



# Cohort 1 / Spring 2013 UConn IDEA Grant Award Recipients

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## **Ryan Allen '14 (History, CLAS)**

*Virtual Hartford*

Mentor: Micki McElya, History, CLAS

- Ryan researched the Civil Rights Movement in the city of Hartford, Conn., analyzing the historical and lasting effects of racial uprisings on city politics and urban planning. His work was incorporated into digital humanities website "Virtual Hartford."

## **Antonio Campelli '15 (Art: Painting and Installation, SFA)**

*Past Perfect Interference*

Mentor: Ray DiCapua, Art and Art History, SFA

- Antonio created a series of artist books using painting, text, video, and sculpture to define how the page format can be exploited as a means of non-linear narration, with specific reference to the historical progression of the page from scrolls to manuscripts to web pages.

## **Christine Conte '14 (Biological Sciences, CLAS; English, CLAS)**

*The Effects of Visitors on the Behavior of Zoo Animals*

Mentor: Chris Elphick, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, CLAS

- Christine examined the behavior of zebras and wolves to determine if visitor interaction is beneficial or detrimental to the animal's well-being, and to explore how inherent behavioral characteristics of a species affect their response to people.

## **Makayla Davis '14 (Psychology, CLAS)**

*Yoga as an Innovative Stress Reduction Method for College Students*

Mentor: Crystal Park, Psychology, CLAS

- Makayla conducted a study to determine the efficacy of yoga as a stress reduction method for college students experiencing high-level stress and anxiety, analyzing pre- and post-data on psychological symptoms, resilience, and stress levels of students participating in an eight-week yoga program.

## **Ari Fischer '15 (Chemical Engineering, ENG)**

*Investigation of the Fuel Potential of Bioliqid Derived through Pyrolysis of Recycled Coffee Grinds*

Mentor: George Bollas, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, ENG

- Ari investigated ways to convert waste coffee biomass into useful chemicals and commodities with the hopes of utilizing coffee in a way that negates landfill disposal and offsets the demand for conventional resources.

## **Erik (Ricky) Holtz '14 (Individualized: Social Interaction & New Media, CLAS)**

*Mode, Method, and Medium: The affordances of online tutorials in writing centers*

Mentor: Tom Deans, English, CLAS

- Ricky implemented an online tutoring service for the University of Connecticut, and through qualitative data generated through interviews of tutors at various writing centers, he helped create a clearer picture of how online tutorials affect tutoring strategies and the writing center's presence on a university campus.

**Peter Logue '14 (English, CLAS)**

*The Search for the White Rose*

Mentor: Sebastian Wogenstein, Literatures, Cultures and Languages, CLAS

- Peter produced a 25-minute documentary on clandestine Nazi resistance moment The White Rose that presents a dramatic retelling of the resistance movement and an exploration of the legacy of The White Rose on Germans today.

**David Pereira '15 (Art: Communication Design, SFA)**

*Project Notice*

Mentor: Cathy Schlund-Vials, English and Asian American Studies, CLAS

- David directed a documentary built on two years of research on human trafficking and the visualization of human rights abuses that describes his and his team's experiences meeting and interviewing experts on human trafficking.

**Jake Sippel '14 (Individualized: Academic Technologies, CLAS)**

*Systemic Inquiry into the Potential of iPad for Teaching and Learning*

Mentor: Jae-Eun Joo, Educational Psychology, ED

- Jake partnered with the Coventry Public Schools to lead a series of professional development workshops for middle school teachers and developed 15 iManuals with instructional content on creative uses of the iPad in the classroom.

**Natalia Svirshchevsky '14 (Finance, BUS)**

*Evaluation of Micro-lending Programs in the Entrepreneurial Empowerment of African Women: Measuring the Sustainability of Long-Term Benefits of Microfinance Programs in Ghana*

Mentor: Susan Spiggle, Marketing, BUS

- Natalia conducted field research in Ghana to assess whether microfinance programs that provide financial loans and equipment loans create short-term or long-term financial stability for women.

**Anna Woodruff '14 (Theater Studies, SFA)**

*Babelation Dramaturgy*

Mentor: Michael Bradford, Theater Studies, SFA

- Anna completed dramaturgical research that was utilized in the construction of a play written by Professor Michael Bradford. Her research focused on water boarding, torture, survivors of torture, and assimilation into another culture.