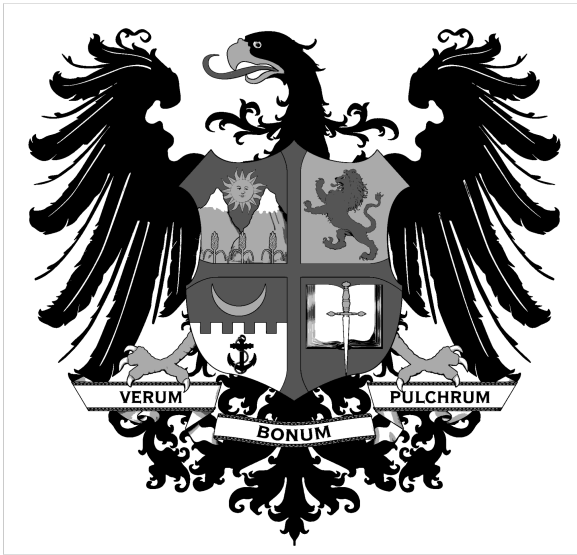


Senior Thesis Orations



Wyoming Catholic College
Spring 2021

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Spring 2021

Dear friends,

When Plato is not denigrating rhetoric, he instead portrays it as a religious event, done under divine inspiration, a sacred act of dedication and praise to a god. Later Hellenic culture wholeheartedly accepted this latter view, and at sacred festal times the city's celebrations would always include the crowd gathering to hear amazing oratorical feats. At its best, such epideictic oratory would invite the crowd to contemplate the true meaning of the festival and usher the city into an immersive experience of festal leisure and cultural formation. The Church Fathers took up the pagan festal culture and elevated it to new Christian heights. The Christian feasts were celebrated with prodigious works of oratory that continue to form the Christian imagination: polished phrases, well-balanced schemes and tropes, and vivid images, all put together to lead the congregation to both contemplate and embody the sacred mysteries being commemorated.

It is in the spirit of this Christian festal oratory that WCC gathers as a community during these three days of senior orations. The oldest Marian feast on the Church calendar is February 2, where Mary is shown to be the angelic throne, the new ark of the covenant, bearing her Son into the Temple. Thus, Mary is the Seat of Wisdom most properly in the Feast of the Presentation, a feast which we as a college extend to a votive Mass in her honor as *Sedes Sapientiae* on February 4, and further into our communal celebration of the senior orations. Like our patronal feast, these orations carry the final echo of Christmas some forty days later, and give us a last moment of festivity before the turn into the penitential forty days of Lent. These senior orations can be heard as closing festal paeans to our heavenly patroness.

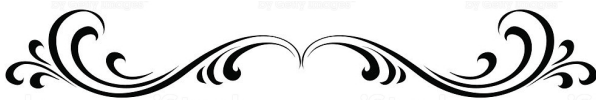
At the same time, these orations help embody the very festival they celebrate, revealing just why the College has taken the Seat of Wisdom as her patroness. For while Mary is most clearly

the Seat of Wisdom as she presents her Son in the Temple, in that same moment she recedes into the background as she gives Jesus to Simeon, and through Simeon to the world. So too in one of the greatest moments of the school year, the College, as *alma mater*, puts her seniors on center stage; the faculty recede into the background, and the seniors, in anticipation of their graduation, are publicly presented as those appointed to serve as lights to the wider culture.

In their orations, the seniors share with us the fruits of their leisurely study: the depth and breadth of their relevant knowledge, their careful and nuanced consideration of ideas, their argumentative rigor, confident organization, and rhetorically effective style. The orations are the culminating effort of the seniors' training in the trivial arts, with each senior presiding over an hour of speech-making and question and answer, without a manuscript, on a topic they have been considering for at least the last six months. At the same time, we hope, this culmination also is a foreshadowing of the way our seniors will share with the world at large the common goods of truth and beauty in which they have immersed themselves these last four years.

In that spirit, as Academic Dean, I gladly welcome you to the Senior Orations of the Wyoming Catholic College Class of 2021. This booklet contains the title and abstract of each oration, along with a schedule for the coming days. Enjoy these next three days, and make sure to thank our seniors for the great service they provide in helping us celebrate in such grand style.

Academic Dean Kyle Washut



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:30 am *“What is important for the spirit?”: Studio Ghibli’s Role in the Animation Industry as Explored in Hayao Miyazaki’s Spirited Away*

Eastlyn Ullmann, p. 49, Augur 113

Panel: Bolin, Schubert, Baxter

Chiastic Structure in Augustine’s Confessions: Or, How Knowing Grammar Can Help Save Your Soul
Emily Felsheim, p. 22, Baldwin Library

Panel: Washut, Hamilton, Lasnoski

9:45 am *“Be still, and know that I am God”: On the Necessity of Touch and Reflection for Experiential Knowledge of Self*

Seaghan Nolan, p. 38, Augur 113

Panel: Hodkinson, Lasnoski, Zimmer

Through the Veil of Tears: Understanding Suffering through Literary Imagery

Samuel Doran, p. 19, Baldwin Library

Panel: V. Arbery, Grove, Baxter

Beyond the Picture, Through the Picture: Abstract Art as Sublime

Maria Baron, p. 10, Bosco Mezzanine

Panel: Hamilton, G. Arbery, Mortensen

11:00 am *Receiving the First Fruits of the Kingdom: Why Infused Prayer Is Necessary for Salvation*

Rinju Chenet, p. 17, Augur 113

Panel: Anderson, Hodkinson, Baxter

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 11:00 am** *Elevation to a Higher End: What Sex Education Ought to Be*
Sophia Russell, p. 43, Baldwin Library
Panel: Lasnoski, Zimmer, Dziad
- 12:15 pm** Mass at Holy Rosary Church
Lunch begins at Frassati Hall
- 1:30 pm** *The Mystery Hidden for Ages: The Supernatural Beauty of Divine Grace*
Raymond Engles, p. 21, Augur 113
Panel: Holmes, Washut, Tonkowich
- Identity Crisis: An Exploration of Personhood and How the Devil Uses Shame to Divert You from It*
Kathryn Boucher, p. 12, Baldwin Library
Panel: Lasnoski, G. Arbery, Dziad
- I Would Not Love Honour So Much, Lov'd I Not Thee (Dear) More*
Audrey Patton, p. 40, Bosco Mezzanine
Panel: Hamilton, V. Arbery, Zimmer
- 2:45 pm** *“Inhumanity of Mind and Insensitivity of Body”: The Price of Stoicism*
Grace Kirwan, p. 31, Augur 113
Panel: V. Arbery, Zepeda, Hamilton
- Beyond the Reflection, a Platonic Love Story*
Joseph Maxwell, p. 36, Baldwin Library
Panel: Washut, Hodkinson, Papadopoulos

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

2:45 pm *Computational Complexity and Public-Key Cryptography: Communicating Securely over a Public Channel Using Difficult Math Problems*
John Paul Terneus, p. 47, Bosco Mezzanine
Panel: Olsson, Bolin, Dziad

4:00 pm *Man the Maker*
Christopher Carter, p. 15, Augur 113
Panel: Holmes, Hamilton, Washut

“At the first sight, They have changed eyes”: A Shakespearean Case for Love at First Sight
Robert Gleason, p. 27, Baldwin Library
Panel: Schubert, Cooper, Baxter

A New Spectre Haunts the World
Joseph White, p. 51, Bosco Mezzanine
Panel: Papadopoulos, Hodgkinson, Mortensen

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:30 am *The Treasure of the Church: The Beauty of Sacred Music*

Anna Eby, p. 20, Augur 113

Panel: Hodkinson, Holmes, Zimmer

Why Read God's First Book? Our Role in Redeeming the Material World

Clare Campaña, p. 14, Baldwin Library

Panel: Washut, Dziad, Anderson

9:45 am *Lost and Found: Odysseus's Recovery of Fatherhood in Homer's Odyssey*

Noah Maslak, p. 35, Augur 113

Panel: Lasnoski, Zepeda, Cooper

Horsemanship: An Art to Aid the Restoration of Fallen Man

Amanda Johnson, p. 29, Baldwin Library

Panel: Papadopoulos, Grove, Tonkowich

You Decide

Kathleen Cools, p. 18, Bosco Mezzanine

Panel: Bolin, Washut, Dziad

11:00 am *Tolstoyan Ethics and Life's Blessed Moments*

Joseph Phillipps, p. 41, Augur 113

Panel: Schubert, Cooper, Bolin

The Spiritual Efficacy of Poetry: How the Desire for Self-Knowledge and Beauty Can Lead to the Reception of Grace

Isaac Gibson, p. 25, Baldwin Library

Panel: G. Arbery, Grove, Holmes

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 11:00 am** *The Tyranny of the Intellect: The Poetic Mode and Its Role in Liberal Education*
Benjamin Bridge, p. 13, Bosco Mezzanine
Panel: Papadopoulos, Hamilton, Dziad
- 12:15 pm** Mass in Orchard building
Lunch begins at Frassati Hall
- 1:30 pm** *Stretching Out Your Hands: An Exploration of the Proper Response to Abandonment*
Jane Quispe, p. 42, Augur 113
Panel: G. Arbery, Cooper, Tonkowich
- Ave Maria: The Hail Mary as a Model of St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion*
Alexander Olar, p. 39, Baldwin Library
Panel: Olsson, Hamilton, Holmes
- J. M. W. Turner and the Power of Perspective*
Marieke Carter, p. 16, Bosco Mezzanine
Panel: Tonkowich, Zepeda, Baxter
- 2:45 pm** *If Directed, then Divine? Aquinas's Fifth Way and the Metaphysical Dogfight between the Church and Science*
Johanna Schuh, p. 44, Augur 113
Panel: Bolin, Hodkinson, Zimmer
- Hopkins, Poetry, and the Development of Eyes to See*
John Henry Gleason, p. 26, Baldwin Library
Panel: Cooper, Papadopoulos, Baxter
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

8:30 am *Laughing at Perfection: A Classification of Laughter and a Defense of Its Role in the Natural Perfection of Man*

Kevin Milligan, p. 37, Augur 113

Panel: Washut, Schubert, Tonkowich

The Truth amidst Ignorance

Theresa Liebert, p. 34, Baldwin Library

Panel: Bolin, Lasnoski, Baxter

9:45 am *“Heaven lies about us in our infancy”: An Exploration of Nostalgia*

Julia Kuplack, p. 33, Augur 113

Panel: Schubert, V. Arbery, Zepeda

The Angel at the Center of the Rind: Metaphor in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens

Peter Tardiff, p. 46, Baldwin Library

Panel: G. Arbery, Cooper, Dziad

Happily Ever Afters: An Echo of Eden

Emma Jermann, p. 28, Bosco Mezzanine

Panel: Holmes, Zimmer, Bolin

11:00 am *Can We Really Know?*

The Value of Intellectual Moorings

Kirsten Fontenot, p. 23, Augur 113

Panel: Holmes, Zepeda, Washut

The Harmony between Self-Interest and the Common Good

Anthony Jones, p. 30, Baldwin Library

Panel: Papadopoulos, Bolin, V. Arbery

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

12:15 pm Mass in Orchard building

Lunch begins at Frassati Hall

1:30 pm *Dirty Maturity: The Necessity of an Encounter with Evil for Man's Maturation*

John Gassner, p. 24, Augur 113

Panel: Tonkowich, V. Arbery, Zimmer

Oikonomia of Intimacy: Man & Artifact in the Domestic Domain

Brianna Bell, p. 11, Baldwin Library

Panel: G. Arbery, Holmes, Baxter

Creative Work & Leisure: What Brings Man, Particularly Mothers, Fulfillment?

Grace Klein, p. 32, Bosco Mezzanine

Panel: Schubert, Zepeda, Dziad

2:45 pm *The Sacred Hunt: A Reminder of What It Is to Be Human*

Juliette Weslow, p. 50, Augur 113

Panel: Tonkowich, Papadopoulos, Cooper

*Psychology: Achieving the God Within
A Look into Carl Jung and St. Augustine, the
Modern and Ancient Psychologists*

Carlos Solis, p. 45, Baldwin Library

Panel: Lasnoski, Zimmer, Hodkinson

Self-discipline: The Road to Virtue

Thomas Tyznik, p. 48, Bosco Mezzanine

Panel: Zepeda, V. Arbery, Hamilton

Miss Maria Baron

Beyond the Picture, Through the Picture: Abstract Art as Sublime

Tuesday, February 9, 9:45 AM

Bosco Mezzanine

Abstract Art is confusing. It is not trying to depict something in the way Van Gogh's *Starry Night* is a picture of the sky or Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is a picture of a woman. Its bold colors, swirling lines, and unidentifiable shapes leave the viewer with many questions. What does it mean? What does it even depict? Is it worth looking at? In the 1940s and '50s, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko were influential names in what we would now call Abstract Expressionism. Their use of space and scale highlights what makes Abstract Art an object of wonder. Focusing on Pollock and Rothko, this oration will look at the confusing experience of their art in order to see what makes it sublime in an attempt to "Look deeper down in the well than where the water / Gives me back a shining surface picture."

Thesis: Mountains and Modern Art: How Abstract Expressionism Conveys the Sublime

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Second Panelist: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Third Panelist: Dr. John Mortensen

Miss Brianna Bell

Oikonomia of Intimacy: Man & Artifact in the Domestic Domain

Thursday, February 11, 1:30 PM

Baldwin Library

Your wife; your golden retriever; your French press: what do all of these have in common? According to Aristotle, they all demand your proper management. However, what if household management, or economics, is fundamentally intimate? Diving into the domain of the domestic, this oration will explore the specific intimate relationship between man and the artifacts in his home. By melding St. John Henry Newman's concept of poetic perception and Heidegger's phenomenological concept of "presencing," it will first offer a definition of intimacy, and then further define man's relationship with his artifacts – his French press, his toothbrush, his dining room table – as an intimacy of *use*. Lastly, it will consider the practical implications of this intimate use in the home. Bring your favorite coffee mug, sit back, and ask yourself: what would it mean to live in a home – be it the homestead or the dorm room – where each of my things "presences" around me? What would it mean to reawaken the significance of my household objects throughout the quotidian of life? Perhaps economics is fundamentally intimate – and perhaps dusting our bookshelves is more godlike than we ever knew.

Thesis: *Oikonomia* of Intimacy: Man's Relationship with the Artifacts in His Dwelling Place

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Second Panelist: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Miss Kathryn Boucher

Identity Crisis: An Exploration of Personhood and How the Devil Uses Shame to Divert You from It

Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 PM

Baldwin Library

Through a brief exegesis of the book of Genesis, I will highlight a few key points which illustrate the personhood man possesses as created in the image and likeness of his Creator. I will discuss the source of personhood – the relationship every soul is created in and for – along with the devil’s specific temptation “you will be like God” (Gen 3:5), which causes man to reject relationship with his Creator. I will then explore the reality of shame, an immediate consequence of original sin, as presented by both modern social psychology and Pope John Paul II, in order to shed light on how shame prevents us from returning to the source of our personhood. Finally, I will offer the first steps of a solution to our undeniable slavery to shame through an understanding of philosopher Saint Edith Stein’s definition of empathy.

Thesis: Know and Be Known: The Human Struggle with Identity, Shame, and Spousal Love

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Second Panelist: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Mr. Benjamin Bridge

The Tyranny of the Intellect: The Poetic Mode and Its Role in Liberal Education

Wednesday, February 10, 11:00 AM

Bosco Mezzanine

What is the poetic mode of knowledge? Why is it critically important for true liberal education? If the poetic mode of knowledge is not cultivated, man will find himself enslaved to abstract scientific knowledge and unable to attain his end in the free pursuit of leisure. This is because the poetic mode cultivates love in liberal education and teaches one to take delight in things insofar as they are perfect, thus directing man toward his fulfillment in leisure and happiness. In this oration I will briefly define the poetic mode of knowledge and liberal education. Then I will move on to discuss how the role of the poetic mode in education is to teach love.

Thesis: Restoring the Heart of Education: The Poetic Mode of Knowledge and Its Role in Liberal Education

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Second Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Miss Clare Campaña

Why Read God's First Book? Our Role in Redeeming the Material World

Wednesday, February 10, 8:30 AM

Baldwin Library

When you go on an outdoor trip, you probably hope to benefit personally from the time spent in close interaction with the natural world, but how does material creation contribute to our salvation? Does the interaction go the other way, so that we bring some benefit to the wilderness by going out to experience it? Christ redeemed material reality in his Incarnation, and we are called to participate in bringing creation to be the image of God he created it to be. Following Saints Maximos, Athanasius, and Thomas Aquinas, this oration will defend our role as Christians in elevating the material world to participate in our knowledge and love of God.

Thesis: They Saw Creation Confessing Christ as Lord: The Incarnation and Material Reality

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Kyle Washut

Second Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Third Panelist: Fr. David Anderson

Mr. Christopher Carter

Man the Maker

Tuesday, February 9, 4:00 PM

Augur 113

What are the fine arts? If someone was to sit on Main Street and 3rd and paint the sunset, catching its golden rays and bright red cloud puffs exactly as he perceived it, would this be fine art? My answer is no. While the fine arts are imitative, they expand far beyond mere imitation, and serve rather to express man's poetic intuitions. Using Jacques Maritain's work *Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry*, I will first explore man's creative nature, contrasting the arts of the craftsman with the fine arts. Following these general definitions, I will give a summary of Maritain's account of poetic intuition, and make the argument that all fine art is pregnant with what Maritain terms a germ. In other words, there is no true art without inspiration.

Thesis: Poetic Knowledge and the Germ of Reality

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Second Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Third Panelist: Mr. Kyle Washut

Miss Marieke Carter

J. M. W. Turner and the Power of Perspective

Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

You may have heard the name J. M. W. Turner, or looked at the painting hanging in the Pequod, but do you know how revolutionary this artist was? As a boy, Turner was greatly influenced by the Scottish poet and politician James Thomson. Turner's immersion in Thomson's early Romantically enchanted view of the world infused him with the courage to share this incredible, raw view of reality even in the presence of the Enlightenment. This may not seem revolutionary, but it was. Scorned and insulted for his constant challenging of the rules of art, Turner broke the artistic confines of the Enlightenment, freeing the artist to paint from experience.

We will begin with Claude Lorrain, an Enlightenment landscape painter, and look closely at Turner's surprising imitations of his predecessor. This is essentially looking at the Enlightenment alongside Romanticism. Many of the differences are stark, but the handling of reality is the culmination of these differences. We will look at how Turner allowed Lorrain's life work to blossom into his own, an evolution of sorts. Turner's ability to see his surroundings helped make him one of the most unique and influential artists the world has ever known. This is the power of perspective.

Thesis: Suffering and Hope: Nature as a Place of Healing and Inspiration

Thesis Advisor: Dr. James Tonkowich

Second Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Mr. Rinju Chenet

Receiving the First Fruits of the Kingdom: Why Infused Prayer Is Necessary for Salvation

Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 AM

Augur 113

What does it mean to ‘know’ God? We’ve all studied theology and gained scientific knowledge about the Creator, but is this what faith resides in? Some will go so far as to say that here on earth we can only experience God analogously through His creation, that Divine Intimacy is something exclusively reserved for heaven. Yet saints such as John of the Cross and Gregory Palamas claim that the very focal point of Christian prayer life is in the “intimate sharing between friends” found in the infused gift of contemplation, that everyone is called to know God in an experiential way. This experiential knowledge of God engages not only the intellect but the senses as well, our entire being, body and soul. Through an exploration of the Carmelite understanding of contemplation as well as the hesychastic concept of *theosis*, or ‘deification’, we will better understand why infused prayer is necessary for salvation.

Thesis: Crossing the Vast, Unbridgeable Abyss: Poetic Knowledge and the Hesychast Tradition

Thesis Advisor: Fr. David Anderson

Second Panelist: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Miss Kathleen Cools

You Decide

Wednesday, February 10, 9:45 AM

Bosco Mezzanine

When learning about Providence, we often ask ourselves if our free will has any meaning. For instance, “If God is omnipotent and omniscient then am I actually free?” Authors such as St. Francis de Sales offer insight into this mysterious balance between free will and Providence. Ultimately, our free will, which gives us the power to cooperate with God or to reject him, is what our salvation hinges on.

Thesis: The Long Road Back: Exploring the Connections between Free Will and Providence in Man’s Redemption

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Bolin

Second Panelist: Mr. Kyle Washut

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Mr. Samuel Doran

Through the Veil of Tears: Understanding Suffering through Literary Imagery

Tuesday, February 9, 9:45 AM

Baldwin Library

When a question exceeds the syllogism's scope, and logic alone fails to render understanding in the stricken soul, how are we to navigate the veil of tears? Literature is one of the most potent mediators between pure reason and poetic understanding of deep truths. The novel is particularly exceptional at conveying truth about human life. It does this through the exploration of characters' interiority conveyed through imagery sustained and developed in an extended action. This imagery resonates in the soul of the reader, allowing him to grasp fundamental truths by being shown them without necessitating discursive argument. The reader is invited to see truth with his inner eye. In a great novel, the truth confronts the reader. If a novel fails to make one stop and ponder the significance of what is read, it was not worth the reader's time. This oration will address the question of suffering via an analysis of the imagery produced by the suffering protagonists of several great works: Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, and O'Connor's *The Violent Bear It Away*, all of which offer a poignant exploration of the light of truth in the midst of the fog of suffering.

Thesis: "The Kingdom of Heaven Suffereth Violence": A Reflection on the Suffering Soul in Literature

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Second Panelist: Dr. Stanley Grove

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Miss Anna Eby

The Treasure of the Church: The Beauty of Sacred Music

Wednesday, February 10, 8:30 AM

August 113

Music is an integral part of the liturgy and it must be valued in proportion to the power it has to bring us closer to our Creator. There is a common misconception that the Catholic Church does not stipulate what kind of music is allowed into the service of the liturgy. This has led to the performance of rock, pop, jazz, polka, and folk music within the Mass, resulting in informal ornamentation rather than greater solemnity in the sacred rites. Through the writings of Vatican II, Pope Pius X, and Pope John Paul II, I will explain the precepts of the Church and the fundamental role beauty has in sacred music. Beautiful music promotes the sanctification and edification of the faithful as it disposes listeners to be more receptive to the truth of the Word of God.

Thesis: The Handmaiden of the Church: An Explanation of Sacred Music

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Second Panelist: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Third Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Mr. Raymond Engles

The Mystery Hidden for Ages: The Supernatural Beauty of Divine Grace

Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 PM

August 113

This oration will bring to light the little known and considered status of sanctifying grace and its truly sublime store of treasures. Grace is, at its root, a great mystery and absolutely supernatural, but this is precisely what makes it so beautiful. Using the theology of Matthias Scheeben, a nineteenth-century German theologian, I will consider grace primarily from the angle of adopted sonship in the Only-Begotten Son of God, and working from a Thomistic definition of beauty, I will show why grace is supernaturally beautiful in terms of integrity, proportion, and radiance. Finally I will say that divine grace is the reason why God loves us and is, at root, the end of all his external works in the universe.

Thesis: *Natura et Supernatura: Quomodo Gratia Sanctificans Creaturam in Ordinem Divinum Elevat*

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Second Panelist: Mr. Kyle Washut

Third Panelist: Dr. James Tonkowich

Miss Emily Felsheim

Chiastic Structure in Augustine's Confessions: Or, How Knowing Grammar Can Help Save Your Soul

Tuesday, February 9, 8:30 AM

Baldwin Library

In his *Confessions*, Augustine often uses a classical rhetorical device, known as the chiasmus, to shape his spiritual autobiography. The chiasmus is a grammatical figure in which a series of items is repeated in the reverse order for rhetorical effect. Why does Augustine favor this pattern in his *Confessions*? Could he be communicating something about the spiritual life through his grammar?

In an attempt to answer these questions, we will first begin with a definition of chiastic structure to familiarize ourselves with the classical grammatical form and its unique X-shape. Then, we will study examples of chiastic structure in Augustine's *Confessions*, seeing how the chiastic form shapes his sentences and structures the autobiographical books, especially through the series of Augustine's tears. Finally, we will discuss how the chiasmus is a fitting shape for Augustine's autobiography, since his life, his dramatic return to God from the depths of sin, has a chiastic shape, and the *Confessions* itself, Augustine's reflective activity and imitative expression, is a chiastic action.

Ultimately, Augustine's grammar gives us an insight into the mystery of conversion and the journey back to God. So yes, knowing grammar can help save your soul.

Thesis: Augustine's Imitative Grammar: Chiastic Structure in the *Confessions*

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Kyle Washut

Second Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Third Panelist: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Miss Kirsten Fontenot

Can We Really Know?

The Value of Intellectual Moorings

Thursday, February 11, 11:00 AM

Augur 113

Plato's dialogues, masterworks of philosophy, often end with a myth, a noble lie. Aristotle tells us that we must first observe natural phenomena before we can reason about them. Aquinas uses and defends analogy in the abstract realm of theology. These great writers and thinkers all invoke imagination and experience while discussing ideas beyond our senses. What, then, is the role of particular things in relation to abstract concepts? John Henry Newman gives us the terminology to answer these questions when he makes the distinction between real and notional apprehension. In this oration, I will first define Newman's terms. Then, in applying them to concrete examples, I will examine some of the complications that arise. Finally, I will point to some deeper implications in the realms of knowledge and experience. Is the truth found in concrete experiences or does it remain an elusive, abstract concept?

Thesis: *Veritas Sequitur Esse Rerum*: An Essay on Real and Notional Knowledge

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Second Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Third Panelist: Mr. Kyle Washut

Mr. John Gassner

Dirty Maturity: The Necessity of an Encounter with Evil for Man's Maturation

Thursday, February 11, 1:30 PM

August 113

Dirt, encounters with evil, myths, manhood, and the secret to juicy tomatoes will be woven into a cohesive narrative with the aid of Southern author Robert Penn Warren and his *All the King's Men*, a novel of betrayal, blackmail, adultery, disenchanting man, myth-making, "The Great Sleep," and "The Great Twitch." Maturity demands coming to terms with surroundings, actions, and responsibilities of this fallen world. To fully mature, man must encounter evil. But what is genuine maturity and why do we need it? Can man actually maintain his innocence in the midst of dirt? Isn't this confrontation of evil at odds with avoiding near occasions of sin? These are the questions I will be addressing in my oration. Growing up is tough. It's even tougher if you're ignorant. Grow up vigilantly and confront your ignorance.

Thesis: Dirty Necessity: The Inseparability of Evil from Boy's Maturation

Thesis Advisor: Dr. James Tonkovich

Second Panelist: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Third Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Mr. Isaac Gibson

The Spiritual Efficacy of Poetry: How the Desire for Self-Knowledge and Beauty Can Lead to the Reception of Grace

Wednesday, February 10, 11:00 AM

Baldwin Library

The desire to know oneself is one of the most important desires man can have. To know the inner principle of one's action seems fitting for man; but unfortunately, to know one's "self" is essentially impossible in this life. Jacques Maritain claims that the soul of man cannot be known "except in the fluid multiplicity of passing phenomena which emerge from it . . . and leave him more ignorant of the essence of his Self." In other words, a man's action tells us something about the man himself, but the principle of his actions is still quite obscure. All that man can do in response to this unquenchable thirst is find external things that tell him a little bit more about himself. This is done through Poetry. Poetry, a characteristic activity of man, is ultimately meant to bring us to God through the poetic insight. Man grasps being by its beauty, adores it, and desires to share it through poetic verse. The soul does its best to unite itself to that beauty in order to better understand itself; however, that desire will never be satisfied on this earth, and so man must redirect, or transpose his desire for beauty to that of God.

Thesis: Poetry as the *Habitus* of Beauty

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Second Panelist: Dr. Stanley Grove

Third Panelist: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Mr. John Henry Gleason

Hopkins, Poetry, and the Development of Eyes to See

Wednesday, February 10, 2:45 PM

Baldwin Library

The exercise of the discursive or logical sense is necessary for the healthy development of every child, but by and large it has become overdeveloped. Within the modern man, an unhealthy skepticism of the exercise of the imagination has developed to the point of a disability: man is losing the ability to see the world around him in a way that sparks wonder, joy, or thought. That is, man is no longer able to *see* like the poet. This oration will introduce the importance of learning to see like the poet, as it is through poetic vision that man comes to wonder, joy, and knowledge of himself. First, I will plunge into the philosopher Jacques Maritain's justification of poetic vision as something grounded in the intellect. Then, with reason enough to dismiss the modern skepticism, I will show that Hopkins's own understanding of the object of poetry, which he calls "inscape," is both reconcilable with Maritain's philosophical account and something worth pursuing for the sake of human fulfillment.

Thesis: Poetry, Hopkins, and the Development of Eyes to See

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Adam Cooper

Second Panelist: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Mr. Robert Gleason

“At the first sight, They have changed eyes”: A
Shakespearean Case for Love at First Sight

Tuesday, February 9, 4:00 PM

Baldwin Library

Love at first sight is a prominent trope in the poetic tradition, but it is also a theme that generates a lot of skepticism. “I caught sight of him in that coffee shop, and that was it, I just knew.” You’ve heard that line before. “That’s cute,” you think to yourself, “It makes for a good story, but that’s not how it works.” It’s easy to be skeptical of love at first sight. After all, how could you really get to know a person by looking at them? But Shakespeare doesn’t share in our skepticism. Love at first sight abounds in Shakespeare’s plays, and there’s good reason for that. We tend to think that love at first sight is impossible because in order to love someone, we need to “know” them first. But that’s exactly where Shakespeare would say we’re wrong. In this oration, I will explore the connection Shakespeare draws between love, desire, and the imagination. In doing so, I’ll grapple with common misconceptions about the way in which we love other people and what impels us to love. And finally, I’ll turn to the first meeting of Miranda and Ferdinand in *The Tempest*, to discover why love at first sight is more reasonable than we think.

Thesis: Changing Eyes: A Shakespearean Examination of Love at First Sight

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Second Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Miss Emma Jermann

Happily Ever Afters: An Echo of Eden

Thursday, February 11, 9:45 AM

Bosco Mezzanine

Happy endings are one of fiction's greatest clichés. J. R. R. Tolkien calls them “not only a consolation . . . but a satisfaction” to the reader. In comparison to harsh reality, happy endings can often seem unrealistic, or even childish. Viewed through the Catholic lens of Tolkien and his contemporary C. S. Lewis, however, happy endings are revealed to be *more* realistic than what we see as reality. They give us a glimpse of what an unfallen world might be: In satisfying our innate desire for justice and happiness, they give us a foretaste of paradise.

Thesis: Man Subcreator: The Art of Fantasy

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Second Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Third Panelist: Dr. Michael Bolin

Miss Amanda Johnson

Horsemanship: An Art to Aid the Restoration of Fallen Man

Wednesday, February 10, 9:45 AM

Baldwin Library

At the moment Adam and Eve fell from God's grace, in an attempt to satisfy the desire for knowledge, the entirety of the human race was cut off from God. We lost so many precious gifts and we now live in a world full of fear. What are we to do? Do we simply accept it, or has God provided a way for us to come back to him?

Thesis: Horsemanship: An Art to Aid the Restoration of Fallen Man

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Second Panelist: Dr. Stanley Grove

Third Panelist: Dr. James Tonkowich

Mr. Anthony Jones

The Harmony between Self-Interest and the Common Good

Thursday, February 11, 11:00 AM

Baldwin Library

In an age where so many Americans are absorbed in selfishness, it is imperative to know how to lead others toward the common good. But what is the common good, and does it truly conflict with man's self-interest?

This oration will answer those questions by examining two methods of persuading man toward the common good that have emerged from the Western Tradition. The first, an appeal to man's self-interest defended by Alexis de Tocqueville, starkly contrasts with the second, an appeal to man's sense of self-gift based upon the writings of Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Charles De Koninck. The first appeal, though flawed, can be corrected by understanding the true relation between self-interest and the common good. In light of man's nature, self-interest and the common good are in harmony with each other and exist in a beautiful order. To help us cultivate this ordering in others, this oration will provide both rhetorical and practical solutions that build upon the appeal to self-gift.

Thesis: Self-Interest Misunderstood: Persuading Man to Revere the Common Good

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Second Panelist: Dr. Michael Bolin

Third Panelist: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Miss Grace Kirwan

“Inhumanity of Mind and Insensitivity of Body”: The Price of Stoicism

Tuesday, February 9, 2:45 PM

Augur 113

Man is a rational animal; he is gifted with a rational soul, which is what makes him immortal. Brilliance and goodness can brew in the mind but so can dullness and vice.

The philosophy of Stoicism recommends total reliance on one’s mind for consolation amidst external turbulence. Stoicism is trending among young people today, because it offers a path to freedom from living a life of indulgence. Disciples see it as a corrective to being drawn this way and that by momentary whims; happiness is thus rescued from the hands of chance. However, to assume confidence in oneself, to place trust solely in the mind, is to deny the opportunity for healing and conversion through the disorder of the emotions.

In this oration, I will give an introduction to the philosophy of Stoicism, present an account for its rising popularity, and pose the question: Is there merit in the practice of Stoicism?

Thesis: *Amor Fati*: Whether Acceptance Is the Path to Happiness

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Second Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Third Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Miss Grace Klein

Creative Work & Leisure: What Brings Man, Particularly Mothers, Fulfillment?

Thursday, February 11, 1:30 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

In a society which seems to acknowledge people's worth based on the work they do or the salary they are given, the role of the mother, particularly as homemaker, is significantly undervalued. Seventy years ago, American women suffered from the opposite problem: the ideology that women could *only* find ultimate fulfillment as a housewife. Betty Friedan, known as the mother of second-wave feminism, responded to the identity crisis arising from this feminine mystique and posed creative work as the solution for human fulfillment. A look at both Friedan and Karl Marx's case for creative work, however, will illustrate that although it can contribute to one's fulfillment, it does not get to the root of the problem and demonstrates once again a misunderstanding of motherhood. This misconception results from a false idea that work, instead of leisure, is the basis of culture. Josef Pieper and Friedan sound very similar in their arguments for leisure and creative work, respectively. However, Friedan ends her argument by claiming one must *do* something for fulfillment, whereas Pieper shows that fulfillment comes not from doing, but from being.

Thesis: Creative Work in Motherhood

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Second Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Miss Julia Kuplack

“Heaven lies about us in our infancy”: An Exploration of Nostalgia

Thursday, February 11, 9:45 AM

Augur 113

Have you ever longed for “the good old days,” the days of childhood when everything was simple and infused with wonder, the summer evenings on a back porch surrounded by family and loved ones, or perhaps your time at Wyoming Catholic College, steeped in the beauty of the mountain wilderness, singing and laughing among the best of friends? You have experienced nostalgia: a longing for those precious moments from the past accompanied by the pain of knowing that those moments are gone forever. Through an exploration of Willa Cather’s novel *Alexander’s Bridge*, I will uncover the disastrous effects that nostalgia produces in the protagonist, Alexander. I will go on to offer a solution to the destruction of nostalgia through an examination of William Wordsworth’s poem “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey.” Finally, I will synthesize these two authors through the exploration of Susan J. Rosowski’s essay “Willa Cather and the Comic Sense of Self” to unfold the way in which our outlook on the world around us must be infused with both gratitude and hope for nostalgia to be redeemed.

Thesis: Nostalgia: The Best Is Yet to Come

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Second Panelist: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Third Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Miss Theresa Liebert

The Truth amidst Ignorance

Thursday, February 11, 8:30 AM

Baldwin Library

In this oration I will analyze a line from *Lumen Gentium* 16: “Those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience.” I will present an account of how non-believers can be said to retain inculpable ignorance of the Gospels and the Catholic Church in this modern age, and how, under the guise of another religion, they might continue to do God’s will according to their consciences. Ultimately, I will explore the possibility that it would be morally better for some to remain in their false religion than to abandon it for Catholicism.

Thesis: The Faith of Our Fathers: God’s Unbounded Mercy

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Bolin

Second Panelist: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Mr. Noah Maslak

Lost and Found: Odysseus's Recovery of Fatherhood in Homer's Odyssey

Wednesday, February 10, 9:45 AM

Augur 113

In his *Odyssey*, Homer focuses on the absentee father and the evil which replaces him in the home. Odysseus, the father of his family and the king of Ithaca, is portrayed as a pillar situated in the center of a house. The pillar's role is to sustain the structural integrity of the family and kingdom that lives in the house. Without this pillar, the house is not able to function properly and withstand any threat that is imposed on it. As a result of the Trojan War, Odysseus becomes ambitious and loses his fatherhood, ultimately leaving his family and kingdom subject to the destruction of the suitors. Through Homer's epic, Odysseus embarks on a physical journey to return home. However, this journey is also an internal one to restore his fatherhood. In my oration, I will analyze scenes in the *Odyssey* where Odysseus's fatherhood is lost. Furthermore, I will show how Odysseus reclaims his role as father, husband, and king, bringing peace, unity, and stability to his family and kingdom.

Thesis: Modern Problems Require Ancient Solutions: Homer's Groundwork for Understanding the Father Figure and Restoring Society through the Family

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Second Panelist: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Third Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Mr. Joseph Maxwell

Beyond the Reflection, a Platonic Love Story

Tuesday, February 9, 2:45 PM

Baldwin Library

God leaves us love notes written in the very fabric of the *kosmos*. An encounter with them shatters our expectations and draws us upward beyond the mere reflected beauty of the *kosmos* to the limit of articulate thought, Beauty itself. This immense Beauty urges us onward, capturing both the mind and heart in a single gaze focused upon the Good itself. This is the goal of Platonic philosophy, to “catch sight of something wonderfully beautiful in its nature,” to glimpse the source of emanation: God himself.

Thesis: Meet Your Maker: A Beginner’s Guide to Insanity

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Kyle Washut

Second Panelist: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Third Panelist: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Mr. Kevin Milligan

Laughing at Perfection: A Classification of Laughter and a Defense of Its Role in the Natural Perfection of Man

Thursday, February 11, 8:30 AM

Augur 113

This oration confronts the controversial question, “Does the perfect man laugh?” We often disassociate the solemn virtues of wisdom and worldly unattachment that are characteristic of the philosopher (the naturally perfect man) with joviality, laughter, and humor. However, through understanding the nature and properties of laughter and its essential relationship with humor, I explore, through the mode of classification, how this anthropological property of man is a unique aid to attaining both the wisdom and temperance of the philosopher. Furthermore, I hint at the supernatural implications that follow from the existence of laughter; from its place in the comedic landscape, laughter is overshadowed by the theological virtue of Hope. This oration will give some idea of what laughing looks like at the point of natural perfection.

Thesis: The Greatest Secret of God: A Proof of Risibility’s Three-fold Function as an Intellectual, Moral, and Theological Virtue

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Kyle Washut

Second Panelist: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Third Panelist: Dr. James Tonkowich

Mr. Seaghan Nolan

“Be still, and know that I am God”: On the Necessity of Touch and Reflection for Experiential Knowledge of Self

Tuesday, February 9, 9:45 AM

Augur 113

Today, a great lack of interior peace pervades society and affects many of us. Contemporary culture and industry provide a variety of distractions to help divert our attention from this internal disquietude. Yet, they ultimately fail. And when they fail, we find endless other things to continue this flight from reality. Music, videos, and worldly vanities offer the noise needed to drown any serious consideration of the cause for this unhappiness. We search for something real and tangible, but fail. Where is our peace? This oration aims not to address each of these many activities specifically. Rather, this oration seeks to demonstrate the existence of experiential knowledge of self: a mode of self-knowledge which may answer today’s crisis of peace. Relying on observation, St. Thomas, and other thinkers, the oration will also prove the necessity of touch and reflection as means for obtaining said knowledge. The justification of the oration relies primarily on observable realities pertaining to man’s mode of knowing himself. Using these observations and the thought of others as support, the oration will conclude that experiential knowledge of self is a mode of knowing oneself separate from sensation or reason, obtained only through touch and reflection.

Thesis: *Sacramentum et Res*: Aquinas and Guardini on Liturgical Man

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Second Panelist: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Third Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Mr. Alexander Olar

Ave Maria: The Hail Mary as a Model of St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion

Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 PM

Baldwin Library

The Hail Mary, which our Blessed Mother in numerous visions has called her favorite prayer, stands alongside the Our Father and the Glory Be as the most basic of prayers. Our parents taught it to us as children. It is the foundation of the Rosary, which itself is the most beloved prayer of the Western Church, and a prayer that our Blessed Mother at Fatima called all her children to pray daily. But perhaps most importantly, it contains within itself every necessary reminder of the devotion which we ought to pay to so good a mother, for both the Hail Mary and *True Devotion* to her generally are composed by determining and synthesizing God's regard for her and her contemporaries' regard for her.

Thesis: *Digna Dei Mater: De Titulis Quae Merito ad Mariam Invocandam Adhibeantur* (The Worthy Mother of God: On the Proper Titles of Mary)

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Scott Olsson

Second Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Third Panelist: Dr. Jeremy Holmes

Miss Audrey Patton

*I Would Not Love Honour So Much, Lov'd I Not
Thee (Dear) More*

Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

Have you ever found yourself in disagreement with Richard Lovelace's poem, "To Lucasta, Going to the Wars," but unable to explain why? Do those last two lines about placing honor over the beloved leave you with an unpleasant aftertaste when you recite the poem in class? If so, you're not alone.

This oration is an investigation of the meaning behind Lovelace's claim that the desire for honor is a better "principle of action" than love for a person. The arguments will rest primarily upon basic logic and the writings of the Church. After an introduction and some foundational definitions, the oration will address two main definitions of honor (praise or glory; abstract virtue), exploring what it means to use each as a principle of action and whether the results are satisfactory. The exploration of the second definition of honor will segue into a definition and exploration of love of person (*agape*) and why it is a greater principle of action than either definition of honor.

Thesis: I Would Not Love Honour So Much, Lov'd I Not Thee (Dear) More

Thesis Advisor: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Second Panelist: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Third Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Mr. Joseph Phillipps

Tolstoyan Ethics and Life's Blessed Moments

Wednesday, February 10, 11:00 AM

Augur 113

Many of us are familiar with the Aristotelian approach to *eudaimonia*. Our pursuit of happiness by living and acting well is bounded by reason, modeled after our observations of men more virtuous and magnanimous than ourselves. What if, however, we take our neighbor out of the equation and trade this rational pursuit for something contrary to reason itself? Is it possible to attain the same or even greater happiness by abandoning our reason? In Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, we may just find the answer in the simplest, "most blessed moments" of life. In this oration, I will explore the development of Tolstoyan Ethics from the reason-centered ending of *War and Peace*, to the irrational encounter with the infinite in *Anna Karenina* and Tolstoy's own memoir *A Confession*, and determine whether the pursuit of happiness is best achieved through the rational.

Thesis: "Освещение" or Illumination: Tolstoy and the Light of Happiness

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Second Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Third Panelist: Dr. Michael Bolin

Miss Jane Quispe

Stretching Out Your Hands: An Exploration of the Proper Response to Abandonment

Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 PM

August 113

This oration explores the abandonment that literary characters undergo and their responses to such abandonment. Through comparison and contrast of characters such as Job, Achilles, and John Keats, and the image of the orphan, I examine two responses to the overwhelming experience of total abandonment. One response is the construction of irredeemable pride in oneself, a self-reliance that tries to compensate for the abandoner, but which ends in unbreakable selfishness. The other response is meek hope, like the vulnerable stretching out of a child's hands towards its waiting parent; this response – the opposite of “irredeemable pride” – allows for the return of the good which has abandoned you, like the Lord returning to his children, Israel. Through the explorative mode, I posit that the child's response to the bleak prospect of abandonment gives “glimpses which would make us less forlorn.”

Thesis: Keats' Pursuit of Beauty: A Description of Beauty as a Fulfillment of Man's Soul

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Second Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Third Panelist: Dr. James Tonkowich

Miss Sophia Russell

Elevation to a Higher End: What Sex Education Ought to Be

Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 AM

Baldwin Library

A notable phenomenon in the Catholic world is the lack of clear communication to children about healthy sexuality. Why this gap, which often leads to a disordered view of sexuality? What are the problems that hold parents back? Is there a more prudent, virtuous way to present this beautiful human activity to our children? Or is it more beneficial to leave a child uneducated to retain a sense of modesty? This oration considers the principles, given by the Pontifical Council for the Family and Alice Von Hildebrand, for a whole and holy sex education. Following this explication, I compare two extremes: the secular approach to this education, and St. Augustine, who creates the snare that Catholics can fall into when approaching sex education. I articulate the deficiencies of these views and why they are to be avoided, ultimately pointing toward the true middle ground needed to present sexuality to children in a principled, clear, virtuous, and authentically Catholic way.

Thesis: Sex Education: Slavery through Freedom

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Second Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Miss Johanna Schuh

If Directed, then Divine? Aquinas's Fifth Way and the Metaphysical Dogfight between the Church and Science

Wednesday, February 10, 2:45 PM

August 113

Does God exist? That's a self-evident question, right? Right? Well, if it's so *evident*, could you explain it to someone else? Much of the modern world doesn't think you need to posit the idea of God in order to explain the universe, and, after you graduate, you're going to need to go talk to the modern world. Moreover, knowing how we say (*if* we can say) God exists seems to be a good thing to know. Aquinas says you can know the existence of God because even unintelligent things act in a consistent way. But is that argument actually convincing?

In my oration, I will be analyzing St. Thomas Aquinas's fifth proof for the existence of God. Given at the onset of his *Summa Theologiae*, he argues that the end-directed, or *teleological*, nature of the world implies a divine intelligence. Teleological behavior is very much a feature of our world, as modern biologists are aware, but from this fact alone does it follow that we can say God exists?

Thesis: Teleology: A Comparison of Ancient and Modern Views and a Defense

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Bolin

Second Panelist: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Third Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Mr. Carlos Solis

Psychology: Achieving the God Within
A Look into Carl Jung and St. Augustine, the
Modern and Ancient Psychologists

Thursday, February 11, 2:45 PM

Baldwin Library

Since the early beginnings of modernity and of post-modernity, the practice of psychology has been notorious for indoctrination and the destruction of individuals. But to completely rule out this science that has its beginnings from ancient Athens and has been studied even by great Catholic thinkers would be foolish. This oration explores St. Augustine's psychological theory of man and compares and contrasts his theory with Carl Jung's, who is one of the founders of modern psychology. After comparing the theories of each individual, we'll see what each individual's own principles on the science of psychology are, and hopefully, we'll all be left with a clearer account of the science itself, able to avoid any pitfalls and traps.

Thesis: The Mind as Seat of God, or as God: An Exploratory Thesis on St. Augustine and Carl Jung, the Psychologists of the Ancient and Modern Age

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Kent Lasnoski

Second Panelist: Dr. Tom Zimmer

Third Panelist: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Mr. Peter Tardiff

The Angel at the Center of the Rind: Metaphor in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens

Thursday, February 11, 9:45 AM

Baldwin Library

Since the repetition of everyday usage stales our sense of the world and stales the language we use to describe it, we must have a way to teach ourselves to see again. Metaphor, the literary device by which resemblances are created and revealed, is one of the best ways to clear away the baggage of the past and the pressure of the present; and one of the best poets for metaphor is Wallace Stevens. My oration will use the poetry and prose of Wallace Stevens to first show the power of metaphor, and then to raise the question of the relation between imagination and reality. In other words, I will ask if metaphors are created by the imagination or discovered in exterior reality. I will begin to answer that question with an investigation of imagination according to Wallace Stevens and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and then illustrate that investigation with examples from Stevens's poetry. I will use the examples to show that the workings of nature are parallel to those of the imagination and conclude that imagination and reality are necessarily tied together such that one cannot be understood without the other.

Thesis: "Plainly to Propound": Metaphor in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Glenn Arbery

Second Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Mr. John Paul Terneus

Computational Complexity and Public-Key Cryptography: Communicating Securely over a Public Channel Using Difficult Math Problems

Tuesday, February 9, 2:45 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

Is there some aspect of a mathematical problem which allows us to classify it as difficult, regardless of the competency of the person solving it? Even though two people may spend different degrees of effort on the same problem, there must be something inherent in the problem itself which allows us to say something about its difficulty. This oration will look at algorithms as solutions for problems and then compare those algorithms. I will show how an algorithm is classified as one of two different types and how that information determines whether a problem is easy or hard. Following that, I will demonstrate an interesting practical application of difficult problems in the field of cryptography by showing a method for two people to securely communicate secret messages without a pre-arranged cipher, despite an eavesdropper seeing everything that passes between the two.

Thesis: A General Method for Determining the Difficulty of a Problem: Mathematical Difficulty and the Discrete Logarithm Problem

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Scott Olsson

Second Panelist: Dr. Michael Bolin

Third Panelist: Dr. Travis Dziad

Mr. Thomas Tyznik

Self-discipline: The Road to Virtue

Thursday, February 11, 2:45 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

Being trapped and enslaved to bad habits suffocates the life that God desires to bring forth through us. The question is, what does it take to be virtuous and set free? The answer for this question lies in the proper understanding of self-discipline. External disciplines can only take us so far on the path of life – there needs to be something more. The true way to building virtue requires a commitment of discipline that is not spoken about often. Would you like to come and learn how self-discipline truly builds virtue?

Thesis: Forming Your Identity through Discipline

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Henry Zepeda

Second Panelist: Dr. Virginia Arbery

Third Panelist: Mr. Eugene Hamilton

Miss Eastlyn Ullmann

“What is important for the spirit?”: Studio Ghibli’s Role in the Animation Industry as Explored in Hayao Miyazaki’s Spirited Away

Tuesday, February 9, 8:30 AM

Augur 113

“What did I just watch?” is often the first reaction that viewers have to Hayao Miyazaki’s most popular films, such as *Spirited Away*. Fast-paced, colorful, even violent at times, *Spirited Away* has captivated audiences of children and adults time and again for two decades. What is it about this film that is so enthralling and perhaps even beautiful? Something mysterious has piqued the interest of many and left them either enchanted or terrified. In this oration, I will explain one of the biggest themes in the film and then carry that theme to the furthest extent of interpretation. I will do this in two parts. First, I will explore the theme of consumerism in *Spirited Away*. Then, I will explore how Studio Ghibli, Hayao Miyazaki’s film production studio, rather than contributing to consumerism, actually helps counteract a culture of mass consumption and greed.

Thesis: “All Things Are Full of Gods”: Hayao Miyazaki’s Elevated Vision of the Ordinary World

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Bolin

Second Panelist: Dr. Tiffany Schubert

Third Panelist: Dr. Jason Baxter

Miss Juliette Weslow

The Sacred Hunt: A Reminder of What It Is to Be Human

Thursday, February 11, 2:45 PM

Augur 113

Hunting is a tradition that is unfamiliar to many people today, but it tells humanity so much about itself. It is a tradition that has withstood the tests of time, enduring advancements in food production, because it provides humanity with something beyond a method for acquiring sustenance. Along its journey with man, the sacred hunt has equipped man with certain strengths, reminded him of his weaknesses, shown him the price of his existence, and prepared him for his place at the head of nature's order. There are three central ways in which hunting reminds us of what it is to be human: through man's history, his embodiment, and his divinely-ordained dominion over creation. It is through these three essential parts of man that the sacred hunt reminds us what it is to be human.

Thesis: The Sacred Hunt: A Reminder of What It Is to Be Human

Thesis Advisor: Dr. James Tonkovich

Second Panelist: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Third Panelist: Mr. Adam Cooper

Mr. Joseph White

A New Spectre Haunts the World

Tuesday, February 9, 4:00 PM

Bosco Mezzanine

According to Marx, Communism is the new spectre haunting Europe. Yet, where is that spectre now? Is it still present? Is Communism still a threat? This oration will explore a new form of Communism, hailed as Progressivism. This new threat pervades society, corrupts Christianity, corrupts any belief in a Supreme Being. By such a corruption, a new religion is founded, based in materialism. It replaces man's desire for the eternal, divorcing him from the immaterial. Progressivism, the new form of Communism, strips away the divine and presents man with itself as the alternative to any religion.

Thesis: What Is Progressivism?

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Pavlos Papadopoulos

Second Panelist: Mr. Christopher Hodkinson

Third Panelist: Dr. John Mortensen

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