

Dominican University  
of California

# The Angel

(an'jel: *angele*, fr. L. *angelus*, fr. Gr. *angelos*: messenger)

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The Scholar in the World

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## Honors Senior Theses Spring 2009

**R**elief washes over the faces of the twenty students set to graduate this Spring as Honors Program *Scholars in the World*. Several of them completed their theses last Fall, some last semester, and finally, eleven students proudly defended their Honors Theses this semester. Each year, Honors Seniors must defend their thesis work in a presentation before a panel that includes the Program Director Dr. Jayati Ghosh, the two readers, and any students or family members who wish to be present. Students must demonstrate that they have completed work that holds up to the standards of the Honors Program. This year's defense presentations took place in the Creekside Room on April 23 & 28 and May 1.

**Rebecca McIntyre** is a Nursing major with a Psychology minor. Her thesis, "Buckle Up for a Better Tomorrow: The Improper Installation of Child Safety



Senior Kelly Kalk at her Honors Thesis Defense

Seats", focuses on the "common ways parents are taught to install their car seats and the common errors that are made". She worked with Safe Kids Worldwide to teach parents correct car seat installation methods. McIntyre would ideally work in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in a hospital, but if she is unable to find a job in that area, she would work in an acute care setting in a hospital.

Speaking about her memories of the Honors program, she stated, "I

think my participation in the Honors program has greatly added to my experience here at Dominican. It has given me a wonderful view as a citizen of the world that I feel many of fellow students are missing."

**Kelly Kalk** is a Nursing major who focused on community needs in her project "College Aged Diabetics Use of Alcohol: Educating, Awareness and Compliance" by creating a pamphlet that will be made available for use in the student health center concerning alcohol consump-

tion awareness for diabetics. Kalk's thesis work relates to her choice of profession because "[Nursing] is a form of teaching...it is an important skill to narrow down information to what is essential and put it in a language that is appropriate for the audience's education level, age level, etcetera." Her current career goal is to get a job as an emergency department nurse. She is grateful for receiving a personalized education that made her aware of personal responsibility and her significance in the lives of others.

As a Pathways student and full time member of the work force, some may wonder how Humanities major **Dana Gross** managed to get through the extra work required for an Honors thesis. Yet she relished the challenge, feeling that the higher level of work required was an excellent goal to strive for. With her thesis entitled "Mao Versus Khrushchev: An Analysis of the Sino-Soviet Split, 1956-

**Honors Thesis Titles for Spring 2009****DARCEL SANDERS**

*Readers:* Christian Dean & Afshin Gharib

*Title:* The Bitch Factor: Societal Aversions to Women with Power

**AUDREY CURTIS**

*Readers:* Joan Baranow & Christian Dean

*Title:* Murderous Morality: Moral Ambiguity as Characteristic of Literature by Women and Representative of an Ethic of Care

**MAREN PETERSON**

*Readers:* Joan Baranow & Gigi Gokcek

*Title:* Hans Christian Anderson's Fairy Tales and the Influence of Politics on His Writing

**HARASYN SANDELL**

*Readers:* Leslie Ross & Brad van Alstyne

*Title:* Face Value: Famous Art in Modern Advertising

**MOLLY SOOPER**

*Readers:* Leslie Ross & Heidi Chretien

*Title:* Queen of the Others: Images of Cleopatra in Art and Popular Culture

**JENNA JOYNER**

*Readers:* Patricia Dougherty & Gigi Gokcek

*Title:* A Defense of Lyndon B. Johnson, A Controversial President

**DANA GROSS**

*Readers:* Martin Anderson & Patricia Dougherty

*Title:* Mao Versus Khrushchev: An Analysis of the Sino-Soviet Split 1956-1963

**AMY FAGAN**

*Readers:* David Toumajian & Chris Leeds

*Title:* Joie de Voyage: Travel for the Mind, Body, Heart, & Soul

**KELLY KALK**

*Readers:* Luanne Linnard-Palmer & Catherine Halford

*Title:* College Aged Diabetics Use of Alcohol: Educating, Awareness, and Compliance

**REBECCA MCINTYRE**

*Readers:* Leslie Crane & Diara Spain

*Title:* Buckle Up for a Better Tomorrow: The Evaluation of Proper Installation of Child Car Safety Devices

**KIRA MAFFETT**

*Readers:* Olivia Catolico & Margaret Fink

*Title:* A Critique of Three Pain Assessment Tools for Use in Nonverbal Critically Ill Adults

## Honors Senior Theses (contd. from Page 1)

1963,” Gross explores the historic relationship between the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China. She claims that the topic doesn’t have much bearing on her goals in the professional world; however, it does begin to make sense when you consider what she wants to do after graduating from Dominican.

“I plan to apply to law school and begin about a year after I graduate. In the meantime, I plan to take some time and travel abroad,” divulged Gross. “Before I jump into another career it seems imperative that I take this opportunity to travel.”

English and Political Science major **Audrey Curtis** has a direct connection between her goals and the focus of her thesis. Curtis wants to pursue a PhD in English with a concentration in philosophy. Entitled “Murderous Morality: Moral

Ambiguity as Characteristic of Literature by Women and Representative of an Ethic of Care,” her thesis uses eight works written by women that involve an act of murder and portray the murderer in a non-judgmental light, using those examples to explain how literature by women often takes the ethical viewpoint of Care as opposed to Justice. “By integrating the two ideas of literature and philosophy in my thesis, I hope to show graduate schools that I am fully capable of work in both fields,” she said.

Business Administration major **Amy Fagan’s** thesis is a creative project titled “Joie dé Voyage: Travel for the Mind, Body, Heart, & Soul,” an entrepreneurial business plan detailing the creation of a new kind of travel magazine that offers environmental, philanthropic, spiritual, and health-related travel ele-

ments in one location for the purposeful traveler. She chose the topic because of her love for writing and its synergy with her concentration of international business. Fagan loves to travel and hopes to work on an international scale.

“Without the Honors Program I am pretty certain I would not have been motivated enough to participate in two national conferences,” said Fagan. “The majority of the professors are spectacular — inspiring, motivating, and challenging students throughout all four years. I encourage any Honors student to stick with it and non-Honors students to join, if possible.”

**Harasyn Sandell** is an Art History major with a minor in Communications. Her thesis, “Face Value: Famous Art in Modern Advertising”, focuses on the relationship between fine art and popular media. Her ultimate goal is to work in the art theft department of the FBI. Sandell cited her experience in the Honor’s Program as a quality experience that will help her in the future: “I feel more prepared for my future with the Honors seminars because they assume we already know the basics and can skip the introductory parts of courses and get right to the stuff we will actually use.”

**Maren Peterson** dou-

ble majors in Political Science (with an International Relations concentration) and English. Her thesis, “19th Century Denmark and Hans Christian Andersen’s Fairy Tales,” focuses on “how the political and social atmosphere during Hans Christian Andersen’s lifetime influenced his writing, and, particularly on stories that he wrote during significant events in Denmark at the time.” Peterson’s plans after graduation are open, she eventually wants to attend graduate school, but is focusing now on the field in which she wants to work. As a student at Dominican, Peterson has bittersweet feelings about graduating:

“Throughout the years, I know I’ve moaned, whined, and complained about classes and homework and such... but I know I’m really, really going to miss Dominican. These have been some of the best times of my life so far, and I will be sad to leave this place that has so many wonderful memories.”

— Anna Mark, Tasha Kahn,  
and Angela Giertych



### Editor’s Note

This is my final issue as Editor of *The Angel*. Thank you to all those who have written, contributed, and read. Working with you has been an honor and a pleasure. As I prepare to graduate from my undergraduate academic career, I am most grateful for my experiences with the Honors Program. The seminars, travel, and leadership opportunities have shaped my perspective in ways I could not have predicted. It is my sincere hope that you will continue reading this newsletter and find inspiration, humor, and insight to enhance your educational and/or personal explorations. Farewell, and best of luck.

## Springtime for Scholars in the World: Berlin and Prague

**D**o you know what it means to be a *Scholar in the World*? Spring Break proved to be the perfect opportunity for students to better understand this concept by traveling internationally with the Honors Program. This year's destinations were Berlin and Prague (with one night in Paris). After their first Honors Program trip abroad, juniors Sierra Morse and Elizabeth Campi and sophomore Eugene Rinehart possessed glowing reviews and genuine satisfaction from their experiences.

In common among these three travelers is the lasting impression of the fascinating city of Berlin. In 2001, French former culture minister Jack Lang said, "Paris is always Paris and Berlin is never Berlin!" Morse also noticed and was excited by the transformations taking place in Berlin: "I felt like I was able to soak in a bit of the city's culture...I loved the city so much. I think I could go as far as to say I would be happy living there." Rinehart loved the experi-

ence and enthusiastically stated that "Berlin is *the* place to be."

Although each student traveled alone, they all bonded with each other along with the staff during the trip. Campi recounted a memorable anecdote about a moment shared by her and some fellow travelers: "We were in Prague and went on a quest to find a strudel stand...We had a very limited amount of time...and we trekked all the way to the strudel stand only to find it closed! We tried to take a 'sad' picture but we were all laughing."

Attending the class sessions prior to travel was beneficial to participating students, as it allowed them to research and discuss the countries and their cultures, providing a foundation for more personal engagement with the places they were to encounter. Morse called herself a visual person, that for her "being able to actually see where major events took place really brought history to life."

A different location or memory affected each indi-

vidual most profoundly during the trip. For Campi, it was spending time with the other travelers and feeling the deep emotional impact of locations like Terezin concentration camp. For Morse, it was the artwork in Berlin's East Side Gallery that moved her. This was the first international trip for most of the travelers, and Rinehart revealed that he enjoyed the feeling of independence. Beyond experiencing

the great food and strengthened friendships, Rinehart also forged a newfound connection with his identity as a *Scholar in the World*: "I do feel that applying my education and learned values to a global arena has helped me in that I can think beyond myself or even the borders of my own country."

— Angela Giertych



Honors student travelers to Berlin and Prague

### Congratulations Class of 2009!

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. —Benjamin Franklin

The man who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after. —Newton D. Baker

If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm. —Vince Lombardi

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#### By the way...

If you are interested in joining the Angel staff, please contact Dr. Jayati Ghosh. Writers are always welcome!