2011
Senior Thesis Projects
(a sampling)
Rhiannon Duke
“Ethnic Intermarriage in the Irish-American Experience”
Department of Anthropology
Minors in gender studies and Irish studies
Adviser: Deborah Rotman

I explore ethnic intermarriage among the Irish and non-Irish on Beaver Island, Mich., which hosted an Irish immigrant and descendant majority population from 1860–1900. This study provides insight into how intermarriage both reflects and results from social transformation. I was excited to do this research because this community is unique in the history of Irish America.
Robyn Grant
Department of History
Minor in gender studies
Adviser: Jaime Pensado

I analyze Mujeres, which was created after the Cuban Revolution to “entertain, instruct, and mobilize” women. I explore the magazine as a site of gender negotiation that combines traditional femininity with ideologies of nationalism and socialism to create the “revolutionary woman.” The women in its pages are complex representations of issues we face even today.
Anna Katter

“The Price of Patriotism”

Department of American Studies
Supplementary major in gender studies
Adviser: Erika Doss

When I saw a series of bedroom memorials in *The New York Times*, my infatuation with war memorialization began. The myriad memorials that have cropped up among “Gold Star” families as tributes to children who died in the Middle East conflicts are the crux of my thesis. While families simply see these objects as crucial to the grieving process, I argue that the memorabilia market is bolstered by the notion that buying and creating commemorative items make Americans patriotic.
Kelly McGauley
“Fairy Tale Fascinations With Victorian Governesses”
Department of English
Supplementary major in gender studies
Adviser: Sara Maurer

My favorite novels are Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* and Henry James’ *The Turn of the Screw*, in part because of their governess protagonists. My thesis explores the role of the governess in Victorian literature through an analysis of several novels, from Jane Austen’s *Emma* to James’ *The Turn of the Screw*. I examine the central role of governesses and reasons for sympathizing with even those depicted as “madwomen.”