresses these issues. (Major: CTV, ANTH; Mentor: Dr. Caroline Brettell)
- Sophomore Ashley Wali worked with the Nari Project in Bangladesh to address needs of women suffering from domestic violence. (Major: BA; Mentor: Dr. Rick Halperin)
- Junior Miller Walker is developing and will deliver an after-school French program for homeless children in the DISD school system and connect them with school children in France. (Major: FREN; Mentor: Dr. Heather Pelletier)

Internships (4)

- Senior Bryce Johnson, while continuing to intern with the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, is developing a Spanish for Business Certification Program, a joint SMU/Chamber initiative. (Major: FL, MKCL; Mentor: Dr. Leticia McDoniel)
- Junior Jaywin Malhi interned on Capitol Hill in Senator John Cornyn's and Congressman Pete Sessions' congressional offices to learn about policy-making. (Major: MGMT; PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Michael Lusztig)
- Junior Sarah Montonchaikul, while interning with the Mugello Valley Archaeological Project, Italy, learned conservation techniques and is documenting the process as instructional materials for the project. (Major: ARHS, FL; Mentor: Dr. Greg Warden)
- Senior Marissa Ocampo interned with La Isla Foundation and collaborated on researching the Chronic Kidney Disease epidemic in Nicaragua among sugar cane workers. (Major: ANTH, FL; Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris)

Creative Work (5)

- Senior Afomia Hailemeskel, while interning at Market Roads Films in Brooklyn, NY, collected environmental sounds there to compare with the sounds of Dallas, TX; then will collaborate on a transmedia performance piece that addresses American life on two distinct stages. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
- Senior Janielle Kastner, while interning at Market Roads Films in Brooklyn, NY, interviewed and photographed adolescent and teenage girls from different socio-economic environments, will contrast them their cohorts in Highland Park, TX, and create a transmedia performance piece documenting their lives. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
- Senior Miranda Parham researched U.S. consumer culture and gender roles to create a solo performance piece that captures her findings. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Rhonda Blair)
- Senior Ethan Patrick coded a run-time music visualizer using Max 6 and processing software and used it at a live performance at the Conservatoire de Musique in Cannes, France. (Major: MUSC; Mentor: Dr. Ira Greenberg)
- Senior Dylan Smith is writing a novella inspired by his time at the SMU-in-Taos campus this summer and will publish it as an eBook. (Major: ENGL; Mentor: Dr. David Haynes)